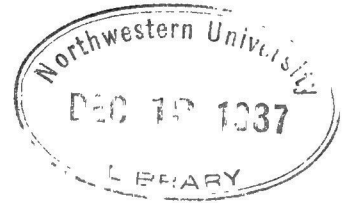


THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--



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WPA Report Shows More Than \$1,500,000,000 Devoted to New Construction.

Public property of communities throughout the nation has been enhanced by more than \$1,500,000,000 worth of new construction completed or well under way, through projects of the Works Progress Administration, Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced today.

A slightly greater amount has been devoted to repair and improvement of existing construction on public property, bringing the total cost of WPA construction projects to \$3,265,361,272, it was reported. The funds represent the actual expenditure from Federal and local sources on completed work and the estimated cost, at completion, of all WPA construction projects placed in operation by the end of the last fiscal year.

"Adequate maintenance of public property is frequently impossible when local tax revenues shrink in periods of depression," Mr. Williams said. "The WPA not only has helped local governments to avoid heavy losses through depreciation, but has enabled them to meet the need for expansion of public facilities which otherwise would have been delayed indefinitely. The combined efforts of these governmental agencies -- with local governments providing an increasing share of the costs -- has not only benefitted those who otherwise would have been idle and dependent upon a dole, but has produced lasting improvements needed by

every taxpayer. In many cases it is evident that these improvements might not have been made for a score of years without the aid of this program."

WPA construction projects involved in this program number 103,980, of which nearly 52,000 are for new construction. Much of the repair work--particularly on sections of roads that had become impassable through lack of maintenance--restored facilities that otherwise would have been useless, officials observed.

Leading all classifications of WPA construction are highways, roads and streets, on which the largest expenditures have been for improvement and development of the existing system, with particular emphasis on secondary, or farm-to-market, roads. More than \$500,000,000 of Federal and sponsors' funds will be expended for new construction in this category upon the completion of all scheduled work involved in 17,861 projects placed in operation prior to June 30, 1937. In addition to new construction in this field a vast program of repairs and improvements has been initiated through more than 27,800 projects which upon completion will add more than \$1,000,000,000 to the value of public facilities of this type in the United States.

Although most of the highway, road and street work contemplated under the 46,000 projects for new construction and repair placed in operation prior to June 30, 1937, has been completed, work on many projects is still under way. In this connection it was pointed out that \$1,000,394,000 from Federal funds had actually been expended on such work prior to June 30, 1937.

New construction represented a much larger proportion of the expenditures for public buildings and greatly exceeded the amount devoted to

repairs and improvements in other major classifications. The building program, with public schools a principal beneficiary, included approximately \$200,000,000 for new construction on 10,699 projects and more than \$275,000,000 for the repair and improvement of existing structures on 13,407 projects.

More than four times as much is being spent on new construction as on repairs and improvements in the field of sewer systems and other public utilities. The new work amounted to \$325,875,632 on 11,976 projects; repairs, \$79,499,442 on 2,921 projects. On other types of new construction, the cost of new work completed or under way by June 30 was \$514,432,134 on 11,307 projects. Repairs and improvements in this category aggregated \$317,147,357 on 7,998 projects.

In addition to its construction work, the Works Progress Administration had completed or in operation by the end of the fiscal year 44,919 other projects, chiefly those employing white collar workers and women, which will involve, upon completion, a total cost of slightly more than \$1,000,000,000 out of a total of \$4,292,685,586 for all types of projects.

(Estimated total cost from Federal and sponsors' funds of all WPA projects placed in operation by June 30, 1937, is shown by types of work, with the percentage of expenditures for new work and for repairs or improvements, on the attached table.)

WPA PROJECTS PLACED IN OPERATION  
through June 30, 1937

Number and Estimated Total Cost by Types of Work

Type of Work	Number of Projects	Estimated Total Cost <u>A/</u>	
		Amount	Percentage Distributions
<u>Highways, Roads &amp; Streets</u>	<u>45,622</u>	<u>\$1,553,490,581</u>	<u>100.0</u>
New construction	17,861	503,083,393	32.4
Repairs and Improvements	27,811	1,050,407,188	67.6
<u>Public Buildings</u>	<u>24,106</u>	<u>474,916,126</u>	<u>100.0</u>
New Construction	10,699	199,530,940	42.0
Repairs and Improvements	13,407	275,385,186	58.0
<u>Sewer Systems and Other Utilities</u>	<u>14,897</u>	<u>405,375,074</u>	<u>100.0</u>
New Construction	11,976	325,875,632	80.4
Repairs and Improvements	2,921	79,499,442	19.6
<u>Other Construction <u>B/</u></u>	<u>19,305</u>	<u>831,579,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
New Construction	11,307	514,432,134	61.9
Repairs and Improvements	7,993	317,147,357	38.1
<u>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>103,980</u>	<u>3,265,361,272</u>	<u>100.0</u>
New Construction	51,843	1,542,922,099	47.3
Repairs and Improvements	52,137	1,722,439,173	52.7
<u>NON-CONSTRUCTION <u>C/</u></u>	<u>44,919</u>	<u>1,027,324,314</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>148,899</u>	<u>\$4,292,685,586</u>	<u>-</u>

A/ Based on project specifications. Represents total cost, from Federal and sponsor's funds, of all projects placed in operation from inception to completion, including work under way on June 30, 1937.

B/ Includes airports and airways, flood control, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and miscellaneous construction projects.

C/ Chiefly projects for white collar workers and women.