



WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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EIGHT MONTHS TOTAL OF WPA ROAD CONSTRUCTION WOULD SPAN U. S. 24 TIMES

Colonel F. C. Harrington, Work Projects Commissioner, announced today that WPA workers had built or improved approximately 68,000 miles of streets and roadways on projects completed during the eight-month period ending March 1 -- an aggregate mileage sufficient to span the continent nearly 24 times from New York to San Francisco. The bulk of the construction consisted of unpaved rural roads, much of it of the "farm-to-market" type leading from main highways into agricultural regions.

In spite of the fact that approximately half the period covered by the report fell during winter when highway construction normally is at its lowest ebb, Colonel Harrington added, the rate of construction on a monthly average basis showed an increase of approximately 3 percent over that for the preceding three years. Average construction for each month from July 1, 1938, to March 1, 1939, he said, was approximately 8,500 miles, while the average for the three years preceding July 1, 1938, was 8,200 miles per month.

At the same time, Colonel Harrington said that WPA had built or improved more than 13,000 bridges, laid nearly 3,000,000 lineal feet of drainage culverts and performed a considerable amount

of other work related to improvements of the nation's streets and highways.

Largest item in the overall total of 67,956 miles of highways, roads and streets built or improved by WPA in the eight month period studied is 59,857 miles of rural roads.

"The thousands of miles of roads built by WPA during the past four years constitute one of the most important contributions the work relief program has made to the nation's welfare", Colonel Harrington said. "Much of this work has consisted of small feeder roads from the main highways reaching into farming areas which previously had been isolated for much of the year. Farm-to-market roads built by WPA have given year-round access to markets and shopping centers to hundreds of thousands of American farmers, greatly improving their economic condition and bringing them nearer to schools and churches."

Other highlights of the report showed a total of 6,909 miles of streets and alleys constructed or improved; 8,818 new bridges built and 4,581 repaired or improved; 111,570 new culverts laid, totaling 2,911,000 feet in length; 3,387 miles of sidewalks and paths built or repaired; 171 miles of new guardrails and guardwalls built; four grade crossings eliminated, and 130 miles of street car and railroad track removed.

(A table showing total accomplishments of the highways, roads and streets program on projects completed during the eight months ending March 1, 1939, is attached. Data by states will be available at state headquarters.)

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities</u>		
<u>Highways, roads, and streets - Total</u>	Miles	67,956
<u>Rural roads - Total</u>	Miles	59,857
<u>Paved - Total</u>	Miles	2,794
New	Miles	1,463
Repair	Miles	1,331
Unpaved	Miles	57,063
<u>Streets and alleys - Total</u>	Miles	6,909
<u>Paved - Total</u>	Miles	2,869
New	Miles	1,457
Repair	Miles	1,412
Unpaved	Miles	4,040
<u>Other roads (parks, cemeteries, etc.) - Total</u>	Miles	1,190
<u>Paved - Total</u>	Miles	122
New	Miles	77
Repair	Miles	45
Unpaved	Miles	1,068

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities (Cont'd)</u>			
<u>Bridges - Total</u>	Number	8,818	4,581
	Length in feet	235,000	202,000
Wood	Number	6,795	2,428
	Length in feet	162,000	79,000
Steel	Number	586	1,635
	Length in feet	29,000	107,000
Masonry	Number	1,437	518
	Length in feet	44,000	16,000
Culverts	Number	111,570	10,404
	Length in feet	2,911,000	291,000
Grade crossing elimination	No. of crossing eliminations	4	XXX
<u>Sidewalks and paths - Total</u>	Miles	2,836	1,051
Paved	Miles	2,001	929
Unpaved	Miles	335	122
Curbs	Length in miles	2,128	501
Gutters	Length in miles	656	47
Guardrails and guardwalls	Length in miles	171	71

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Con-structions	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities (Cont'd)</u>			
Lights for roads and streets - - - - -	Number	4,813	4,802
	Miles of road equipped	112	143
Roadside drainage- - - - -	Miles of ditch	6,736	14,097
	Miles of Pipe	396	102
Roadside landscaping - - - - -	Miles	XXX	2,420
Street signs- - - - -	Linear ft. line painted	1,244	XXX
	No. signs made	14,941	XXX
	No. signs erected	14,703	XXX
Removal of car and railroad track - - -	Miles of single line track	XXX	130

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