

PA - Indiana
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[Release as Ind. Highways]

Indianapolis, March 18 -- One-fifth of all the highways, roads and streets in Indiana, or more than 18,000 miles, have been built, reconstructed or improved by WPA workers, a survey of the operations of the work-relief agency in the state showed today.

The report was the first of a series showing accomplishments on WPA projects from July 1, 1935, when WPA was established, through December 31, 1939, according to John K. Jennings, State WPA Administrator. It is part of a nationwide inventory of the public improvements completed by the Work Projects Administration.

In addition to roads and streets, the largest single classification of WPA projects, the first report covered the construction of airports, airways, and other transportation facilities.

The survey showed that a large majority of the WPA road work in Indiana has centered around the construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads. A total of 15,266 miles of such roadway was built and improved in the state under the work-relief program. Construction and improvement work on city streets and alleys totaled 2,655 miles and similar work on other roads, mainly parkways, totaled 424 miles.

Other major improvements to Indiana's transportation system, as shown by the report, include the construction of 467 new bridges and viaducts totaling 12,583 feet, or nearly two and one-half miles in length. In addition, 2,001 bridges and viaducts were reconstructed and improved by WPA workers. The new bridges and viaducts ranged from large steel structures to small spans of wood or masonry.

The WPA built 15,481 new culverts totaling approximately 79 miles in length. More than 4,500 other culverts were rebuilt or improved.

Roadside drainage work by the WPA in Indiana showed a total of 2,629 miles of new pipe or ditch, with reconstruction or improvement of more than 5,680 miles.

New sidewalks and paths aggregated 557 miles, of which 491 miles were paved. An additional 173 miles were rebuilt or improved. Construction of curbs

reached a total of 419 miles and an additional 114 miles of gutters were built. WPA workers erected nearly 30 miles of guardrails and guardwalls along Hoosier highways.

An important contribution to traffic safety on Indiana roads and streets was the installation of 1167 light standards to equip nearly 30 miles of thoroughfares. An additional 925 light standards were rebuilt and improved along 16 miles of roads and streets. Traffic safety also was enhanced by the painting of control lines totaling 505 miles in length.

A total of 311 miles of roadside landscaping improvements were completed by Hoosier WPA workers. They also removed 54 miles of car and railroad track in Indiana towns and cities.

Illustrative of the wide variety of WPA construction work undertaken in Indiana, the report showed that 21 new tunnels were built for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or both. Even waterway transportation facilities in Indiana have been affected by the work-relief program. The summary revealed that during the past four and one-half years seven new docks, wharves, and piers have been constructed by relief workers.

The survey of WPA operations showed that relief workers have been used extensively to improve air transportation in Indiana. They built three new ~~air~~ landing fields and made extensive improvements to seven other fields. More than 48,000 feet of runways were laid, of which approximately 31,000 feet were paved. Four new airport buildings were constructed and eleven other buildings were reconstructed and improved. WPA workers placed 182 new light standards on Hoosier air fields and reconstructed 164 light standards. They also placed 460 new airways markers and reconditioned 635 markers throughout the state.

The largest project in the WPA aviation program in Indiana has been at Indianapolis Municipal Airport where the work-relief agency constructed new concrete runways equivalent to four and one-half miles of 20 foot highway pavement and has installed three modern instrument approach systems. In addition, a radio field traffic control system has been installed by WPA workers in the airport control tower.