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HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



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HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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PREFACE

Highway Administration and Finance was written as a text and reference book on the management and economic phases of highway engineering. These constitute an increasingly important and exacting part of the procedure incident to the development of modern highway systems.

A state or a municipal highway department is called upon to exercise three distinct types of administrative functions. One is to aid in securing legislative enactments that will afford an adequate legal basis for the work of the highway department, another is to assist in creating a sound financial system to meet the cost of highway improvement, the third, and most exacting, is to organize and supervise the activities of the staff engaged in the construction and maintenance of roads and pavements.

The material presented herein is intended to serve as a basis for the study of these three phases of highway administration. It is contemplated that considerable collateral reading will accompany the use of the text and accordingly numerous references are inserted throughout the book. Those who wish to do no more than acquire a general knowledge of the subject will find the text itself sufficiently complete for that purpose.

While this treatise is to a considerable extent a compilation of the literature of the subject, the authors have not hesitated to interject many observations based on their experience in their respective fields and continuous contacts with highway administration over a period of many years.

At Ames, the subject matter of this treatise is the basis for two courses, each of three quarter credits, the one being on highway jurisprudence and finance, and the other on highway department organization and construction management. It is quite possible by limiting the amount of supplementary reading to cover the entire book in a course of three semester credits.

A substantial amount of historical data for representative states has been included, for the reason that in no other way can the reader obtain clear ideas regarding the nature of town, town-

ship, and county organization as the same relate to the concrete problems of highway administration and finance.

The authors are under special obligation to those whose articles on various subjects are included as a part of the text, and to Thomas H. MacDonald, Chief of the United States Bureau of Public Roads, for his sympathetic cooperation and permission to make use of valuable data compiled under the auspices of his Bureau. Indeed, save for the excellent economic studies and general technical reports published in recent years by the Bureau of Public Roads, the American Association of State Highway Officials, the State Highway Commissions, and certain Municipal Public Works Departments, a book of this nature in the field of highway administration and finance could scarcely have been written.

THE AUTHORS.

AMES, IOWA,
December, 1926.

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