

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY		Job Number: N1-406-04-3	
To: National Archives & Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001		DATE RECEIVED <i>7-15-2004</i>	
1. FROM (Agency or establishment) Department of Transportation		NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 3303a, the disposition request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10.	
2. MAJOR SUBDIVISION Federal Highway Administration			
3. MINOR SUBDIVISION Office of Real Estate Services			
4. NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER Janis Gramatins	5. TELEPHONE 202-366-2030	DATE 9-7-04	ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES <i>John W. Paul</i>
6. AGENCY CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposition of its records and that the records proposed for disposal on the attached 2 page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified; and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required; <input type="checkbox"/> is attached; or <input type="checkbox"/> has been requested.			
DATE <i>7/13/04</i>	SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE <i>Vitor S. Wagner</i>	TITLE FHWA Records Officer	
7. Item No.	8. DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9. GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10. ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
	<p>This schedule provides one-time disposition authority for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) records from the Office of Real Estate Services under the Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment, and Realty, that are located in the agency.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Historical Records, 1921-1964. 1 cubic foot.</p> <p>These records do not appear to be covered by current FHWA records disposition schedules. The records were created under predecessor FHWA agencies.* The records are described in detail on the following pages.</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to the National Archives upon approval of this schedule.</p> <p><i>cc Agency, NWD</i></p>		

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY – CONTINUATION
Job Number N1-406-04-3

Records from the Office of Real Estate Services under the Associate Administrator for
Planning, Environment, and Realty, Federal Highway Administration

1. **Right-of-Way Policy Letters, 1921-1948.** 2 volumes (expandable folders). First volume includes 1921-1945; second volume includes 1946-1948. Letters (many on onion-skin paper, sometimes with maps) to and from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Public Roads; U.S. Department of the Interior, General Land Office and National Park Service; and Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration, regarding right-of-ways pertaining to Federal lands, Indians, parks, grazing, etc.
2. **Land Acquisition Records for Highways and Flight Strips, August 1942.** 1 folder. Prepared by the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration. This 23 page report (on onion-skin paper) explains the purpose of and how to complete forms, ledgers, and reports pertaining to land acquisition. The report includes samples of the forms.
3. **Standard Right-of-Way Parcel Plats and Strip Maps for Highway Land Acquisition, October 1942.** 1 folder. Prepared by the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration. This 21 page report with sample plat maps and blueprints provides guidelines on preparing right-of-way parcel plats and strip maps.
4. **Highway Land Acquisition Manual, September 1945.** First Edition. 1 folder. Prepared by Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. This 56 page report with sample plat maps and blueprints was “prepared as an aid to the States and local units to make more effective provision for needed highway improvements and to facilitate the supervisory activities of the Public Roads Administration in the acquisition of rights-of-way under existing Federal-aid laws.” The report also serves as guidance on preparing land acquisition records.
5. **Elements of Highway Land Acquisition Plats and Records: A Study by the Division of Financial and Administrative Research, May 1946.** 1 folder. Reported by David R. Levin, Senior Transportation Economist, Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. This 39 pages report with sample plat maps provides guidelines on preparing right-of-way parcel plats and strip maps and on preparing land acquisition records.
6. **Highway Practice in the United States of America: History, Administration, Finance, Systems and Standards, Location and Design, Construction and Maintenance, 1949.** Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. Softcover book published by the Government Printing Office. 230 pages with illustrations. “This bulletin was prepared for the use of foreign engineers who come to the United States to observe highway practice as it has developed in this country, and for other students, engineers and administrative officials interested in highways....This bulletin represents a

considerable revision and expansion of the series of lectures prepared by Public Roads Administration for presentation at the Chicago Road Show held in 1948 under the auspices of the American Road Builders Association.”

7. Blatnick Committee File, 1960-1964. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads. 1 folder. Includes news clippings, correspondence, and reports related to the Representative John A. Blatnik (D., Minn.) special House Highway Investigating Subcommittee regarding allegations of fraud and corruption in the Bureau of Public Roads. The folder includes a 94 page Testimony of Norman Pritchett, Chairman, A.A.S.H.O. Committee on Right-of-Way before Blatnik Committee, House of Representatives, 1960.

* The organizational history of the predecessor agencies of FHWA is as follows (from the U.S. Government Manual): Office of Road Inquiry established by the Secretary of Agriculture under authority of act of Aug. 8, 1894 (28 Stat. 264). Federal aid for highways to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering authorized by act of July 11, 1916 (39 Stat. 355), known as Bureau of Public Roads after July 1918. Transferred to Federal Works Agency by Reorg. Plan No. I of 1939, effective July 1, 1939, and renamed Public Roads Administration. Transferred to General Services Administration as Bureau of Public Roads by act of June 30, 1949 (63 Stat. 380). Transferred to the Department of Commerce by Reorg. Plan No. 7 of 1949, effective Aug. 20, 1949. Transferred to the Secretary of Transportation by act of Oct. 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 931), and functions assigned to Federal Highway Administration.



National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

Date: September 2, 2004
To: NWML
From: Jim Cassidy, WG 1, NWML
Subject: N1-406-04-3

The Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), submits Job No. N1-406-04-3 for records from the Office of Real Estate Services, which is under the Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment, and Reality.

The FHWA identifies the records on this job as, "Miscellaneous Historical Records, 1921–1964." There are approximately 1 cubic foot of record material included within this job. FHWA proposes that these records be scheduled as permanent, and that they be transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration upon approval of the schedule.

The Records

The Job includes the following seven (7) record items. Most of these records originate in the old Bureau of Public Roads (Record Group 30). Each item will be discussed separately.

1. **Right-of-Way Policy Letters, 1921 – 1948.** These letters are in two volumes of expandable folders. The first volume includes records dating from 1921-1945, and the second includes records dating from 1946-1948. These letters, many of which include maps, are to and from other Federal Government agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, the General Land Office, and the National Park Service.

These letters document the formulation and implementation of right of ways pertaining to Federal lands, Indian Reservations, National Parks, and grazing and timber reserves. A review of the Records of the Bureau of Public Roads found little, if any information concerning right of ways through Federal lands. NARA Reference Subject Area Experts (David Pfeiffer) have noted that there is little documentation of Federal road building activities in public lands, and that many of these records may have been disposed of. There is a reference demand for these records.

These records will provide evidential value of how right of ways across Federal and Indian lands were formulated during a great highway building period in our nation's history. The letters may still have some legal value, and certainly the reference demand for information concerning right of ways provides evidence of historical interest. These records do have permanent value, and should be transferred to the National Archives.

2. **Land Acquisition Records for Highways and Flight Strips, August 1942.** This 23 page report, prepared by the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration, explains the purpose of and information on completing, various forms, ledgers, and reports pertaining to land acquisition. The report includes samples of the forms.

Various record inventories concerning records held by NARA were examined, as was the NARA Library Catalog, and ARC. No information concerning this report, however, could be located. These records will provide evidence of how land was acquired for highways and flight strips in the United States, and will also provide insight into an important aspect of the operations of highway building. These records, therefore, do have permanent value, and should be transferred to NARA.

3. **Standard Right-of Way Parcel Plats and Strip Maps for Highway Land Acquisition, October 1942.** This 21 page report, also prepared by the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration, provides guidelines on preparing right-of-way parcel plats and strip maps. The report includes sample plat maps and blueprints.

Again, various record inventories concerning records held by NARA were examined, as was the NARA Library Catalog, and ARC, but no information concerning this report could be located. These records will provide evidence of how land was acquired for highways, especially that aspect of the process which included the creation of parcel plats and strip maps. These records will also provide insight into an important aspect of the operations of highway building. These records, therefore, have permanent value and should be transferred to NARA.

4. **Highway Land Acquisition Manual, September 1945.** This 56 page manual was prepared by the Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. It was "prepared as an aid to the States and local units to make more effective provision for needed highway improvements and to facilitate the supervisory activities of the Public Roads Administration in the acquisition of rights-of way under existing Federal-aid laws."

Per standard procedure, various record inventories concerning records held by NARA were examined, as was the NARA Library Catalog, and ARC, but no information concerning this report could be located among those records in NARA's holdings. These records will provide evidence of how land was acquired for highways, especially that aspect of the process which included Federal and State interaction and cooperation. These records will also provide insight into an important aspect of the operations of highway building. These records, therefore, have permanent value and should be transferred to NARA.

5. **Elements of Highway Land Acquisition Plats and Records: A Study by the Division of Financial and Administrative Research, May 1946.** This 39 page report provides guidelines on preparing right-of way parcel plats, strip maps, and the preparation of land acquisition letters, was located in the NARA library collection, although not in NARA record holdings. The copy will have evidential and historical

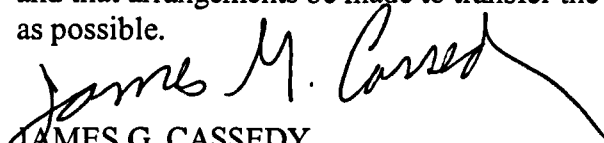
research value, so it is proposed that the item be accessioned by NARA pending appropriate disposition decision by the NARA library and records custodial units.

6. **Highway Practice in the United States of America: History, Administration, Finance, Systems and Standards, Location and Design, Construction and Maintenance, 1949, Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency.** This 230 page Bulletin was prepared for the use of foreign engineers who came to the United States to observe highway practice as it has developed in this country, and for other students, engineers and administrative officials interested in highways. The Bulletin was located in the NARA library collection, although not in NARA record holdings. The copy will have evidential and historical research value, so it is proposed that the item be accessioned by NARA pending appropriate disposition decision by the NARA library and records custodial units.
7. **Blatnik Committee File, 1960 – 1964. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads.** This folder includes correspondence, reports and news clippings related to a special House Highway Investigating Subcommittee headed by Representative John A. Blatnik (D., Minn.), tasked with investigating allegations of fraud and corruption in the Bureau of Public Roads. The folder includes a 94 page Testimony of Norman Pritchett, Chairman, AASHO* Committee on Right-of-Way before the Blatnik Committee, House of Representatives.

Various record inventories concerning records held by NARA were examined, as was the NARA Library Catalog, and ARC, but no information concerning this report could be located among those records in NARA's holdings. Guides to Congressional Records were also consulted, with no immediate results. These records will provide historical evidence of an investigation of a possible failure of government accountability within the Bureau of Public Roads, and how the agency responded to allegations of impropriety. These records will complement other Congressional records, if and when they are located. These records, therefore, have permanent value and should be transferred to NARA.

The Federal Highway Administration has located and proposed for permanent retention by NARA a set of Miscellaneous Historical Records. For the reasons discussed, these records provide important insight into the Federal acquisition of right of ways. These records have historical and evidential value, and provide evidence of government fiscal and legal accountability. Most of the records in the proposed transfer were previously unknown to NARA.

Therefore I recommend the proposed scheduling of these records as permanent be approved, and that arrangements be made to transfer the records into the legal custody of NARA as soon as possible.


JAMES G. CASSEDY
NWML