

Used by H. S. Fairbank in a talk made at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce meeting, Statler Hotel(Luncheon)- June 17, 1943.

### TRENDS IN HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

The attached chart and supporting tabular material indicates the critical condition to which highway transportation has been reduced by war curtailment of both rolling stock and roadbed and by other administrative restrictions.

Because of variations in the time lag between policy actions and their effects, a particular trend cannot be shown to result conclusively from a particular action. The general incumbency seems logically to follow the collective restrictions of four organizations:

1. War Production Board
2. Office of Price Administration
3. Office of Defense Transportation
4. Petroleum Administration for War

The restrictions, limitations and curtailments imposed by these agencies have frequently been drawn without benefit of the experience of established highway transportation departments and suggest that the curtailing actions of one or more have often formed the basis for subsequent further curtailing actions by the others.

The several trends indicate that the depressed activity resulting from this vicious circle of negative reasoning will culminate in an untenable position for highway transportation in relation to wartime requirements during the latter months of this year.

The trends relating to rolling stock clearly show that a very considerable number of vehicles remain in operation and that a very large volume of essential travel exists despite all the restrictions applied to the vehicles and the limitations set on their use. In contrast to a 17 percent reduction in motor vehicle travel from the normal pre-war year, 1941, is an 84 percent reduction in the mileage of replacement construction. This condition not only threatens the survival of the road system but imposes an accelerated rate of depreciation on critical vehicles and tires.

In view of these facts the policies, principally in the War Production Board, which have produced this condition seem wholly indefensible and a re-examination of these policies on this account appears to be in order.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Privately-owned Vehicles

<u>Date</u>	<u>Passenger Cars</u>	<u>Trucks</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 31, 1940	27,372,397	4,590,386	31,962,783
December 31, 1941	29,418,313	4,876,054	34,294,367
December 31, 1942	26,763,581	4,641,198	31,404,779
December 31, 1943 (est.)	24,507,000	4,418,000	28,925,000

Motor Fuel Consumption

1,000 gallons

1940	22,001,356
1941	23,894,376
1942	19,851,834
1943	16,492,900

**MILEAGE PLACED UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**Regular Highway and Grade Crossing Funds  
1934-1935 Public Works, Works Program Highway  
and Works Program Grade Crossing Funds  
Defense Highway Act of 1941 - Strategic Network Funds**

Mileage placed under construction during month

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
January	506.7	309.7	277.3	82.2
February	329.3	458.3	187.0	
March	641.5	506.9	163.6	
April	1,276.3	892.3	230.7	
May	1,445.8	972.5	128.3	
June	1,534.7	1,247.0	110.4	
July	1,777.0	1,230.2	187.8	
August	1,495.9	1,059.9	262.4	
September	1,366.0	1,287.3	180.7	
October	1,442.4	681.3	141.0	
November	847.4	558.9	101.0	
December	506.3	458.9	117.2	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,196.3</b>	<b>9,663.2</b>	<b>2,087.2</b>	

**MILEAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**Regular Highway and Grade Crossing Funds  
1934-1935 Public Works, Works Program Highway  
and Works Program Grade Crossing Funds  
Defense Highway Act of 1941 - Strategic Network Funds**

**Mileage under construction at end of month**

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
January	5,979.3	7,516.1	7,247.2	3,069.8
February	6,107.8	7,633.4	7,001.5	
March	6,496.6	7,999.9	6,976.9	
April	7,467.2	8,591.9	7,010.6	
May	8,557.6	9,033.7	6,848.7	
June	9,083.3	9,177.2	6,234.0	
July	9,786.4	9,323.5	5,643.3	
August	9,616.2	9,123.9	5,111.2	
September	9,553.6	8,915.2	4,446.9	
October	9,082.6	8,471.2	3,903.2	
November	8,434.8	8,096.9	3,539.0	
December	7,737.0	7,665.8	3,167.3	

**MILEAGE COMPLETED**

**Regular Highway and Grade Crossing Funds  
1934-1935 Public Works, Works Program Highway  
and Works Program Grade Crossing Funds  
Defense Highway Act of 1941 - Strategic Network Funds**

**Mileage completed during month**

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
January	644.0	530.6	695.9	179.7
February	200.8	341.0	432.7	
March	252.7	140.4	188.2	
April	305.7	300.3	197.0	
May	355.4	530.7	290.2	
June	1,009.0	1,103.5	725.1	
July	1,073.9	1,083.9	778.5	
August	1,666.1	1,259.5	794.5	
September	1,428.6	1,496.0	845.0	
October	1,913.4	1,125.3	684.7	
November	1,495.2	933.2	465.2	
December	1,204.1	890.0	488.9	
Totals	11,548.9	9,734.4	6,585.9	

ACCESS ROAD MILEAGE STATUS

Defense Highway Act of 1941 - Access Road Funds

	<u>Mileage placed under construction during month</u>	<u>Mileage under construction at end of month</u>	<u>Mileage com- pleted dur- ing month</u>
<u>1942</u>			
January	0.5	0.5	--
February	45.4	45.9	--
March	170.7	216.6	--
April	224.9	429.8	11.7
May	221.9	645.2	6.5
June	211.0	847.9	8.3
July	183.2	1,000.3	30.8
August	305.8	1,285.7	20.4
September	455.1	1,695.2	45.6
October	466.5	2,044.8	116.9
November	374.0	2,382.7	36.1
December	396.4	2,742.9	36.2
<u>1943</u>			
January	198.9	2,834.3	107.5

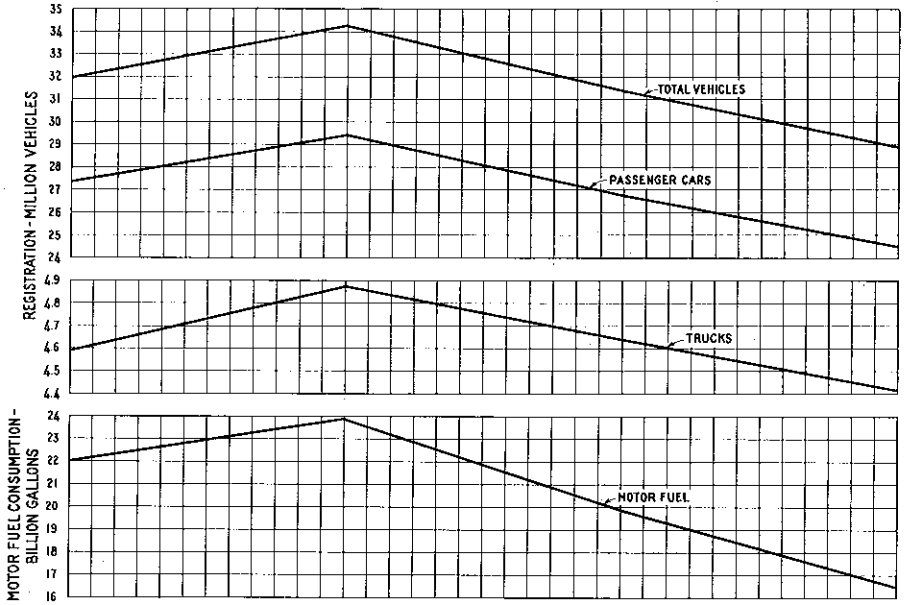
MILEAGE STATUS

All Funds

	<u>Mileage placed under construction during month</u>	<u>Mileage under construction at end of month</u>	<u>Mileage com- pleted during month</u>
<u>1942</u>			
January	277.8	7,247.7	695.9
February	232.4	7,047.4	432.7
March	334.3	7,193.5	188.2
April	455.6	7,440.4	208.7
May	350.2	7,493.9	296.7
June	321.4	7,081.9	733.4
July	371.0	6,643.6	809.3
August	568.2	6,396.9	814.9
September	635.8	6,142.1	890.6
October	607.5	5,948.0	801.6
November	475.0	5,921.7	501.3
December	513.6	5,910.2	525.1
<u>1943</u>			
January	281.1	5,904.1	287.2

# TRENDS IN HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

## ROLLING STOCK - REGISTRATION AND MOTOR FUEL CONSUMPTION



## ROADBED REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION

