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Public Roads is the quarterly magazine of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Reading *Public Roads* is the easiest way to keep up-to-date on developments in Federal highway policies, programs, and research and technology.

More specifically, the magazine covers advances and innovations in highway/traffic research and technology, critical national transportation issues, important activities and achievements of FHWA and others in the highway community, specific FHWA program areas, and subjects of interest to highway industry professionals. Each issue contains standard departments that include information on topics of general interest, notices of recent publications in research and development and in technology applications, Internet-related information applicable to transportation professionals, and programs and courses offered by the National Highway Institute.

Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

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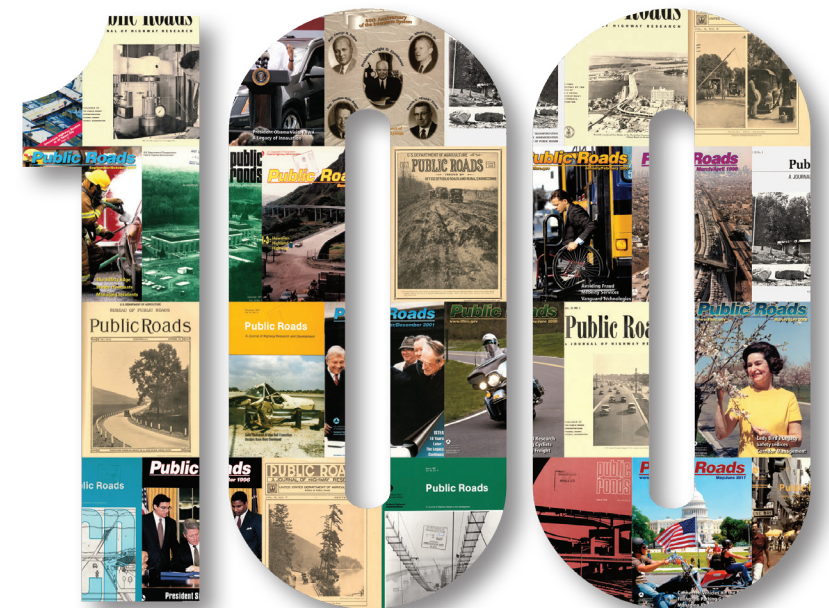
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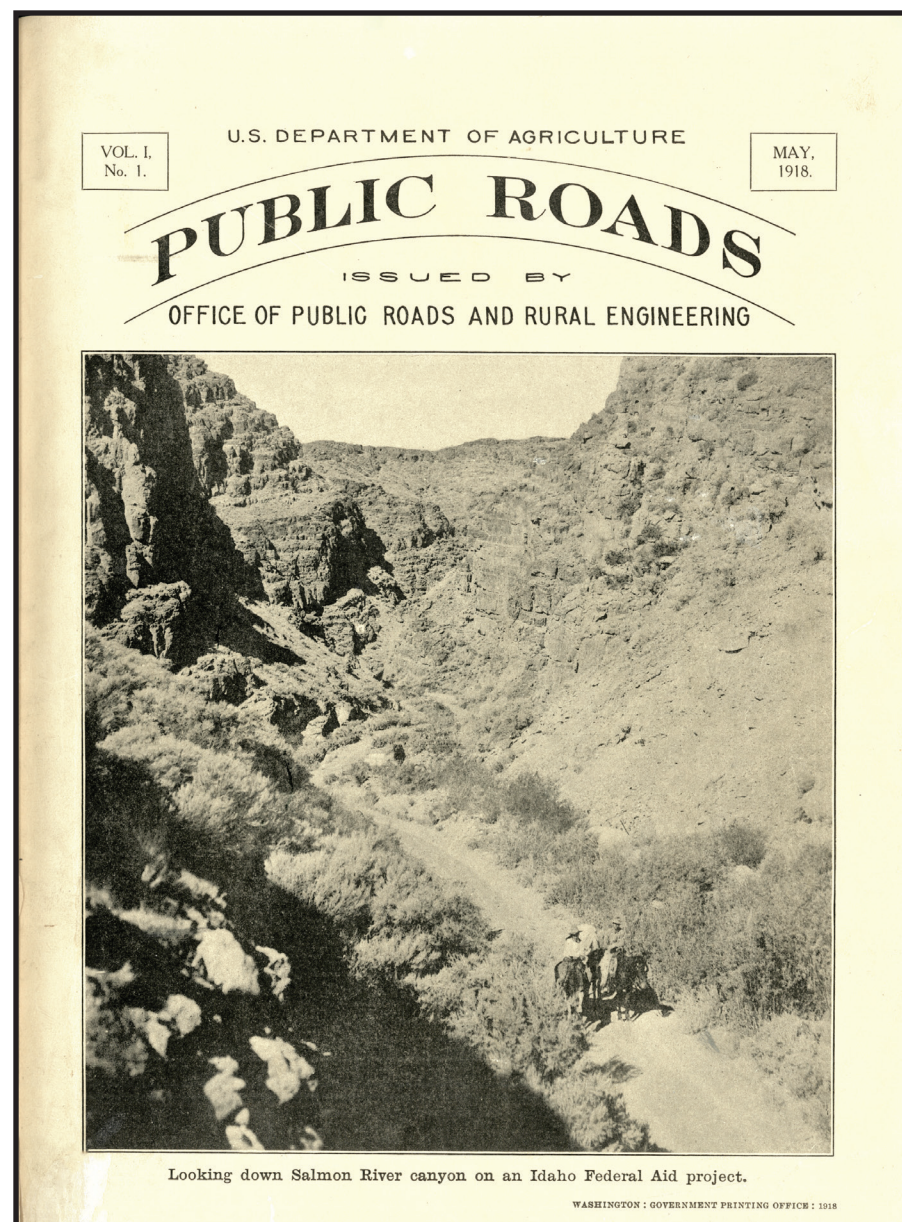
Public Roads
www.fhwa.dot.gov Summer 2018

Celebrates



Years!

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/>



Public Roads, May 1918

When the first issue of *Public Roads* was published in May 1918, the country's population was 103.2 million, with about half (nearly 52 million) living in rural areas. Today, the population has more than tripled to 327.2 million. Over the course of 100 years, the only constant is change. *Public Roads* is no exception. With this issue, the Federal Highway Administration's magazine reaches 100 years of providing information on every aspect of highway development and the role of highways in the country's transportation network. To reach

this 100-year milestone, *Public Roads* has had to evolve with changing times.

By 1918, the good roads community already had several magazines devoted to its cause, including *American Motorist*, *Better Roads and Streets*, and *Good Roads*. They published news, technical articles, and speeches. However, Logan W. Page, who headed the Office of Public Roads from 1905 until his death in 1918, wanted a magazine focused on his priorities.

With the United States embroiled in World War I, the Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering published the first issue of *Public Roads*, dated May 1918. On page 3, Page published a Salutory about the purpose of the new magazine. It began:

"With this issue of Public Roads, the Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering inaugurates the publication of a periodical devoted to better highways in the States of the Union and dedicated to those, both in official and private life, who are concerned in developing means of better rural communication, in facilitating the marketing of the crops of the Nation, and in aiding the solution of the daily more perplexing traffic problem."

Public Roads, like anything that lasts 100 years, has been through many changes as our transportation system, technology, social concerns, and country have evolved amid a revolution of instant communication and computer applications.

More changes are ahead, inevitably, but looking back from 2018, we can see that *Public Roads* more than fulfilled Logan Page's vision of a mag-

azine that would "advance to as near perfection as possible the science of road building." His successors built on the foundation his untimely death left behind so that the magazine he created would reflect the times in which it was published.

For 100 years, *Public Roads* has reflected the complexities of evolving times while contributing to the betterment of our lives. For the next century, *Public Roads* continues this commitment to our Nation.

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