

HIGHWAY SAFETY, DESIGN AND OPERATIONS

Roadside Hazards

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL-AID
HIGHWAY PROGRAM OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10:15 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. John A. Blatnik (chairman) presiding.

Present: Messrs. Fallon (chairman), Blatnik (subcommittee chairman), Howard, McCarthy, Cramer, Harsha, McEwen, Schadeberg, Denney, and Zion.

Staff present: Same as previous days, and John P. O'Hara, associate counsel, and Mrs. June Teague, staff assistant.

Mr. BLATNIK. The Special Subcommittee on the Federal-Aid Highway Program will please come to order.

We will resume hearings pertaining to the safety aspects of the Federal-Aid Highway System.

As I announced at the close of our last session, today we will take up an analysis of the Capital Beltway, known as Interstate 495, which has been made by our staff.

There are many favorable things that can be said on the positive or plus side of this modern section of multilane, divided highway that completely encircles the Nation's Capital.

If I may suggest, let us keep in mind those features, including the great convenience to thousands of motorists every day, as we explore what might be some of the minus side or deficiencies in the area of this highway's design and operational efficiency.

Our witness from the staff this morning will be John P. O'Hara, associate counsel; and in addition to our staff witness we continue to have present Mr. Charles W. Prisk, of the Bureau of Public Roads, who has contributed so much to our hearings.

Mr. O'Hara, will you please stand and take the oath. Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. O'HARA. I do.

Mr. BLATNIK. Please be seated. Mr. Prisk, you are still under oath and will continue to be for the duration of these hearings. Mr. May.

Mr. W. MAY. Mr. Chairman, today we are going to receive an analysis of the Capital Beltway primarily from a statistical and roadside hazard viewpoint. At a later date in the hearings, we shall receive additional testimony on other aspects of the beltway.