

HIGHWAY SAFETY, DESIGN AND OPERATIONS

Roadside Hazards

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 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 notice, at 10:08 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. John A. Blatnik (chairman) presiding.

Present: Messrs. Blatnik, Kluczynski, Edmondson, Johnson, McCarthy, Howard, Cramer, Harsha, Cleveland, McEwen, Duncan, Schadeberg, Zion, and McDonald.

Staff present: Same as previous days.

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

This morning the subcommittee is resuming public hearings relating to the design and operational efficiency of the Nation's highways, particularly as it pertains to the safety features.

Testimony heard thus far in our hearings has disclosed conditions in the design of our highways, roads, and streets that are disappointing and, indeed, alarming.

One witness after another has described a seemingly endless number of roadside hazards that have been designed and built into our roads. We have been shown scores of photographs to document the testimony, and the implications as to the extent of the conditions thus revealed are ominous.

Most disappointing of all has been repeated evidence that the conditions shown to exist generally are not limited to our older roads, but include our primary and secondary Federal-aid roads and extend to even the Interstate System itself.

Since the Interstate System typifies the design and construction of our most modern highways in the very best way we know how to plan and build, it becomes important that we now turn our attention to determine how the concept of safe highway design is faring on that network.

The state of the art on a nationwide basis, therefore, will be the main subject of the testimony we are about to hear today.

We are pleased, and indeed fortunate, to have with us today a panel of nationally recognized experts in the field of safe highway design and traffic engineering, who will review design and operational features relating principally to roadside hazards. These witnesses will help us examine and discuss some of the most recently opened segments of the great Interstate System.