

ASPHALT *and* **POLITICS**

A HISTORY OF THE
AMERICAN HIGHWAY SYSTEM



Thomas L. Karnes

Asphalt And Politics A History Of The American Highway System

Mark Garrett



Asphalt And Politics A History Of The American Highway System:

Asphalt and Politics Thomas L. Karnes, 2009-09-22 From animal paths to superhighways transportation has been the backbone of American expansion and growth This examination of the interstate highway system in the United States and the forces that shaped it includes the introduction of the automobile the Good Roads Movement and the Lincoln Highway Association The book offers an analysis of state and federal road funding modern road building options and the successes and failures of the current highway system Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here

Dixie Highway Tammy Ingram, 2014-03-03 At the turn of the twentieth century good highways eluded most Americans and nearly all southerners In their place a jumble of dirt roads covered the region like a bed of briars Introduced in 1915 the Dixie Highway changed all that by merging hundreds of short roads into dual interstate routes that looped from Michigan to Miami and back In connecting the North and the South the Dixie Highway helped end regional isolation and served as a model for future interstates In this book Tammy Ingram offers the first comprehensive study of the nation s earliest attempt to build a highway network revealing how the modern U S transportation system evolved out of the hard fought political economic and cultural contests that surrounded the Dixie s creation The most visible success of the Progressive Era Good Roads Movement the Dixie Highway also became its biggest casualty It sparked a national dialogue about the power of federal and state agencies the role of local government and the influence of ordinary citizens In the South it caused a backlash against highway bureaucracy that stymied road building for decades Yet Ingram shows that after the Dixie Highway the region was never the same

Why Government Fails So Often Peter H. Schuck, 2014-03-23 How government can implement more successful policies more often From healthcare to workplace and campus conduct the federal government is taking on ever more responsibility for managing our lives At the same time Americans have never been more disaffected with Washington seeing it as an intrusive incompetent wasteful giant Ineffective policies are caused by deep structural factors regardless of which party is in charge bringing our government into ever worsening disrepute Understanding why government fails so often and how it might become more effective is a vital responsibility of citizenship In this book lawyer and political scientist Peter Schuck provides a wide range of examples and an enormous body of evidence to explain why so many domestic policies go awry and how to right the foundering ship of state An urgent call for reform Why Government Fails So Often is essential reading for anyone curious about why government is in such a disgraceful state and how it can do better

Getting Out of the Mud Martin T. Olliff, 2017-07-18 When roads were bad Alabamians become wide awake to good roads State highways take the lead Peering beyond the state s boundaries named trails and interstate highways Laying the foundation for a modern highway system Alabama administers its highway program

Deep South Dynasty Kari A. Frederickson, 2021-11-23 The sweeping story of an ambitious and once powerful southern family

Encyclopedia of Transportation Mark Garrett, 2014-08-13 Viewing transportation through the lens of current social

economic and policy aspects this four volume reference work explores the topic of transportation across multiple disciplines within the social sciences and related areas including geography public policy business and economics Features Approximately 675 signed articles authored by prominent scholars are arranged in A to Z fashion and conclude with Further Readings and cross references A Chronology helps readers put individual events into historical context a Reader s Guide organizes entries by broad topical or thematic areas a detailed index helps users quickly locate entries of most immediate interest and a Resource Guide provides a list of journals books and associations and their websites While articles were written to avoid jargon as much as possible a Glossary provides quick definitions of technical terms To ensure full well rounded coverage of the field the General Editor with expertise in urban planning public policy and the environment worked alongside a Consulting Editor with a background in Civil Engineering The index Reader s Guide and cross references combine for thorough search and browse capabilities in the electronic edition Available in both print and electronic formats Encyclopedia of Transportation is an ideal reference for libraries and those who want to explore the issues that surround transportation in the United States and around the world Key Themes Administration Operations and Evaluation Air Transportation Systems Economics of Transportation Energy Environmental and Health Impacts Facilities and Infrastructure Intermodal Transportation Systems International Transportation and Policy Labor Issues Employee Relations Planning and Policy Safety and Security Social Issues in Transportation Surface Transportation Systems Technology Design and Engineering Transportation Finance of Transportation Legislation Transportation Modeling Transportation Organizations and Agencies Travel Behavior and Research Water Transportation Systems

The Drive for Dollars Jeffrey R. Brown, Eric A. Morris, Brian D. Taylor, 2023 The story of the interplay between finance freeways and urban form in the 20th century and their enduring impact on American cities and neighborhoods in the 21st American cities are distinct from almost all others in the degree to which freeways and freeway travel dominate urban landscapes In The Drive for Dollars Jeffrey R Brown Eric A Morris and Brian D Taylor tell the largely misunderstood story of how freeways became the centerpiece of U S urban transportation systems and the crucial though usually overlooked role of fiscal politics in bringing freeways about The authors chronicle how the ways that we both raise and spend transportation revenue have shaped our transportation system and the lives of those who use it from the era before the automobile to the present day They focus on how the development of one revolutionary type of road the freeway was inextricably intertwined with money With the nation s transportation finance system at a crossroads today this book sheds light on how we can best fund and plan transportation in the future The authors draw on these lessons to offer ways forward to pay for transportation more equitably provide travelers with better mobility and increase environmental sustainability and urban livability

Vermont's Woodstock Railroad Frank J. Barrett, Jr., 2021 During Vermont s golden age of railroading it was the smaller branch lines that were the most beloved by the people they served Such was the case of Vermont s Woodstock Railroad which faithfully served the daily needs of the local populace

Local author and historian Frank J Barrett Jr recounts the story of that proud line its construction daily operations growth triumphs and eventual demise back cover

The American Political Pattern Byron E. Shafer, 2016-11-30 Politicians are polarized Public opinion is volatile Government is gridlocked Or so journalists and pundits constantly report But where are we really in modern American politics and how did we get there Those are the questions that Byron E Shafer aims to answer in The American Political Pattern Looking at the state of American politics at diverse points over the past eighty years the book draws a picture broad in scope yet precise in detail of our political system in the modern era It is a picture of stretches of political stability but also even more of political change one that goes a long way toward explaining how shifting factors alter the content of public policy and the character of American politicking Shafer divides the modern world into four distinct periods the High New Deal 1932 1938 the Late New Deal 1939 1968 the Era of Divided Government 1969 1992 and the Era of Partisan Volatility 1993 2016 Each period is characterized by a different arrangement of the same key factors party balance ideological polarization issue conflict and the policy making process that goes with them The American Political Pattern shows how these factors are in turn shaped by permanent aspects of the US Constitution most especially the separation of powers and federalism while their alignment is simultaneously influenced by the external demands for governmental action that arise in each period including those derived from economic currents major wars and social movements Analyzing these periods Shafer sets the terms for understanding the structure and dynamics of politics in our own turbulent time Placing the current political world in its historical and evolutionary framework while illuminating major influences on American politics over time his book explains where this modern world came from why it endures and how it might change yet again

Overbuilt Erick Guerra, 2025-07-08 In Overbuilt The High Costs and Low Rewards of US Highway Construction transportation planning expert Erick Guerra describes how the US roadway system became overbuilt how public policy continues to encourage overbuilding the scale and consequences of overbuilding and how we can rethink our approach to highway building in the US Guerra explains that highway overbuilding stems from the institutions finance mechanisms and evaluation metrics developed in the first half of the twentieth century While more funds are set aside for transit walking biking and beautification the investment paradigm has not changed Planners and engineers have not adjusted the tools they use to determine which roads should be built rebuilt or widened and why Despite having too much roadway the country is still operating in construction mode using the same basic approach used to finance and build the interstate system quickly Guerra states The interstate was completed more than three decades ago Overbuilt argues convincingly that it is time to move on

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