1775  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers founded
1791  Pennsylvania began the first comprehensive state road program
1801  Philadelphia opens water system that pumps water through wooden mains (but major problems in the design persisted until 1822)
1803  The Louisiana Purchase
1806  Congress authorizes the first internal improvement, the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland on the Potomac River to Wheeling Virginia on the Ohio River
1808  U.S. Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin issued “Report on Roads and Canals”
1811  Construction began on the National Road
1816  Erie Canal Commission created
1817  Construction began on 365-mile Erie Canal in New York
1820  Congress authorized extension of National Road to St. Louis (Mississippi River)
1824  Congress enacts the General Survey Act authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers to survey roads canals and later railroads
1837  Financial panic led to 1839 depression and over next few years to several state governments defaulting on and/or repudiating debt
1840  Congress declines to fund National Road beyond Ohio
1842  New York City opened a water system designed around the Croton River dam, a covered aqueduct and city reservoir.
1848  Acquisition of Upper California by the United States
1851 Illinois chartered a municipal water system
1853 New York State authorized the purchase of 700 acres for what is now Central Park in New York City
1857 Brooklyn opened the first public sewer system
1869 First transcontinental rail line connected at Promontory Point, Utah
1871 Great Chicago Fire destroyed four square miles of downtown property
1873 New York’s Central Park opened
1879 Chicago Sanitary District created
1892 Lawrence (Massachusetts) Experiment Station created first water filtration facility
1893 U.S. Office of Road Inquiry established in U.S. Department of Agriculture
1895 Congress authorizes President to appoint Deep Waterways Commission to study the feasibility of building a deep-water canal from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean
1897 Boston subway opens
1900 Galveston, Texas destroyed by hurricane
1900 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal opens (reversed the flow of the Chicago River)
1902 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation established
1904 New York City subway opens
1904 U.S. takes control of the Panama Canal Zone area for $10 million to begin building the Panama Canal
1905 U.S. Bureau of Public Roads enacted
1906 San Francisco earthquake and subsequent fires destroyed 500 city blocks
1908 Hudson-Manhattan Railroad Tunnels open
1909  Manhattan Bridge opens
1911  Roosevelt Dam in Arizona is completed
1913  Congress enacts federal income tax, exempting bonds issued by state and local
governments
1913  223-mile Los Angeles Aqueduct finished (the Owens Valley project)
1913  Excavation for Grand Valley Dam in Colorado begins
1914  Panama Canal opens
1915  Rocky Mountain National Park established
1916  Federal-Aid Road Act signed by President Woodrow Wilson
1917  Halifax Nova Scotia harbor explosion
1919  Canada Highway Act passes
1919  Quebec Bridge opens
1921  Interstate compact created the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
1924  Inland Waterways Corp. created
1926  Air Commerce Act authorized the Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, to
establish airports and operate air-navigation aids
1926  Route 66 officially designated
1926  Hurricane causes extensive flooding around Florida’s Lake Okeechobee causing
400 deaths
1927  New York’s Holland Tunnel opens to traffic
1928  Hurricane causes extensive flooding around Florida’s Lake Okeechobee causing
2,000 deaths
1931  George Washington Bridge opens
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Corps of Engineers starts construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Florida’s Lake Okeechobee to provide flood damage protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>State of New York creates the Triborough Bridge Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Construction begins on Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>U.S. Public Works Administration (PWA) created</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>U.S. Works Progress Administration (WPA) created</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>First parking meter installed in Oklahoma City</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Work begins on Appalachian Blue Ridge Parkway</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Hoover Dam dedicated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Arizona created the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Flood Control Act of 1936 enacted</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Triborough Bridge opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Golden Gate Bridge opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Bonneville Dam dedicated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Work begins on Chicago’s first subway</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapses</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Work begins on Alaskan Highway</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>The Pentagon opened with 17.5 miles of corridors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Federal Aid Highway Act authorized but did not fund interstate roads between cities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1946 New York expands scope of the Triborough Bridge Authority and renames it the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority

1948 Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission established

1948 Congress created the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project designed to control flooding manage water supply and address the ecosystem of the Florida Everglades

1949 Trans-Canada Highway Act passed

1950 Chesapeake Bay Bridge opens

1950 Second Tacoma Narrows Bridge opens

1952 New Jersey Turnpike opens

1954 Toronto subway opens

1956 Federal Aid Highway Act enacted that created the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways

1957 Baltimore Harbor Tunnel opens

1958 National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) created

1959 189-mile St. Lawrence Seaway opens

1961 President John F. Kennedy calls for putting a man on the moon

1962 Trans-Canada Highway opens

1963 O’Hare Airport dedicated

1964 Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel opens

1965 Water Quality Act enacted

1965 Houston Astrodome opened

1965 Solid Waste Disposal Act enacted
1966    Montreal Metro subway opens
1966    Groundbreaking on the World Trade Center buildings owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
1967    President’s Commission on Budget Concepts rejects call for capital budget
1968    U.S. Department of Transportation created
1969    Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catches fire due to heavy industrial pollution
1969    National Environmental Policy Act enacted which created the Environmental Protection Agency
1969    Apollo 11 flight, human first walks on moon
1969    Ground broken for Washington D.C. subway
1970    Urban Mass Transportation Act enacted
1970    First Earth Day celebrated
1970    One World Trade Center opened
1970    Two World Trade Center opened
1972    State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act enacted creating the general revenue sharing program
1972    Water Pollution Control Act enacted
1972    Kansas City International Airport dedicated
1975    New York City declared moratorium on payment of debt due to fiscal problems
1980    William B. Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport opened
1980    Baltimore’s Inner Harbor redevelopment opened
1980    Sunshine Skyway Bridge near Tampa collapses after being hit by a freighter
1983 Default of $2.25 billion in bonds for nuclear power plants issued by Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS)

1984 Federal Capital Investment Program Information Act enacted

1985 First part of Chicago’s Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (“Deep Tunnel”) opened

1989 San Francisco-area Loma Prieta earthquake causes upper deck of I-830 to collapse

1990 Clean Air Act signed

1991 Construction started on Boston’s Central Artery/Tunnel Project (“Big Dig”)

1994 Los Angeles-area Northridge earthquake causes I-10 overpass to collapse

1995 Denver International Airport opened ($5 billion)

1999 President’s Commission to Study Capital Budgeting issues final report

1999 Governmental Accounting Standards Board issues Statement No. 34 that calls for reporting of infrastructure assets

2001 Both towers of the World Trade Center destroyed by terrorists using commercial airplanes

2004 Chicago leases the 7.8-mile Chicago Skyway toll road for 99 years in exchange for receiving a $1.82 billion upfront payment

2005 Boston’s Big Dig is completed

2005 Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans and the Louisiana-Mississippi-Alabama coast

2006 Indiana leases the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road for 75-years in exchange for receiving a $3.85 billion upfront payment

2007 Interstate-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis
2009 President Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act touted as
the largest single public investment program since the beginning of the Interstate
Highway program of the 1950s

Further Resources

pp. 18–39.

74–103.