

The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighw

Earl Swift

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"Travelers hitting the highways this summer might better appreciate the asphalt beneath their tires thanks to this engrossing history of the creation of the U.S. interstate system."—Los Angeles Times

Perhaps nothing changed the face of America more than the creation of the interstate system. At once manmade wonders, economic pipelines, agents of sprawl, and uniquely American sirens of escape, the interstates snake into every aspect of modern life. *The Big Roads* documents their historic creation and the many people they've affected, from the speed demon who inspired a primitive web of dirt auto trails, to the cadre of largely forgotten technocrats who planned the system years before Ike reached the White House, to the thousands of city dwellers who resisted the concrete juggernaut when it bore down on their neighborhoods.

The Big Roads tells the story of this essential feature of the landscape we have come to take for granted. With a view toward players both great and small, Swift gives readers the full story of one of America's greatest engineering achievements.

"Engaging, informative . . . The first thorough history of the expressway system."—Jonathan Yardley, Washington Post

"The book is a road geek's treasure—and everyone who travels the highways ought to know these stories."—*Kirkus Reviews*



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