



# First State-wide Origin-Destination T

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Although many metropolitan area origin-destination traffic surveys have been made in the United States (two are now being completed for Tucson and Phoenix), Arizona was the first State to attempt such a survey for the entire State and for every mile of the State highway system.

With a more or less permanent network of connecting hard-surfaced highways established throughout the State, the Arizona Highway Department thought it was time to look ahead and plan for the future. To do so it was necessary to determine the driving habits of motorists on a State-wide basis, by an origin-destination traffic survey.

The survey was conducted during the year 1948-49. The year was divided into four 3-month periods, and zones and interview stations were located so as to produce proper data that could be evaluated and analyzed for each community area of the State. The basic data to be obtained of course was information that would show the potential traffic over a road where none now exists, as well as to determine the proper location of a

new road or a relocation of an old road that would produce the greatest benefit to the most motorists. Arizona's 113,580 square miles contain approximately 4,000 miles of State highways within the 14 counties. This area was divided into 21 zones and 44 subzones. Outside the State 22 subzones were located, each situated so as to include one of the important roads affording entrance to and departure from Arizona.

Seven men were included in the field party and each station was operated to produce a typical traffic pattern for a 24-hour day. This was usually done in eight-hour shifts and expanded by factors obtained from recording traffic-count machines. The motorists were stopped and asked their origin, destination, purpose of trip, last stop, next stop, local or foreign, number of passengers, etc., recorded by hourly intervals. This procedure was repeated at each station for each season and was redone a total of four times to get the yearly pattern. This method was justified because Arizona is a great tourist State and seasonal variations in traffic patterns are generally quite large.

When the interview forms reached the Phoenix office the information was coded and cards were punched and