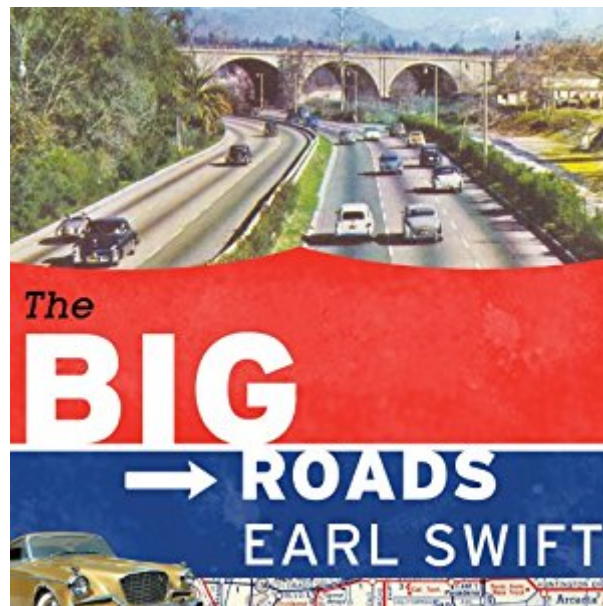


The book was found

# The Big Roads: The Untold Story Of The Engineers, Visionaries, And Trailblazers Who Created The American Superhighways



## Synopsis

From author Earl Swift comes the surprising history of the U.S. interstate system, a fascinating route through the dreams, discoveries, and protests that shaped these mighty roads.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 22, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B006OT9Q4W

Best Sellers Rank: #34 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil &

Environmental > Highway & Traffic #86 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction >

Transportation #364 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Technology & Engineering

## Customer Reviews

I have always had a fascination with major highways, especially the US Interstate system. It is certainly one of man's greater achievements, both from an engineering and political level. Road building and architecture have always been among the crowning achievements of nations, and the US is no exception. I had high hopes for this book.=== The Good Stuff ===\* Earl Swift would certainly subscribe to the theory that the political side of road-building is more interesting and more difficult than the actual engineering side. Given the current state of US highway building, it might appear that he is correct-more roads have been shot down over politics than insurmountable engineering problems. Swift does a masterful job of capturing this conflict.\* We meet an interesting cast of characters, and Swift does a nice job at capturing the personalities and motivations of these people. There are certainly the stereotypical engineers-you can almost see the slide rules- planning the routes; the finance guys figuring out how to pay for it; and the political operators-managing what is possible. But there are also the citizens who refused to have their city gutted by a cross-town expressway, and environmentalists and historical preservationists who stand up for their principles.\* Much of the history presented was new to me. I had always subscribed to the "Eisenhower cross-country trip" theory of how the Interstate system came about. Swift makes a convincing case

that much of the work was done prior to Eisenhower, some as early as WWI, and much of it under Roosevelt. Eisenhower comes across as a sort of final enabler, and someone who wasn't really paying attention anyway.\* We see some of the dealing that went on to make the project happen.

Earl Swift has written a marvelous book about the US interstate road system and the men - and there were a lot of them - behind the scenes, in "The Big Roads". Most people seem to think that the US Interstate system was devised and begun during the Eisenhower administration. It was Eisenhower who approved and began the billions dollar project but planning had begun years before, as the automobile designs improved and costs went down, and people-in-cars took to the roads. At first, cars were used basically to go short distance, but as the 1900's turned into the 1910's, visionaries began to see the need for roads - and good roads - to stretch across the United States. Various government and private companies began working on developing a nationwide system, basically based on the upgrading of already established roads. State governments would approve upgrades in their own states, but there was no country-wide plan. Throughout the 1920's and 1930's plans continued to be made but not necessarily implemented. Notice was taken of the autobahn system being developed AND built in Germany. Strange how those beautifully developed four lane highways went out to the country's borders and not from city to city within Germany... Strange. After WW2, the US government realised they had to begin building the Interstate system. Added cartage of goods and materiel during war-time had shown how inadequate US road system truly was. It was under Eisenhower, who, curiously had been part of a government study as an Army officer in the 1930's of the country's transportation system, that the national United States Interstate system was finally developed, approved, and built. Begun in the 1950's, roads are still being built and fixed today.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighways  
Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future! (City Lights/Sister Spit)  
Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries Who Shaped Our History...and Our Future!  
Physics for Scientists and Engineers, Vol. 1: Mechanics, Oscillations and Waves, Thermodynamics (Physics for Scientists & Engineers, Chapters 1-21)  
Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics: Volume II (3rd Edition) (Physics for Scientists & Engineers)  
C.S. Lewis: The Story Teller (Trailblazers)  
Players: The Story of Sports and Money, and the Visionaries Who Fought to Create a Revolution  
Great Producers: Visionaries of American Theater  
Vicka ... Her Story: The Most

Informative Interview Ever Given by Vicka, The Eldest of the Six Visionaries of Medjugorje  
(Medjugorje Series) Board Game Builder: Milton Bradley (Toy Trailblazers) Gladys Aylward: No  
Mountain Too High (Trailblazers) Corrie Ten Boom: The Watchmaker's Daughter (Trailblazers)  
National Park Roads: A Legacy in the American Landscape Jeweler: Masters, Mavericks, and  
Visionaries of Modern Design The World Is Waiting for You: Graduation Speeches to Live By from  
Activists, Writers, and Visionaries The Universe in a Mirror: The Saga of the Hubble Space  
Telescope and the Visionaries Who Built It Business Model Generation: A Handbook for Visionaries,  
Game Changers, and Challengers The FINTECH Book: The Financial Technology Handbook for  
Investors, Entrepreneurs and Visionaries Oracles: How Prediction Markets Turn Employees into  
Visionaries Art Out of Time: Unknown Comics Visionaries, 1900-1969

[Dmca](#)