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PROGRESS REPORT
OF
IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS
FOR
MARCH 1-15, 1936

PROGRESS REPORT OF IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS

MARCH 1-15, 1936

During this half-month period five W.P.A. projects were carried on by the Planning Board. Three of these are statistical surveys and studies, two are non-statistical conservation projects. One of the latter, entitled "Lake and Stream Improvement", was begun during the period. In addition, three more projects employing small groups of workers, under the authorization of the National Youth Administration, were set in operation, making a total of four under this administration.

Final W.P.A. approval was granted to a highway traffic accident survey, and to a group of statistical studies entitled "Population and Social Trends".

The work of the Planning Board projects and the status of other of its surveys and studies not yet in operation are described in this report.

A detailed description of the purposes and procedure of the survey, "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies", is given on pages 3 and 4.

Business and Industry
Project No. 00-85-477

Four more counties were added to the list of those in which the survey is operative. In 2 of these (Plymouth and Sac) authorization to do the work had been granted previously. In the other 2 (Kossuth and Osceola), authorization was newly received. The survey is now under way in 87 counties. As a whole, it was 62 per cent complete on March 15.

Progress of the field work is shown by the following summary:

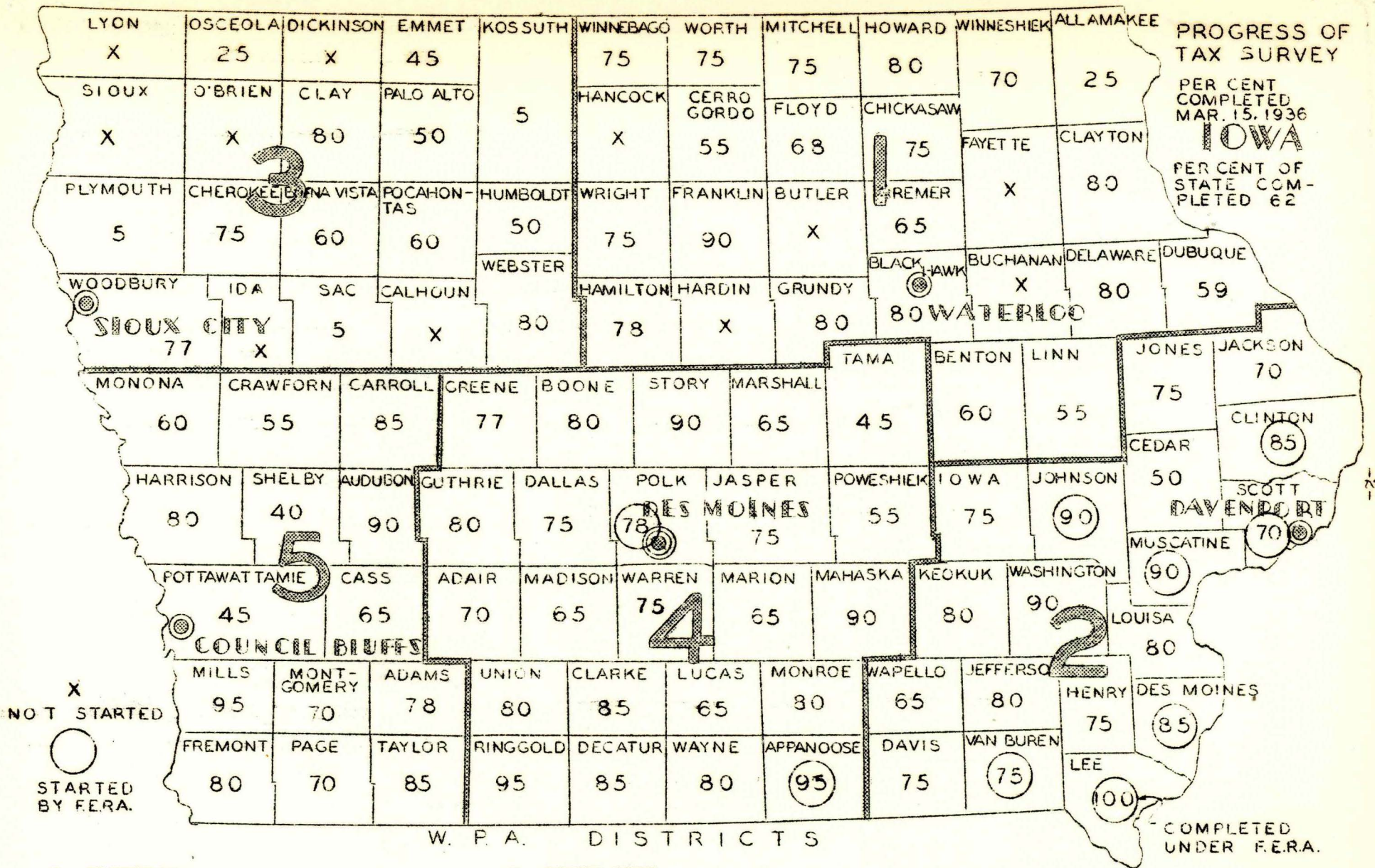
Period	No. of Counties in which Field Work Was in Progress	Total Per Cent (Approximate) of Field Work Completed, to End of Period
Jan. 1-15	48	20
Jan. 16-31	83	35
Feb. 1-15	85	40
Feb. 16-29	85	54
Mar. 1-15	87	62

PROGRESS OF
TAX SURVEY

PER CENT
COMPLETED
MAR. 15, 1936

IOWA

PER CENT OF
STATE COM-
PLETED 62



X
NOT STARTED

○
STARTED
BY F.E.R.A.

COMPLETED
UNDER F.E.R.A.

1. WATERLOO

Wm. L. Yokum, Dist. Director
H. E. Shelton, Supvr. Operations

2. DAVENPORT

Alfred C. Mueller, Dist. Director
R. C. Choate, Supvr. Operations

3. SIOUX CITY

John M. Naughton, Dist. Director
M. C. Hall, Supvr. Operations

4. DES MOINES

Chas. E. Lynde, Dist. Director
E. S. Boudinot, Supvr. Operations

5. COUNCIL BLUFFS

E. S. Petty, Dist. Director
J. E. Vath, Supvr. Operations

The state map on p. 2 shows the per cent of the field work completed in each county. Averaging these figures gives a total of 62% for the entire project.

During the half-month period, an average of approximately 138 relief and 16 non-relief workers were employed, a total of 204.

Urban Zoning and Planning Studies,
Project No. 00-85-3011

In our reports thus far, the work and purposes of this project have been mentioned only very briefly. These should now be described more fully. The project is made up of a traffic survey in 9 cities and a survey to determine land use in 7 cities.

City traffic surveys.-- These surveys are planned to yield accurate information on the traffic flow at carefully selected stations in each city. This information will provide essential facts upon which the following planning of traffic regulations and street construction can be based:

- (1) Determining intersections where men are most needed for traffic control, and traffic arteries most in need of motorized patrols;
- (2) Determining the best streets on which to route local traffic, heavy commercial vehicles and inter-city traffic;
- (3) Deciding upon the proper timing arrangements and locations for "stop and go" signals and signal systems.
- (4) Selecting "stop streets";
- (5) Developing improved paving and paving repair programs;
- (6) Determining the street lighting required for safe and easy traffic flow.
- (7) Deciding upon the needs for new street construction and other city planning.

It is apparent that these purposes are more than sufficient justification for the surveys, affecting, as they do, not only the safety and convenience of thousands of motorists every day, but the proper expenditure of millions of dollars for paving, lighting, signal systems, street construction and for other city developments which depend upon the locations of streets and the distribution of traffic flow.

These are the planning activities for which the surveys will afford the basic information. The data will apply particularly to those cities in which the surveys are being conducted.

Valuable as these results will be, they are of less ultimate value than the more general knowledge of traffic problems which the surveys will yield. In particular, it is anticipated that certain mathematical relations will be discovered which will be applicable to nearly all city traffic. For example, it probably will be possible to show by actual traffic counts that as a rule

the ratio between the numbers of vehicles passing two given stations will vary but little from hour to hour and from day to day. If general relations such as this can be established, their use will reduce very materially the time, labor and expense involved in carrying out city traffic surveys in other Iowa cities and in cities everywhere in the United States.

At each station, all vehicles are counted and their directions recorded. The number of enumerators at each station therefore varies with the traffic volume.

The traffic counts are tabulated and summarized, and the following analyses and calculations are made: determining the proportions between traffic volumes at different stations, then calculating the relative volumes for hours and days during which it was not possible to secure simultaneous counts at different stations; constructing a traffic flow map.

Land use surveys.- The purpose of these surveys is to obtain the data which are needed for effective, far-sighted urban zoning and planning. Convincing evidence of the need for these may be found in the composition of almost any city which has developed without the guidance of a comprehensive plan. The evidence exists in the form of illogical arrangements of built-up sections, streets of improper width or location, fire-traps in crowded business blocks, slums, architectural monstrosities, lack of sufficient space for parks, buildings located where streets should be run, commercial or industrial structures in undesirable locations, etc.

The following data are obtained in the surveys: area of the entire city and the total area occupied by each of the following: residences (single-family, two-family, multi-family), commercial structures, light industry, heavy industry, railroad property, streets and alleys, parks and playgrounds, schools, churches, city property, cemeteries, other structures or developments; total vacant area; number of residential structures, by type; number of retail stores; total store frontage; total street and alley mileage.

Besides forming the basis for city zoning and planning, the data will be used in preparing and publishing zoning and planning standards and recommended procedures for Iowa municipalities.

During the period Mar. 1-15, the traffic surveys advanced about 5 per cent nearer completion. The land use surveys in Webster City and Muscatine advanced 5 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. The progress of each survey, starting dates and numbers of workers are shown in the table on p. 5.

An average of 307 relief and 23 non-relief workers were employed, a total of 330. This is 7 more than were employed during the preceding half-month period. The workers furnished by the N.Y.A. to assist in these surveys are not included in the figures.

N. Y. A. Projects
 Supplementary to
Urban Zoning and Planning Studies

The traffic surveys in Marshalltown, Ottumwa, Davenport and Sioux City were carried on in part with the services of workers furnished to the Planning Board by the National Youth Administration. In the first 2 cities, these were attached to the Planning Board surveys; in Davenport and Sioux City, to the surveys carried on under the city-sponsored W.P.A. projects, supervised by the Planning Board. The number of workers in each city is shown below. All these except 1 non-relief foreman at Ottumwa work one-third the usual time, therefore the equivalent number of full-time workers is shown also.

City	Project No.	Average Number of Workers			
		Relief		Non-Relief	
		Actual	Equiv.	Actual	Equiv.
Marshalltown	1668-Y3	11	3.7		
Ottumwa	1810-Y1	16	5.3	5	2.3
Davenport	1693-Y3	15	5.0		
Sioux City	1743-Y1	8	2.7		
	Totals	50	16.7	5	2.3
Total relief and non-relief:		actual -----		55	
		equivalent-----		19	

Biological Survey
Project No. 00-85-475

The work of this project during the first half of March was continued on 8 lakes in 4 counties in District 3, in the northwestern part of the state. In addition, operations were begun in two counties of District 1, in the north central part.

Some of the men in District 3 continued the work of opening holes through the ice on lakes, to admit oxygen to the fish. Others were engaged in cutting willows for planting purposes. About 10,000 cuttings were collected. Another group of workers collected materials for a sign painting project. The signs will be used in Kossuth and Emmet Counties.

Work in District 1 was begun March 2, with 16 relief workers under the supervision of a Planning Board man. The men were divided into two groups, 10 on Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County, 6 on Crystal Lake in Hancock County. The work consisted in opening holes through the ice to save the fish from suffocation. An attempt was made to begin similar work on Cornelia Lake in Wright County; but the lake was found to be frozen to the bottom except for a small area. It is expected that the work of collecting aquatic plants will be started very soon at Big Wall Lake in Wright County. These will be used for plantings in Iowa's newly formed artificial lakes, to create more natural conditions and to accelerate plant growths which would require a long time to develop naturally. This work will give employment to about 10 men.

The following table shows the locations in which the project was active, the nature of the work, and the number of workers in each location:

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Nature of Work	District and County	Lake	No. of Workers	
			Relief	Non-Relief Supervisors
<u>District 1</u> Cutting holes in ice, to admit oxygen to fish	<u>District 1</u> Cerro Gordo Hancock	Clear	10	} 1
		Crystal	6	
<u>District 3</u> First 4 counties:- Cutting holes in ice, to admit oxygen to fish; cutting willows for planting purposes; collecting materials for sign painting project. (Allotments made. Work to begin soon.)	<u>District 3</u> Buena Vista Clay Dickinson Pale Alto	Storm	5	} 1 1/2
		Trumbull	14	
		Silver	} 13	} 1
		Swan		
		Spirit		
		E. Okoboji	} 12	} 1/2
		Lest Island		
Silver	5			
<u>District 4</u> (Allotment for district made. Work not yet begun.)	<u>District 4</u> Emmet Woodbury			
Total No. workers -----			65	4

Analysis of Farm Statistics,
Project No. 00-77-2375

In our report for Feb. 16-29, the studies included in this project were described in detail and the purpose which each study will serve was stated. The importance of the results in their relation to agricultural problems in Iowa and in other states was pointed out.

During the first half of March, the work of tabulating data from township assessors' reports was continued in Ames. Three relief workers were employed. The principal tabulating office is to be established in Des Moines very soon.

Lake and Stream Improvement,
Project No. 00-85-484

The work of this project was started on Pickerel Lake in Buena Vista County and on Mud Lake in Clay County. Allotment of funds for these counties and for Dickinson and Woodbury has been made, to cover the operations of the first 2 months. After completion of the work in Buena Vista and Clay Counties, the workers will move to Jefferson's Slough in Dickinson County. From there they will go to Hottes Lake and Marble Lake in Dickinson County, to finish some surveys begun last year.

The work originally planned for this period was a continuation of the lake soundings and borings started last year under the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration. These operations are carried on in winter by aid of the ice, which supports the men and equipment. By the time the work could be begun this year, the expected break-up of the ice made it more advisable to begin other work instead. Accordingly, the survey of dry lake beds was begun.

These surveys are of considerable importance to the cause of wild life conservation in Iowa. There are thousands of acres of land in state-owned dry lake beds, the boundaries of which have never been established. As a consequence, the land is largely utilized by private individuals for cultivation and grazing, the state receiving no benefits. The purpose of the present work is to establish permanent boundaries, then develop these lands as game refuge and nesting areas by making game cover plantings.

Whenever possible, food patches will be planted for winter feed on a crop-share agreement with farmers whose land is adjoining. The areas will be fenced and posted under the Planning Board project, "Biological Survey", with which the present project is cooperating closely. The areas would be open to public shooting in season.

The work thus far has employed 7 relief men, directed by a skilled non-relief supervisor. Both this project and "Biological Survey" are being conducted with the cooperation of the State Conservation Commission.

Approved Projects, Not Yet Operative

With the project "Lake and Stream Improvement" now in operation, three which had been approved previously are yet to be begun. These are "Transportation", "Recreation and Historic" and "Public Service". Two others, "Population and Social Trends" and a highway traffic accident survey, were given final approval March 14 and 15, respectively.

Transportation
Project No. 00-85-483

Status unchanged. Surveys expected to begin in April.

Recreation and Historic,
Project No. 00-85-483

The state allotment for the construction of markers was made Mar. 15. The work will be begun during the last half of March. A woodworking shop will be set up in Dubuque, where a considerable number of men skilled in woodworking are available on a relief basis. The markers will be substantially and artistically constructed and will be used to mark recreational, historic and archaeological sites throughout the state.

Public Service,
Project No. 00-85-482

Status unchanged. It is hoped to have a state allotment soon, so that work can be begun on or before April 1.

Highway Traffic Accident Survey,
Project No. 00-00-3117

Approval of this project by W.P.A. officials in Washington was given Mar. 15. Actual work probably will begin during the month of April. A description of the project will be given in a later report. The Iowa Motor Vehicle Department and the Planning Board are joint sponsors.

Population and Social Trends,
Project No. 00-85-478

Final approval was given this project by Washington W.P.A. officials Mar. 14. It is expected that work will begin soon after April 1.

The project consists of a group of statistical studies on employment conditions in Iowa, the support of persons over 65 years of age, and the characteristics of Iowa communities. These will be described more fully in a later report.

Projects on Which Approval is Pending

Final approval of two projects proposed by the Planning Board had not been received from Washington to March 15. These are "Public Education" and "Survey of Public Health Resources". It is hoped that approval will be given at an early date.

Projects Under Technical Guidance of Planning Board

As stated in the preceding progress report, W.P.A. traffic surveys sponsored by Sioux City and Davenport are under way, under technical direction of the Planning Board. The procedure in both cities is the same as in the Planning Board project, "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies".

City Planning Surveys and Studies,
Project No. 2-82-1001
(Sponsor, City of Davenport)

Traffic survey. Per cent completion, 15 (approximately).

Number of employees:

31 W.P.A. and 10 N.Y.A. relief workers.
2 " " 1 " non-relief supervisors.
Total number, 44.

City Planning Surveys and Studies,
Project No. 3-97-956
(Sponsor, City of Sioux City)

Traffic survey. Per cent completion, 10 (approximately).

Number of employees (approximate):

26 W.P.A. and 7 N.Y.A. relief workers.
1 non-relief supervisor.
Total number, 34.

Federal Writer's Project

The compilation of state and regional guide books, which is the principal objective of the Federal Writers' Project, has progressed rapidly. There is an enormous amount of interesting information which is available for these books. About 140 writers, in 22 cities and towns throughout the state, are engaged in the work.

The Planning Board is cooperating in the project by furnishing part of the information and by preparing one section of the finished work. Much of the drafting of maps also will be done by the Planning Board.

Summary

During the period March 1-15, the Iowa State Planning Board operated 5 projects under the Works Progress Administration, also 4 National Youth Administration projects designed to give supplementary aid to the urban zoning and planning surveys. The total numbers of workers employed were as follows:

Project	Average No. of Workers Employed		
	Relief	Non-relief	Total
Business and Industry	188	16	204
Urban Zoning and Planning Studies	307	23	330
4 N.Y.A. Projects	17*	2*	19*
Biological Survey	65	4	69
Analysis of Farm Statistics	3	1	4
Lake and Stream Improvement	7	1	8
Totals	587	47	634

*Equivalent number of full-time workers.

These figures represent an increase of about 43 relief and 5 non-relief workers over the preceding half-month period.

The project proposals, "Population and Social Trends" and "Highway Traffic Accident Survey" were given final approval of W.P.A. on March 14 and 15, respectively.

W.P.A. approval is pending on 2 surveys.

City planning surveys at Sioux^{City} and Davenport carried on traffic surveys under the technical guidance of the Planning Board.

Cooperation with the Federal Writers' Project continued.

George E. Davis
Statistical Coordinator

Project	Number of Workers	Number of Days	Number of Hours
Business and Industry	18	18	18
Urban Planning and Planning Studies	23	307	307
U.S.A. Projects	2	17	17
Biological Survey	4	4	4
Analysis of Farm Statistics	1	5	5
Lake and Stream Improvement	1	7	7
Totals	57	287	287

*Equivalent number of full-time workers.

These figures represent an increase of about 43 percent and 8 percent over the preceding half-month period.

The project proposals, "Population and Social Trends" and "Highway Traffic Accident Survey" were given final approval of U.S.A. on March 14 and 15, respectively.

U.S.A. approval is pending on 2 surveys.

City planning surveys at Sioux andavenport carried on under the technical guidance of the Planning Board.

Cooperation with the Federal Writers' Project continues.

George E. Davis
 Statistical Coordinator