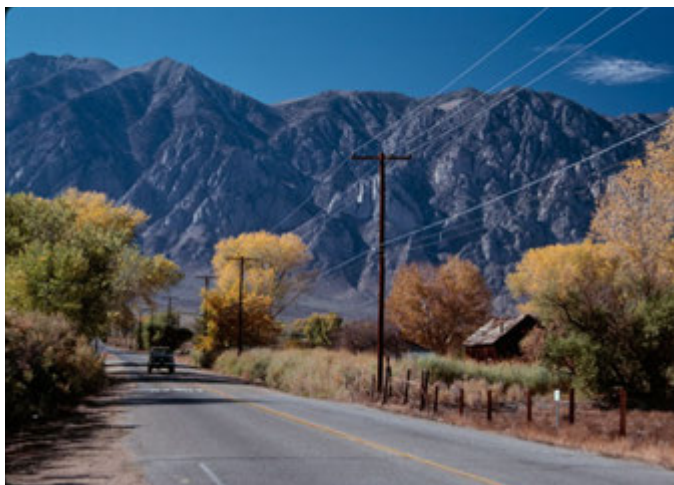


CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN CALIFORNIA



[VISIT US](#)

California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Have you driven in California? Have you ever used the term carmageddon? Is taking Highway 1 down the coast on your bucket list? Then you've been affected by California's road system! From dirt lanes to six-lane freeways, California's highways and byways have knit the state's people and commerce together throughout its past. Explore the vibrant history of California's roads via the [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to highways in California!



[Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile resources on California's highways. You can see them on Internet Archive!



URL: <https://archive.org/>

Type in Search Box: (streets OR roads) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)&sin=TXT

Select Option: "Search full text of books"



[Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our image collection. Check them out and remember that we have a lot more in the library.

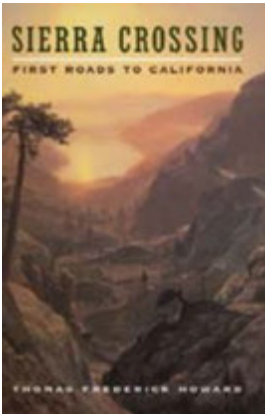


URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

Type in Search Box: ((streets) OR (roads) OR (highways))

BOOKS

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in the history of California's road system, these items will point you in the right direction.



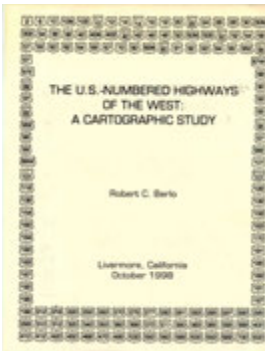
Howard, T. (1998). [Sierra crossing : First roads to California](#). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Curious about the routes that connected mountain towns during the gold rush and made the overland migration possible? This book covers the development of early Sierra Nevada roads, the interest groups that propelled their development and their pre-transcontinental railroad economic impact.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



Berlo, R. (1998). [The U.S.-numbered highways of the West : A cartographic study](#). Livermore, Calif.: R.C. Berlo.

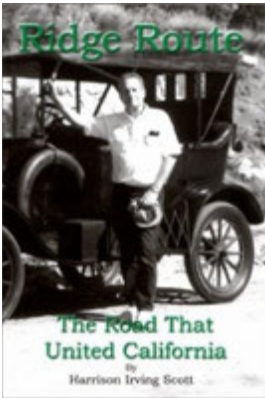
Tracking when they were first built, plus major changes and serious upgrades, this encyclopedic volume provides a good overview of numbered highways in the western U.S. including California.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author

BOOKS



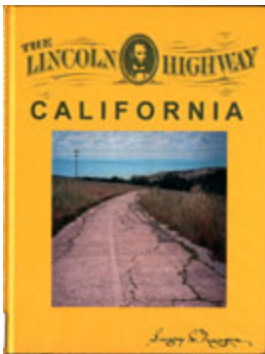
Scott, H. (2002). [Ridge route : The road that united California.](#) Torrance, Calif.: Harrison Irving Scott.

The first road to fully unite the San Joaquin Valley to the southern portion of the state (and be automobile friendly) this book tracks the ridge route's history and sights along the way.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



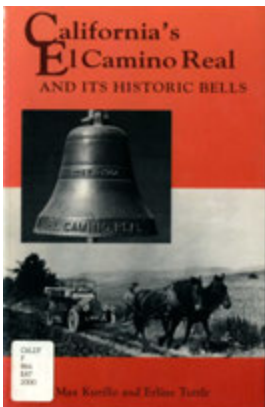
Franzwa, G. (1995). [The Lincoln Highway.](#) Tucson, Ariz.: Patrice Press.

This history of the United States' first transcontinental highway focuses specifically on its California sections, and includes a number of maps as well as detailed route descriptions.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



Kurillo, M., & Tuttle, E. (2000). [California's El Camino Real and its historic bells.](#) San Diego: Sunbelt Publications.

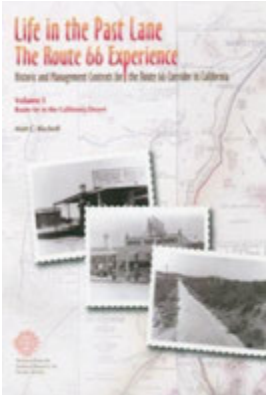
This approachable book traces the history of California earliest official road from its mission days up through the signing of an international preservation plan in the 1990's.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author

BOOKS



Bischoff, M. (2005). [Life in the past lane : The Route 66 experience](#). Tucson: Statistical Research.

The history of a road that has long held a special place in the hearts and minds of Americans, this book focuses on the history of its California section with discussions of alignments and old roadside stops.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



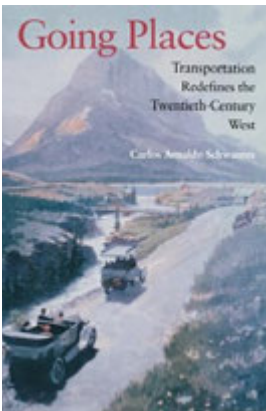
Livingston, J. (1996-1998). [That ribbon of highway](#). Klamath River: Living Gold Press.

An overview of the road that eventually overshadowed the Ridge Route, this approachable two volume history of Highway 99 covers the various towns and attractions affected by this highway.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



Schwantes, C. (2003). [Going places : Transportation redefines the twentieth-century West](#). Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

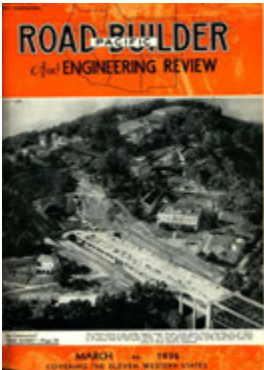
An ambitious appraisal of how the highway system affected and was affected by airlines and railroads. This book examines the role all three played in Western United States development.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

PERIODICALS

Don't want to read an entire book? Check these publications for real-time information on road and highway challenges and solutions.



[Pacific Road Builder & Engineering Review](#)

Covering 1930-1969, this periodical offers real-time documentation of highway projects, freeway building innovations and the challenges accompanying large-scale infrastructure projects in California, Oregon and Washington.



URL: https://cs.l.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title



[California Highway Patrolman](#)

A magazine for individuals responsible for ensuring safety on California's highways, this magazine covers traffic incidents, new regulations as they emerged and safety roadway safety innovations.



URL: https://cs.l.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title



[Westways](#)

A magazine written by and for the highway-using public, in addition to covering topics of general interest, this periodical covers interesting roadside attractions and freeway routes to destinations.

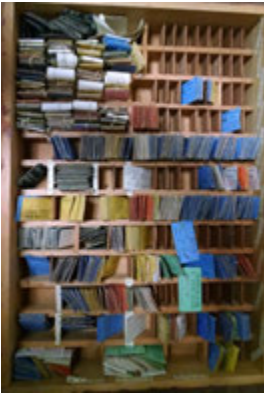


URL: https://cs.l.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

In addition to books and periodicals, there are many archival resources that focus on California's complicated relationship with highways. Here are some relevant collections at the State Library.



[William Lowden Collection](#)

This collection deals extensively with a toll road in Trinity county including price lists and road use information, as well as correspondence to other toll road operators between 1870 and 1930.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title



[DeWitt Lee Collection](#)

Containing the personal papers and newspaper clippings of WPA project manager Dewitt Lee, this collection touches upon road projects in the Fresno area during the 1930's.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title



[Charles Cutting Collection](#)

While a smaller collection, the Cutting materials touch on the survey of the Yosemite Wagon road and its operations between 1859 and 1910.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title

CATALOG GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on highways.



Catalog

If you are looking for [images](#), [books](#) and [articles](#) on highways, your best source is our [catalog](#).



URL: <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

`vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank`

Type in Subject Box: (Road* OR Driveway* OR Highway* OR Parkway* OR Byway* OR Streets)

Limit: By desired material type



California Information File II

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II. In this resource, you can find information about individual highways related articles and more!



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Subject Box: (Road* OR Driveway* OR Highway* OR Parkway* OR Byway* OR Streets)

For a narrower search: Add a place to your keyword search

COUNTY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Curious about road system and development in a specific county? While these catalog links don't list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point.

[Alameda](#)

[Alpine](#)

[Amador](#)

[Butte](#)

[Calaveras](#)

[Placer](#)

[Plumas](#)

[Riverside](#)

[Sacramento](#)

[San Benito](#)

[San Bernardino](#)

[San Diego](#)

[San Francisco](#)

[San Joaquin](#)

[San Luis Obispo](#)

[San Mateo](#)

[Santa Barbara](#)

[Santa Clara](#)

[Santa Cruz](#)

[Shasta](#)

[Sierra](#)

[Siskiyou](#)

[Contra Costa](#)

[Del Norte](#)

[El Dorado](#)

[Fresno](#)

[Humboldt](#)

[Kern](#)

[Kings](#)

[Los Angeles](#)

[Marin](#)

[Mariposa](#)

[Monterey](#)

[Napa](#)

[Nevada](#)

[Orange](#)



[Solano](#)

[Sonoma](#)

[Stanislaus](#)

[Sutter](#)

[Trinity](#)

[Ventura](#)

[Yuba](#)

ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.



California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of articles, books, and manuscript collections on California highways and more.



Subject Headings:

1. Routes and Roads (Various subdivisions)
2. Transportation (Various subdivisions)



Picture File

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file.



Subject Headings:

1. Roads
2. (Various Counties and cities): Streets

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about highways and road system development information in the following files:



Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files cover a wide variety of topics including highways. You can check them for information on organizations that protect and use highways or sites famous for road systems.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians.



Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of road system images. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians



Map Files

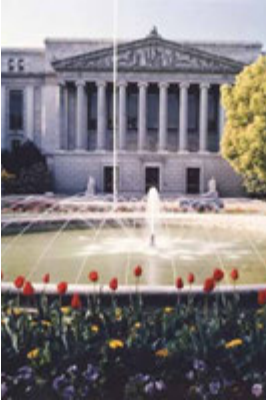
Our map files contain a number of maps related to California highways. Most are not online but are catalogued in our card file.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations



Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/services/>



Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)

[California State Parks](#)

[California Transportation Commission](#)

[California Highway Patrol](#)

Local California libraries or archives



- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>
- <http://www.catc.ca.gov/>
- <https://www.chp.ca.gov/home/>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Government Agencies Cont.

[California State Transportation Agency](#)
[California Department of Transportation](#)
[Office of Traffic Safety](#)
[California Department of Motor Vehicles](#)



- <https://calsta.ca.gov/>
- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>
- <https://www.ots.ca.gov/>
- [https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/
dmv](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv)



Non-Profits and Stake-holders

[Lincoln Highway Association](#)
[Ridge Route Preservation Organization](#)
[California Historic Route 66 Association](#)
[California Missions Foundation](#)



- [https://
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/](https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/)
- <http://www.ridgeroute.org/>
- <http://route66ca.org/>
- [http://
californiamissionsfoundation.org/](http://californiamissionsfoundation.org/)



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CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>