

company or otherwise, or whether formerly maintained as such and now abandoned by any turnpike company, or that any public road in whole or in part in any county or counties, and forming a section of a through route or continuous thoroughfare between two or more important points in the State, should be taken charge of by said commission for the State for the purposes of this act, then, as to such public road or abandoned or acquired turnpike, whether acquired by purchase or condemnation, the said commission shall file a certified copy of the plan thereof in the office of the county commissioners for the county or the several counties in which said section or sections of road or turnpike may be situated, and setting forth its purpose to acquire and to take over the same, and said commission thereupon, without any further procedure, shall acquire and take over any such and all county roads, turnpikes or sections thereof or interests or rights therein, as in its judgment may be necessary or proper for the purpose of this act, and with full power to widen, relocate, change or alter the grade or location thereof; and said commission shall have full power so to take over and take possession of any county road or abandoned turnpike, and to accept by gift or surrender, and to acquire by purchase or condemnation, any and all existing turnpipes or any sections thereof, or any rights or interests therein, subject to any outstanding occupation, use or franchise of any electric railway company or other public service corporation; and thereafter all highways, however acquired hereinunder, shall be State highways and shall be constructed, improved and maintained by said commission for the State and at its expense, except as provided in section 34.

1908, ch. 141, sec. 32 D. 1910, ch. 218, sec. 32 D (p. 300). 1910, ch. 721,  
sec. 32 D (p. 298).

**36.** The said commission, when about to construct or improve in any manner any highway, shall give the county commissioners of each county in which it lies a certified copy of plans and specifications therefor, and a notice that said commission is about to enter upon and proceed with the work in question. Said commission shall thereupon advertise for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers published in each county in which the highway lies, and for three consecutive issues in at least one daily newspaper published in Baltimore city, for sealed proposals for the construction or other improvements of said highway, accurately describing the same and stating the time and place for opening said proposals, and reserving the right to reject any and all proposals; said proposals shall be publicly opened at the time specified in said advertisement, and the contract for such work or for the supplies and materials required for such construction or work or for the supplies and materials required for such construction or improvement shall be awarded by the commission to the lowest responsible bidder, unless, in the opinion of said commission, the interests of the State shall be better served by awarding the contract to some other bidder, when this may be done; but said commission shall not be required so to advertise for proposals or to award any contract for any work or for any materials or supplies for any amount less than five hun-