

copy of a map of the State showing plainly thereon the adopted system of main roads to be improved under this Article, which map shall bear the written approval of the said Commission. It may make all preliminary investigations; and do all such preliminary work as shall, in the judgment of such Commission, precede the actual establishment, construction and improvement of said system of roads and highways; adopt and employ such means, methods or system of road construction, improvement and development as may, in its judgment, be best calculated to promote the objects of this Article; condemn, lay out, open, establish, construct, extend, widen, straighten, grade and improve, in any manner, any main road, of the system, in any county of this State and establish or fix the width thereof; cause to be prepared such surveys, plans, drawings, or maps as it may deem proper in the course of its work; acquire for the State of Maryland, by agreement, gift, grant, purchase or condemnation proceedings as prescribed by Sections 203 to 209, inclusive, or by Sections 331 to 337, inclusive, of Article 23 of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws, or as prescribed by the provisions of Article 33A of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws, any private road or roads whatsoever, or private property or rights of drainage for public use, whether belonging to private individuals or to turnpike companies or other corporations, and including any avenues, roads, lanes or thoroughfares, rights or interests, franchises, privileges or easements, that may be, in its judgment, desirable or necessary to complete said system of roads to carry out the purpose of this Article; contract with any person or persons, company or corporation, either private or quasi-public, or municipal, in furtherance of the duties and objects of this Article or any of the same; employ all necessary attorneys, consultants, agents, laborers help and assistants, skilled and unskilled, technical or professional, for the promotion of any of the work with which it is charged hereunder, make and enter into any and all contracts, agreements or stipulations germane to the scope of its duties and powers under this Article; and purchase all machines, machinery, tools, implements, appliances, supplies, materials and working agencies whatsoever which it may deem necessary for the full performance and completion of any of the powers conferred and duties imposed upon said Commission, or which may be germane to the same or to the purposes and objects of this Article, and where rights, easements and franchises of the United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore, its successors and assigns, exist upon any turnpike or private right of way in the Annex which may be improved hereunder, then said rights, easements and franchises may (if the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and said railways company, its successors and assigns fail to agree upon terms of purchase or surrender) be condemned by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore under the provisions of Chapter 274 of the Acts of 1904, and Chapter 566 of the Acts of 1906, or in the exercise of its general powers of condemnation, the cost thereof to be defrayed out of the loan provided for in said first mentioned Act, or out of the ordinary proceeds of municipal taxation; provided, however, that the pro-