

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 turnpikes or any sections thereof, or any rights or interest 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 hereunder, 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 3.

An. Code, 1924, art. 91, sec. 30. 1912, art. 91, sec. 36. 1908, ch. 141, sec. 32D. 1910, ch. 218, sec. 32D (p. 300). 1910, ch. 721, sec. 32D (p. 298). 1929, ch. 549. 1931, ch. 539, sec. 6. 1935, ch. 53.

6. The said commission, when about to construct any highway, shall 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 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 for the supplies and materials required for such construction) 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. All work which shall be done by the said commission, whether on state roads, county roads or municipal streets, the labor and materials of which are estimated to cost over one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), shall be advertised as aforesaid, except such labor and materials as may be required from time to time to maintain the various roads to the width and cross section, as previously or originally constructed. The construction and improvement of all State highways or parts thereof shall be under the supervision and subject to the approval of the said commission, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the chief engineer and approved by said commission. In all cases where the contract for work and materials shall be given out after competitive bidding, the successful bidder shall promptly execute a formal contract to be approved as to its form, terms and conditions by said commission, and shall also execute and deliver to said commission a good and sufficient bond to be approved by said commission to the State of Maryland in not less than the amount of the contract price. In no case shall any such bond be approved or accepted unless the obligors bind themselves therein to the payment of all just debts for labor and materials incurred by the bidder in the construction and improvement of the road contracted for. To all such bids there shall be attached the certified check of the bidder, and the bidder who has the contract awarded to him and who fails to promptly