

charged with the full duties to select, construct, improve and maintain such a general system of improved State roads and highways, as can reasonably be expected to be completed with the funds herein provided in and through all the counties of this State. The said commission shall reach its conclusions as to the selection of the roads to be improved on or before May 1, 1909, and shall on or before that date file with County Commissioners of each county for public inspection a certified copy of a map of the State showing plainly thereon the adopted system of main roads to be improved under this Act, 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 Act; 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 section 251 to 256 inclusive, or by section 360 to 366 inclusive of article 23 of the Code of 1904, of the 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 or to carry out the purposes of this Act; 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 Act 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 Act; 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