

demnation, any and all existing turnpikes 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 corporations; 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 32B

32D. 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 improvement 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 improvement shall be awarded by the commission to the lowest responsible bidder, unless, in the opinion of said commission the interests of the State will 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 hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate. 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. 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 and properly execute the contract and bond shall