

public works program involving the construction of public improvements of recognized economic value, which can be undertaken without delay when the need for employment arises, and to this end has enacted farsighted legislation to provide for the necessary planning of such projects at the present time rather than awaiting the occurrence of an emergency which might well bring about a return overnight to a "leaf-raking" type of non-productive work; and

WHEREAS, to these ends the Congress has passed the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1944, under the terms of which, the State of Maryland will receive as its share of the Federal funds thereby authorized to be distributed to the States, in the fiscal year in which the President shall proclaim the termination of the existing war emergency, or in which both Houses of Congress shall pass a concurrent resolution that the war emergency has been relieved to an extent that will justify proceeding with a highway construction program, the sum of \$1,831,000 to be expended upon the Federal Aid Highway System, the sum of \$1,171,000 for farm to market roads and the sum of \$1,790,000 for urban highways, or a total of \$4,792,000 of federal money, and similar amounts in each of the next two succeeding fiscal years. These Federal grants must all be matched by an equal amount of State, county and urban funds which will provide for a program of highway construction and reconstruction amounting to approximately \$12,000,000 per year for the three year period. All these Federal funds must be expended within one fiscal year from the time they become available or the grant will lapse and be lost to the State forever; and

WHEREAS, in the three years immediately following the war emergency, the State of Maryland will have available as a result of the Federal grants hereinbefore mentioned, when combined with matching funds and other State highway revenues, together with unobligated construction funds now in hand, at least \$37,000,000 for highway construction, all of which will be required if its construction program is to provide necessary employment for the many thousands of veterans and war workers who will be returning to their native State in this period, and for the rehabilitation of its highway system which has suffered great damage from heavy war-time traffic and deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure the Federal funds authorized and to construct and reconstruct the many highways throughout the State, it is essential to conduct engineering studies and surveys immediately, and to prepare detailed plans and specifications and other data, all of which requires skilled personnel and much time; and