

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 Sections 203 to 209, inclusive, or by Sections 331 to 337, inclusive of Article 23 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 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 imposed upon said commission, or which may be germane to the same or to the purposes and objects of this Act, 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