



Construction on this bridge awaits WPB approval

The New Jersey State Highway Department is ready to begin construction of the piers for a new lift span on Route 25-A, to cross the Passaic River at Newark, as soon as the War Production Board authorizes release of the necessary materials.

The improvement is designed to eliminate congestion at the heavily travelled intersections in Newark, East Newark and Harrison. The project involves grade separations at High St., Broad St. and Route 21 in Newark and Passaic Ave. in East Newark, together with necessary ramp connections to local streets. The new bridge will replace the existing Bridge Street crossing of the Passaic

River, which is no longer adequate.

The vertical-lift span will measure 222 ft. between centers of bearings and provide a 200-ft. horizontal clearance between fenders. The vertical clearance will be 35 ft. above mean high water in the closed position and 135 ft. in the open position. The roadway will consist of two widths of 36 ft. each, separated by a 4-ft. dividing strip, and there will be two 6-ft. sidewalks.

C. F. Bedwell is acting chief engineer for the state highway department and Morris Goodkind is bridge engineer. The firm of Waddell & Hardesty, New York, have been retained for the design of the superstructure.

Oregon ready to go on big road program

Indicative of the extensive highway construction programs Western states are considering for the early postwar period was the recent announcement of State Engineer R. H. Baldock of Oregon that, subject to the availability of federal aid, his state is prepared to start \$56,000,000 in road projects dur-

ing the first two years of peace.

Mr. Baldock said his department is prepared to launch \$16,000,000 of highway construction in the first seven months following the cessation of hostilities, and that contracts for another \$10,000,000 worth of work could be let during the subsequent 10 months. Plans for the second postwar year call for the expenditure of an additional \$30,000,000 said Mr. Baldock.

Redevelopment plan for downtown Brooklyn

On Oct. 12 a \$50,000,000 plan for redevelopment of an extensive backward area near Borough Hall, Brooklyn, New York City, was proposed by the City Planning Commission. Comptroller Joseph D. McGoldrick.

The suggestion is that the city buy up by condemnation proceedings 100 acres of the worst-blighted portion of the area, and, after rezoning and making the necessary street and grade changes, resell the real estate at a profit to private builders.

In the whole 730-acre area involved the commission would alter existing street lines so as to merge 36 blocks into 15 "super blocks", and thus provide an adequate and appropriate setting for at least a dozen new public buildings in a civic center based on Borough Hall.

Mr. McGoldrick declared that the proposed improvements would bring downtown city a substantial enhancement in land values in that section, and the work could be financed by a \$50,000,000 investment on the part of the city. He believes also that the operation would be self-liquidating upon eventual resale of the land.

Plan considered for Tex.-Calif. gas pipeline

Plans to construct a 1,000-mile, \$100,000,000 natural gas pipeline from Texas to southern California recently were revealed to be under consideration by the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. of San Francisco and by subsidiaries of Pacific Lighting Corp. of Los Angeles.

First indication that the project was under consideration came in a registration statement filed by the P. G. & E. with the Securities and Exchange Commission, preliminary to the offering by the utility of \$115,000,000 of funding bonds.

That application to begin construction in 1945 has been made to the War Production Board was revealed in a registration statement, though its final action would depend upon results of a pending investigation and the securing of necessary approval of public bodies.

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