

TRANS-ISTHMIAN HIGHWAY

*Exchange of notes at Washington August 31 and September 6, 1940
(with memorandum dated August 29, 1940), supplementing
convention of March 2, 1936*

Entered into force September 6, 1940

58 Stat. 1593; Executive Agreement Series 448

The Secretary of State to the Panamanian Ambassador

AUGUST 31, 1940

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to invite Your Excellency's attention to the provisions of the Trans-Isthmian Highway Convention signed by representatives of the United States of America and Panama at Washington on March 2, 1936,¹ concerning which conversations have been held with Your Excellency with a view to arriving at a mutually acceptable agreement as to the manner in which our two Governments may best coordinate their efforts in the building of the Highway.

In order to expedite the construction of the Trans-Isthmian Highway, which for the first time will complete the connection between the capital city of Panamá with the other principal Panamanian city of Colón, and for the purpose of facilitating the defense of the Panama Canal which is of such vital importance to our two countries, I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the United States is prepared to bear the full engineering cost for a dual highway and the construction cost for a twenty-foot roadway between the Madden Dam and Cativá.

During the course of the conversations referred to above, it will be recalled that my Government indicated that it might be desirable for defense purposes to construct a highway capable of withstanding greater stresses and strains than was contemplated at the time the Trans-Isthmian Highway Convention was negotiated. My Government's offer mentioned in the preceding paragraph is therefore contingent upon the agreement of your Government to improve the construction specifications contained in Article IV of the Trans-Isthmian Highway Convention to permit of the use of such standards and specifications as the United States may determine

¹ TS 946, *ante*, p. 778.