

Howard, Robert

Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Feb 25, 1946; ProQuest

pg. 17

STATE IS READY TO START WORK ON ROADS: GREEN

Funds and Materials Adequate, He Says

BY ROBERT HOWARD

Gov. Green announced yesterday that Illinois' post-war highway program will be dedicated to maintaining the state's position of leadership in the extent and quality of its road network. In a radio speech he said that "summer will see construction under way in practically every section of the state."

The governor said that state finances are adequate and that sufficient sand, cement, steel, and other materials are available. The only unfavorable factor—the labor situation—has better prospects for the future, he added.

Cook County Has Major Share

Cook county has a major part in the state's highway plans, the governor said in repeating his willingness to finance the northwest super-highway as a state-city-county co-

operative project, duplicating an agreement already reached for the Congress st. expressway. The northwest route will connect the Chicago downtown district with the new Chicagoland airport at the Douglas air base site.

"When the city and county governments have completed their financial and engineering arrangements for these most important projects, work on them can begin," Gov. Green said.

Financed by Gas Taxes

Local officials have welcomed state participation, and Cook county has drafted plans for a 70 million dollar bond issue, to be retired from gasoline tax allotments, to finance its portion of the super-highway program. The program called for the state, city, and county each to pay a third of the cost within Chicago and for the state and county to halve the cost in the suburbs of several super-highways in addition to the two routes named by the governor. The county bond issue has been held up pending completion of a comprehensive financing

program by the city. Super-highway planners said the bonds could be voted at a June 3 referendum.

For state projects, nearly 55 million dollars will be available this year, Gov. Green said. He included 23 million dollars in new federal aid grants and \$3,600,000 from prior federal aid allocations. State contracts approximating 6 millions were let last year for completion in 1946, he added.

Cities Have Ample Funds

From gasoline taxes accumulated in the state treasury, Illinois cities have 21 millions and counties have 17 millions to their credit.

Belief that rural Illinois will be pulled "out of the mud" was expressed by Gov. Green in recounting a 15 million dollar state appropriation to start improvement of township roads. Only a third of the state's 75,000 miles of rural roads are adequately surfaced to permit all weather travel, he added.

Future state aid policies for rural roads are being studied by a legislative commission.