

Snag Delays Contract In Crosstown Project

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OKLAHOMA CITY—The state Highway Commission Monday delayed awarding a \$1.2 million contract on Tulsa's Crosstown Expressway because the contractor

with the low bid has been unable to obtain a performance bond.

It also rejected all bids as too high on resurfacing 24 miles of Oklahoma 51 from the Tulsa County line to U.S. 69 at Wagoner and directed the Highway Depart-

ment to do the work with its own maintenance forces. Cost has been estimated at about \$160,000.

In other major action, the commission tentatively approved two projects on Tulsa's Inner Dispersal Loop Expressway, estimated to cost \$1.9 million, for a July contracting letting. They are part of a \$13.4 million July letting which must be reviewed again before it gets final clearance.

The commission also approved a \$9.2 million road letting for May and a \$17.9 million letting for June, the latter boosted by the recent release of federal highway funds.

The Tulsa Crosstown Expressway project, which will be delayed for 30 days, calls for grading and drainage work on 2 miles from just west of Delaware Avenue to just east of Hudson Avenue.

The low bidder, G. E. Smith and Son Inc. of Noble, asked the commission to delay awarding a contract because he had difficulty in getting a performance bond. Smith said the bonding company feared his low bid of \$1,274,019 was too low.

Highway Director Frank Lyons said he felt the bid, which was 2.5 per cent above engineering estimates, was reasonable. He cited Smith as an established contractor and recommended that the commission approve the delay.

The commission could have awarded a contract on the second low bid, which was considerably higher, or ordered the project. *See CROSSTOWN on Page 4*

