

Bids on Crosstown Expressway Nixed as Too High

REFERENCE DIVISION

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World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY—Three bids for work on Tulsa's Crosstown Expressway system were rejected Tuesday, but state Highway Director Truman Branscum said the action would not delay completion of the roadway in 1974.

Highway commissioners found that low bids submitted by Trafco Constructors Inc. for signing, striping and delineation far exceeded engineering estimates.

The firm's bid of \$223,715 for work on a stretch from Hudson Avenue to Mingo Creek was 44.7 per cent higher than an estimate of \$154,599.

For work on a two-mile segment extending east from Delaware Avenue, Trafco bid \$146,916 which was 47.5 per cent above the projected cost of \$99,620.

And for work on a section from Mingo Road to 145th East Avenue, the firm's bid of \$294,994 was 49.1 per cent above an estimated \$197,848.

A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT official said state engineers will further examine requirements peculiar to the terrain in attempting to determine whether department estimates for the three projects were too low.

William Bell, Tulsa member of the commission, pointed out the importance of maintaining signing and striping on the same schedule as paving. "This project must not be delayed," he said.

Another Tulsa project, landscaping from the Arkansas River to the Broken Arrow interchange, was bypassed when it failed to draw a bidder.

Two other Trafco low bids were rejected by the commission when it found they exceeded Highway Department estimates.

One, for a truck weighing station 4 miles south of the intersection of Oklahoma 2 and U.S. 271 in Choctaw County was bid at \$119,410, a figure 35.5 per cent higher than the \$88,156 estimate.

THE OTHER, \$49,385 FOR signing on a farm to market system in Sequoyah County was 84.1 per cent higher than a \$26,831 estimate.

A spokesman said the Highway Department will readvertise for the five projects which netted

unsatisfactory bids and the one which drew no bidder.

A total of 16 other projects were awarded to low bidders Tuesday.

The commission also stamped its final approval on letting bids for 5 miles of grading and drainage on the Keystone Expressway.

Bids will be opened on the project, which is expected to cost \$4.7 million, in October.

The projects will extend from the western city limit of Sand

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