



Land clearance through Wilmington nearly complete for path for I-95.

When completed, the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways will consist of 41,000 miles of divided, controlled-access highways connecting every major city in the Nation. Though this system constitutes only one per cent of the Nation's street and road mileage, it will carry twenty percent of the traffic.

Delaware's participation in terms of mileage may be relatively small, but the benefits to be derived in terms of safety, economic stability and convenience will be enormous.

The completion of pavement links between the Delaware Turnpike, Basin Road (Routes 41 & 141), the Farnhurst Interchange, and the Delaware Memorial Bridge Approach literally paved the way for a concentrated effort toward the construction of Interstate Route I-95 north of the Turnpike. Nine major contracts with a total bid value of over 28 million dollars were active during the fiscal year along the I-95 route in the Christina Interchange, through the City of Wilmington via Adams-Jackson Streets, across the Brandywine Creek, then parallel to the B & O Railroad through Brandywine Hundred, terminating at the Naaman's Interchange near the Pennsylvania state line.

FREEWAYS

With the assurance that the marsh area east of Newport was satisfactorily stabilized, contracts were awarded for paving the remaining seven miles of roadway and for the construction of seven grade separation structures within the Christina Interchange. The close of these contracts will complete this facility that involves approximately 1,000 acres and comprises 18.5 miles of connecting roadways and ramps with eleven highway bridges. The Interchange will serve traffic to and from the Delaware Turnpike (Kennedy Memorial Highway) via I-295 to the Delaware Memorial Bridge and New Jersey Turnpike,

INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

I-95 through the city of Wilmington to Pennsylvania, I-495 east of Wilmington to Pennsylvania, I-295 and Farnhurst Interchange to Route 13, 40 and 301 and Basin Road (Route 41 and 141) to Newport and New Castle.

Scheduled for completion in July, 1966, the South Wilmington viaduct, designed to carry I-95 traffic over the mainline and yards of the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio and Reading Railroads, will provide access to the south and central business districts of Wilmington via ramps at Maryland Avenue and West Fourth Street.

North of the viaduct, construction is proceeding on 0.77 miles of I-95 between Fourth Street and the Brandywine River. The mainline of I-95 will be a depressed section with bridges carrying the traffic of 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th Streets and Delaware Avenue. Its completion in January, 1968, will provide uninterrupted, fast and safe travel through the city of Wilmington.

Located in Wilmington's Brandywine Park, the Brandywine Creek Bridge, 1,881 feet long and 85 feet above normal creek elevation, provides a graceful link between the southern portion of I-95 through Wilmington and the exit to Marsh Road. Paralleling the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad the northern route of I-95, scheduled for completion late in 1966, includes paving 2.7 miles of roadway and the construction of three bridges and two large box culverts.

Near the northern terminus of Delaware's Interstate Route in the Claymont area, construction was started in August, 1964, for the Naaman's Road Interchange designed to service traffic between I-95, I-495 and reconstructed Naaman's Road. Consisting of the construction of seven highway bridges and four large box culverts, the relocation of one mile of stream, and the excavation and embankment for two miles of four-lane highway and one mile of interchange ramps, the project was considered a pilot contract in the use of existing soils for embankment material. Results have shown that, with special care, existing soils can be utilized resulting in considerable savings in construction costs.

To perform the necessary layout and inspections of contracts, the Freeways Division operated with an average of 55 employees. A total of 79 estimates with a value of over 12 million dollars were processed for payment of construction completed during the fiscal year.

See Table VIII
Contract List



Construction of I-95 underway in south Wilmington.

Closeup of completed I-95 approach to Wilmington.

