

Bridge and Expressway

100 - ~~Suburban~~
Bridge

Total Cost Put at \$16 Million

100% - State 12-10-58

To build the Murray Baker bridge and the expressway that carries it is costing \$16,000,000.

This includes the expressway from Knoxville Ave. in Peoria to Camp St. in East Peoria.

The state is give or take a few dollars, because even highway engineers find it hard to work with exact amounts in the conditions of paper work accompanying the project.

THE BRIDGE ITSELF cost \$10,000,000. The Tazewell county share amounts to \$7,500,000, the Peoria \$3,000,000.

Five governmental units are sharing the cost.

The city of Peoria is paying \$1,200,000, East Peoria \$1,200,000, Peoria county \$1,200,000, \$240,000. The state is paying the rest, with aid from the federal government.

Originally the cities and county were scheduled to pay

more. Then the federal highway act of 1956 upped U. S. participation in the state's share from 50 to 90 per cent. The agreements were re-negotiated.

On all contracts let since that act, the state is actually paying only 10 per cent of its share. Before that it was going 50-50 with the national government.

When the governmental units entered into agreement on the financing in 1952, the county's and cities' payments were to be spread over a 10-year period.

But, Peoria county has already paid off its share, says ~~the~~ Costello, assistant district engineer for the state.

A total of \$3 million was let for the work on the bridge and roadway, Costello says. Eight were on the bridge itself.

29 on the expressway through Peoria, 26 on the road eastward to Camp st.

There have been 29 contractors involved.

In addition, 15 contracts were let for demolishing houses that stood on the right-of-way.

More than ~~two~~ 26 years have passed since the first building was removed to make way for the expressway. The date was Sept. 29, 1953, and the building was a house that stood on Jackson st. near the Academy of Our Lady.