

WOULD JOIN BRIDGE FINANCE PROJECTS

Action by Next Legislature
Proposed by Hallanan
in Statement

An amendment should be made to the bridge commission act to join up in different counties bridge projects in one financing plan, W. S. Hallanan, state senator from the Eighth district, said Monday in a prepared statement.

Mr. Hallanan pointed out that the legislative act of 1929 creating the state bridge commission with authority to take over toll bridges does not permit the financing of bridges in separate counties to be joined. The bridges are financed from tolls collected from them. In Kanawha county, Mr. Hallanan states, bridges at Chelyan and St. Albans were planned.

He adds: *

"The state bridge commission finds, after a thorough traffic survey, that the proposed bridge at St. Albans does not reflect sufficient bridge traffic to justify the financing of that bridge by the sale of the bridge commission bonds. Traffic at the Chelyan bridge is practically sufficient to do so, but it will not carry the additional requirements which the experts figure to be necessary for the St. Albans project.

"This matter is of vital interest to the Kanawha valley. It is highly important that in the early days of the next legislative session such amendment be made to the bridge commission act as to permit the bridge commission to join up projects in different counties in one financing plan. If this authority were invested in the bridge commission at this time, the financing could be done satisfactorily. With this amendment provided by the next legislature, I am certain that the bridge commission would take immediate steps for the construction of the St. Albans bridge and for the taking over of the Cabin Creek district bridge at Chelyan. The members of the bridge commission feel that with this amendment to the act, immediate steps can be taken in the carrying out of plans for the financing of bridges in various sections of the state."