

HURON COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

2024 ENGINEER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Ohio Revised Code requires each Ohio County Engineer to publish an annual report to the County Commissioners outlining the general condition of the roads and bridges in their county. Our office is responsible for 224 miles of county roads, 409 bridges and 3,500 culverts covering an area of 497 square miles with a staff of 25 hardworking team members.

The next few pages are a review of our accomplishments last year and a preview of our 2025 projects, totaling over \$7 million dollars in construction.

Most of our office's large equipment and staffing levels are based on the needs for winter snow and ice control operations and this year we needed it! While there wasn't a lot of snow, the snow we received stuck around for a while and never seemed to stop blowing onto the roads in the rural areas. Our staff did an excellent job putting in long hours and enduring much time away from their families. They logged over 1,700 hours of overtime, spread 3,500 tons of a salt/grit mixture and used 13,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The total cost of snow and ice control for the winter season of 2024-25 was over \$400,000! This is more than double the amount we have spent the last few winters.

As always, our biggest challenge is funding the endless list of projects and maintenance items across the county. A common misconception is that the County Engineer receives revenue from property taxes, county sales tax, or the county general fund. This is not true; our two primary sources of revenue are from the gasoline tax and license plate fees totaling about \$6 million dollars annually. Due to this funding structure, our office relies heavily on federal and state grants. These grants can fund over 50% of the contracted construction projects each year.

One of the most successful programs has been the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) State Capital Improvements Program (SCIP) a funding source that provides grants and loans to local government agencies. This program has been more commonly known as "Issue 1" or "Issue 2" over the 40 years the program has been in existence. The program requires a renewal every ten years by Ohio voters, so we are asking for everyone's support. Please vote "YES" on Issue 2 in the primary election on May 6, 2025! The program does NOT increase taxes, it relies on bonds which are paid with existing state revenue. Additional information can be found at the end of the report regarding the benefits of the program.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our office. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the residents of Huron County.



*Lee E. Tansey, P.E., P.S.
Huron County Engineer*

Huron County Engineer's Office

150 Jefferson Street

Norwalk, Ohio 44857

419-668-1997

social@huroncountyengineer.org

Hours:

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday

Visit us on the web at:

www.huroncountyengineer.org

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ROAD MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

In order to maintain and repair county roads, bridges, and culverts, this requires our office to own and operate a wide variety of equipment to complete necessary tasks and projects around the county on a daily basis.

In addition to large equipment, we also utilize a wide variety of small equipment (chain saws, weed trimmers, welders, generators, air compressors, and many other small tools).

Current Large Equipment

14 - Snow Plow Trucks	24 - Pick Up / 1-Ton Trucks	1 - Bucket Truck	10 - Equipment Trailers
6 - Mowing Tractors	1 - Tile Cleaner Truck	1 - Semi Truck	1 - Flat Bed truck
1 - Crack Seal Machine	2 - Brush Choppers	4 - Utility Tractors	4 - Large Water Pumps
13 - Loaders, Backhoe, Excavators			2 - Fork Lifts

To maintain this equipment, our fleet maintenance facility contains a large vehicle truck lift, welding and fabrication equipment, power and hand tools, parts storage, and many other pieces maintenance equipment.

WHERE OUR REVENUE COMES FROM

Gas Excise Tax

Federal Tax:	\$0.184 gasoline and \$0.244 diesel per gallon (unchanged since 1993)
State Tax:	\$0.385 gasoline and \$0.47 diesel per gallon (new rates effective July 2019)
	We receive approximately \$3,800,000 from the state gas and diesel tax

Motor Vehicle Registration Fees

The Ohio Revised Code 4501.04 requires collection and distribution of license plate registration fees for highway maintenance.

For a passenger car, the basic annual fee is \$34.50.

The Huron County Engineer's Office receives approximately \$2,100,000.

WHAT TYPICAL PROJECTS COST

Roadway Items

Partial-depth asphalt resurfacing **\$250,000-\$300,000** per mile

- Remove 2 inches of existing pavement, place 3 inches of new asphalt

Asphalt overlay, 1 inch thick **\$130,000** per mile

- Usually requires minor asphalt repairs prior to overlay +/- **\$5,000** per mile

Chip and seal **\$18,000** per mile

- Crack sealing and pavement repairs prior **\$5,000-\$8,000** per mile

Pavement markings: edge lines and center line **\$1,700** per mile

Complete roadway reconstruction **\$500,000-\$600,000** per mile

Structures

Bridges and culverts less than 20 feet in span: **\$100,000 - \$350,000**

Bridges over 20 feet in span: **\$300,000 - \$1,500,000 +**

BRIDGE PROJECTS

Baseline Road Bridge

Located in New Haven Township, R & I Construction completed this total bridge replacement project. Total construction cost was \$750,000 with a federal grant covering 95% of costs.



Sand Hill Road Bridge

Located in Lyme Township, R & I Construction completed this bridge deck replacement. Total construction costs were \$300,000 with a federal grant covering 100% of costs.



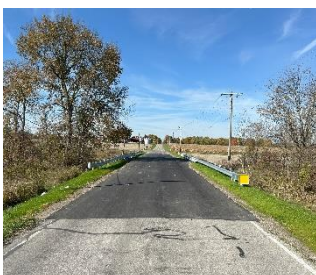
New State Road Bridge Deck Replacement

Located in Bronson Township, Senghas Construction completed this bridge deck replacement. Total construction cost was \$300,000 with local funding covering 100% of construction. The purchase of structural steel for this project was supplied by U.S. Bridge at a cost of \$135,000 with the Ohio Public Works Commission covering 74% of materials cost.



Section Line 21 Road and Zenobia Road Bridge Deck Replacements

Located in New London and Bronson Townships, Denes Concrete, Inc. and R & I Construction completed these bridge deck replacements. Total construction costs were \$575,000 with local funding covering 100% of costs.



ROAD RESURFACING

Whittlesey Road Resurfacing

The project included 2.2 miles of paving from Norwalk City Limits north to the Erie County Line. The work was performed by Erie Blacktop, Inc. The total cost was \$800,000 with the Ohio Public Works Commission covering 50% of construction costs.



Greenwich Milan Town Line Road Resurfacing - Phase 1

The project included 1.2 miles of asphalt paving from SR 18 to Tiger Road. The work was performed by A.J. Riley. The total construction cost was \$300,000 with the Ohio Public Works Commission covering 50% of construction costs. This project started a multi-year plan to resurface over 5.5 miles of Greenwich Milan Town Line Road.



Fitchville River Road Resurfacing

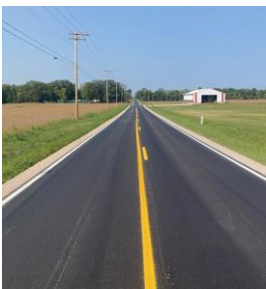
The project included 3.3 miles of asphalt paving from Cook Road to 1000 feet north of SR 18. The work was performed by Sarver Paving. The total construction cost was \$575,000 with local funding covering 100% of costs.



Butler Road and Wells Road Resurfacing

The Butler Road Resurfacing project included 1.1 miles of asphalt paving from US 20 to SR 303. The work was performed by Erie Blacktop, Inc. The total construction cost was \$170,000 with local funding covering 100% of costs.

The Wells Road Resurfacing project included 2.7 miles of asphalt paving from Hartland Center Road to SR 61. The work was completed by Gerken Paving, Inc. The total construction cost was \$330,000 with local funding covering 100% of costs.



Bridge Repairs and Culvert Installations

Our office is responsible for maintaining over 400 bridges, including annual inspections and load analysis.



Butler Road Culvert Replacement

Marett Excavating, Inc. (74% of funding provided by OPWC)



Section Line 30 Culverts

County Forces

Fitchville River Culvert

Denes Concrete, Inc.

Township Projects

Our office is responsible for providing engineering services for all 19 Townships.



**Richmond Township
Washburn Road Resurfacing
Sarver Paving**



**Wakeman Township
Green Road Resurfacing
A.J. Riley**



New Equipment Added

- Tandem Axle Snow Plow Truck
- Tree Work Bucket Truck
- Two Road Side Mowing Tractors



- Four Pick Up Trucks
- Over \$1,100,000 Total Investment
- Scissor Lift and Other Miscellaneous Equipment



Drainage Improvements

Maintenance Items



Asphalt Repairs



Pavement Markings



Snow Plow Operations



Safety Training

Other Community Activities



Hosting EHOVE Students Career Exploration



Huron County Fair Information and Display Booth



Career Day At Local Schools

Huron County Engineer Bridge Summary Report

The County Engineer's Office annually inspects and reports the condition of all bridges on county and township maintained roads. A bridge is defined as a structure with a clear span of ten (10) feet or more measured parallel to the centerline of the roadway. Our office is responsible for 409 bridges across the county ranging in span from 10 feet to 126 feet. When a structure is less than 10 feet and located on a Township Road, the structure is considered a culvert and is the responsibility of the township. In the past our office has provided replacement assistance to the townships with their large culverts; moving forward, our ability to continue this service may be limited to engineering due to rising costs and limited staffing.

Ohio has the 2nd largest bridge inventory of all states with 43,525 bridges maintained by the various entities; county engineers, cities, villages and ODOT. 26,300 of those bridges fall under the jurisdiction of the 88 County Engineers Offices across the state. Bridges are typically designed for a 50-year life cycle, which equates to the county engineers replacing 280 bridges per year to maintain a 50-year lifecycle of the 26,300 bridges. On average, county engineers are replacing 175 bridges per year with funding being the limiting factor.

Each bridge is given a General Appraisal rating during the annual inspection, which is a summary of the condition of the structural elements of the bridge. The table below provides an overview of our bridge inventory for the 2024 inspections:

General Appraisal	Description	2024 Inspections
9	Excellent Condition	60
8	Very Good Condition	77
7	Good Condition	92
6	Satisfactory Condition	110
5	Fair Condition	49
4	Poor Condition	7
3	Serious Condition	13
2	Critical Condition	0
1	"Imminent Failure" Condition	0
0	Closed to Traffic	1

Total Bridges

409

In addition to annual inspections, each bridge is required to have a load rating analysis conducted to determine safe loading capacities. Updates are performed periodically if the bridge's condition changes and with mandated updates by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). We are currently working through FHWA's latest mandate, which will cost our office over \$400,000 to perform.

Currently there are nineteen (19) bridges that have load limit restrictions. We have successfully secured funding to replace thirteen (13) of these bridges over the next few years. Some of the weight restricted bridges are in fair to good condition, but were not built to handle today's modern heavy trucks and equipment. Many of these structures have several years of service life remaining and will not be a focus of our replacement program until all of the poorly rated structures have been replaced.