



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Coshocton County Engineer
Frederick T. Wachtel, P.E., P.S.

CONDITION OF ROADS, BRIDGES, AND CULVERTS

The Coshocton County Engineer Maintains:

- 290 Miles of Paved Roads
- 60 Miles of Gravel Roads
- 273 Bridges
- 2,493 Culverts

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FROM FRED'S DESK

This report is filed annually to highlight the Coshocton County Engineer's Office activities of 2014 and to lay out the tentative plans for the year 2015. None of the projects noted in this report would have been possible without the hard work of all the employees in our operation.

Funding for our operation continues to lag significantly behind what we need to address our infrastructure conditions. Contrary to what many people think, the County Engineer's Office receives no General Fund money except to fund the operation of the GIS / Tax Map Office. Ninety-plus percent of our annual budget is provided by license plate fees and State of Ohio gasoline tax, both of which are generating less than in 2007. Therefore, our ability to provide the needed paving and bridge replacement work is greatly hindered by insufficient funding. Suffice it to say, we always run out of money before we run out of things to do.

I hope you will find this report interesting and informative. As always, if you have questions with regard to the various activities of the County Engineer's Office, please feel free to contact us at 740-622-2135 or via email at fredwachtel@coshoctoncounty.net. And, for current information with regard to the County Engineer's Office please visit our website at www.coshoctoncounty.net.

It is an honor to work for you.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR OTHER LOCAL ENTITIES

The County Engineer provides technical support for many local government entities in Coshocton County including: the Coshocton County Commissioners; the Coshocton County Prosecuting Attorney; the Coshocton County Auditor; the Coshocton County Coordinated Transportation Agency; the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission; the City of Coshocton; the Village of Conesville; the Village of Warsaw; the Village of West Lafayette; the Coshocton City / County Park District; and many of our 22 townships. This gratis service is provided to help these entities make better use of their limited funds. In addition, County Engineer Fred Wachtel serves on: the executive committee of the Planning Commission; the Sewage Treatment Appeals Board; the Ohio Public Works Commission District 14 Integrating Committee where he serves as chairman; the Coshocton County Safe Communities Coalition; and, the OMEGA Transportation Advisory Committee.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Our significant equipment purchases continue to suffer due to stagnant revenue and ever increasing costs.

Our large purchases in 2014 were two John Deere 6105M with front wheel drive for mowing berms at a cost of \$68,135 each, and two 2014 Chevrolet 2500 four wheel drive crew cab pickup trucks for \$ 28,390 each.

Equipment sold in 2014 through the Govdeals website included: one 1998 John Deere 6410 tractor for \$15,494; one 1998 John Deere 6410 tractor for \$15,284; and, one 1982 Athey travel loader for \$2,257. In addition, we sold a 2003 Dodge pickup truck to the Coshocton County/City Park District for \$5,000 and a small 1991 Mauldin roller to the Village of Warsaw for \$1,000.

Having decided to sell the Athey travel loader, we were looking for a unit to rent for a month. In another example of how local governments work well together, we were able to rent a travel loader from the Holmes County Engineer’s Office thereby keeping the public money doing good for the public.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

The only personnel change in the Engineer’s Office in 2014 was the return of Barb Mainwaring, GIS Specialist, to our payroll. She had been working for the Coshocton SWCD Office for a number of years.

Eight employees completed 2014 with perfect attendance: Rob Helmick eleven years in a row; Brent Everhart seven years; Scott Frazee seven years; Brian Albertson two years; Justin Lapp one year; Brian Simmons one year; Jeff Staser one year; and Robin Watson one year.

SAFETY ISSUES

As of December 31, 2014 the County Engineer’s Office had two reportable accidents. This is a tremendous accomplishment, especially for the type of work we do. Fortunately, the accidents were minor in nature and both employees have been back to full duties.

Training provided included: ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) also known as Active Shooter Training provided by Wess Wallace of the County Sheriff’s Office; and CPR provided by Todd Guthrie of the Coshocton County EMS.

Coshocton County was part of District 5 County Pavement Marking project. This was funded through the CSTP Safety Program with no local match. Knox County Engineer Jim Henry administered this project for all of the participating counties.

OSHA Hours Worked by County Engineer Personnel	
2014	46,248
2013	43,499
2012	45,542
2011	42,463
2010	42,022
2009	42,007
2008	53,809
2007	55,875
2006	55,408
2005	58,566

WINTER 2013-2014 SNOW PATROL

- First snow event was 11/26/13
- Crews responded 28 times
- 150 tons salt left at end of 2014

“Winter is not a season, it’s an occupation.”
-Sinclair Lewis



TAX MAP/GIS

In 2014, we reviewed 1,517 documents of transfer as well as 206 property surveys.

A total of 1,936 parcels transferred in 2013. Of these transfers 231 parcels transferred twice, 16 transferred 3 times, and 2 transferred 4 times.

A total of 124 were split in 2014; 43 surveys combined two or more parcels; 66 new surveys of existing tracts were put on record; and 133 parcels had their minerals separated from the fee parcel.

We performed 185 Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) calculations for the County Auditor.

We assigned 51 new addresses in 2014. We also revised the addressing process in 2014. All applications for new addresses are submitted to the Engineer's Office for field location and verification of an acceptable driveway. The addressing information is forwarded to the GIS / Tax Map Office for assignment of the number after Access Management has approved the existing drive for the intended use, or a new driveway permit has been issued.

The GIS/Tax Map Office keeps an electronic log of every instrument submitted for approval. It can be viewed at www.coshoctoncounty.net, select

Agencies, select GIS/Tax Map, select Deeds, and then click on Deed and Survey Review Log to ascertain the status of the instrument.

We are still involved with Ohio University evaluating whether they will host our website or if we return to doing it ourselves. OU is using a Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) to study the options and will eventually issue a report and recommendation.

We also provide GIS mapping services for many other governmental entities in Coshocton County including: the City of Coshocton; the villages of Conesville, Nellie, Plainfield, Warsaw, and West Lafayette; Adams and Crawford Townships; the Coshocton County Offices of the Auditor, Commissioners, Probate and Juvenile Court, Prosecuting Attorney, and Sheriff; Coshocton County Coordinated Transportation; Coshocton County Emergency Management Agency; Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District; and the Coshocton Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

The GIS / Tax Map Office also posts many of our datasets on our website for download free of charge.

COSHOCTON COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

We continue to operate the Fresno / Pearl Sanitary Sewer system delivering the cheese-making waste from Pearl Valley Cheese and the sewage waste from the unincorporated community of Fresno to the Village of West Lafayette sanitary sewer system via two pump stations. This system has been operational for four plus years now and is beginning to require increased maintenance.

We are also responsible for the county public water and sewer system tied into the City of Coshocton systems. We currently have approximately 600 customers served. The City of Coshocton Utility Department operates the system for the county. Discussions are on-going with regard to transferring ownership of all of these facilities to the City. We hope to have the deal finalized early in 2015.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

The County Commissioners funded the installation of a security system for our office and storage building. We thank them for helping to protect our employees and our property.

We are still investigating installing solar panels at our facility to help reduce our electric bill and also to be more "green."

We have begun upgrading many of our lights to more efficient LED fixtures to save money and provide better light. HMW Chris Guthrie has taken the lead on this project. In addition to upgrading some of the fixtures, Chris has installed photo cells to control the outside lighting and occupancy detectors to control some of the interior lighting.

MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Our 2014 resurfacing program consisted of a combination of MVG funding and OPWC grants.

We administered all aspects of the OPWC Round 28 resurfacing projects. The County Engineer's personnel administered the contracts and provided the bulk of the construction inspection. Entities that were participants in these projects included the Coshocton County Engineer; the City of Coshocton; the Townships of Adams, Jackson, Franklin, Tuscarawas, and Virginia; and the Village of West Lafayette. By collaborating and sharing services with various other governmental entities we are able to provide a better, more economical project for all involved.

County roads resurfaced in 2014 were:

- CR 1-A, asphalt, US 36 to Kia Bridge, .43 miles, Tuscarawas Township, \$106,422.08;
- CR 6, asphalt, TR 306 to SR 16, 2.45 miles, Jackson & Virginia Townships \$336,220.40;
- CR 5, motor-pave, CR 151 to mile marker 3.01, 2.668 miles, Lafayette & Oxford Townships, \$178,726.97;
- CR 97, motor-pave, CR 2 to Tuscarawas County Line, 0.996 miles, Adams Township, \$71,121.40;
- CR 207, asphalt, CR 24 to SR 83, 1.07 miles, Keene Township, \$128,921.84

Although no roads are classified as critical, many are deteriorating from their original road surface and sections are reverting to gravel. This is certainly not the results we want to provide to our constituents, but it is the harsh reality of insufficient funding. And, as the numbers reflect, our roads in excellent condition are moving in the wrong direction.

CURRENT CONDITION RATINGS OF OUR 352 MILES OF ROAD ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical
'13	39	215	80	18	0
'12	58	175	93	26	0
'11	56	172	88	36	0
'10	51	167	99	35	0
'09	87	121	135	9	0

For several years now we have been receiving a small donation from the Amish Roads Steering Committee, a voluntary contribution from members of the Amish community. This money is intended to provide the local governments funds for use on roads used by animal-drawn vehicles in lieu of license plate fees and fuel taxes. The following table shows the amount contributed and the amount the County Engineer spent contractor spot paving CR 10 and CR 12 in Crawford and Mill Creek Townships:

YEAR	CONTRIBUTION	CONTRACT EXPENDITURE
2011	\$8,541	\$32,000
2012	\$8,246	\$22,936
2013	\$9,145	\$21,214
2014	\$10,008	\$29,154

The County Engineer's provided the design, bid documents, contract administration, and construction inspection for a resurfacing project for the Village of Conesville. This \$109,250.37 project was the first large resurfacing project undertaken by the Village in many years.

PENDING ROAD PROJECTS

Our 2015 resurfacing program will be funded through a combination of County Engineer's Office funds, a pending OPWC grant, and FHWA CSTP Funds. No general fund monies are allocated to the County Engineer's Office. The planned projects, providing funding is available, include:

- CR 1, asphalt, SR 643 to SR 83, 1.78 miles, Keene Township, \$222,000;
- CR 4, motor-pave, CR 436 to SR 60, 2.30 miles, Washington Township, \$147,000;
- CR 7, motor-pave, TR 146 to TR 142, 1.60 miles, Franklin and Linton Townships, \$100,000;
- CR 7, single seal, TR 146 to Hook Rd., 1.20 miles, Franklin, Lafayette, and Tuscarawas Townships, \$8,000;
- CR 16, asphalt, Coshocton to West Lafayette, 4.20 miles, Lafayette and Tuscarawas Townships, \$1,000,000;
- CR 55, asphalt, Coshocton to CR 23, 2.00 miles, Jackson Township, \$247,000; and
- Various roads, spot pave, various townships, \$100,000.

In addition to this proposed work, we may convert several sections of road back to gravel using the full depth reclamation process.

This list is subject to change depending upon the severity of the winter, bid prices and other factors such as the price of oil and other operational needs of the Office. With the drop in oil prices we would hope the bid prices will be the same, or even a little less than our estimates.

If we are able to complete all of this work we will have resurfaced or chip sealed 13.08 miles of road and expended an estimated \$1,824,000 of which \$900,000 is from our MVG budget and the remainder from grants. This \$900,000 is approximately 23% of our total budget. However, this is only 3.7% of our total road mileage of 350 miles.





BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Our office continues to evaluate and reduce our bridge inventory as a result of the federal mandate to load rate all structures greater than 20 feet in length under our authority. This resulted in eliminating three structures and replacing them with large diameter culverts, which do not require load rating analysis to be performed.

In 2014, we were able to replace four structures through the use of grants and local funds. These bridges included projects on Township Road 373, County Road 436, Township Road 399, and County Road 103. These structures were a combination of four sided boxes and concrete pre-stressed box beam bridges and were replaced under force account using County personnel.

The General Appraisal Summary of our bridges is as follows:

Based upon ODOT’s sufficiency ratings, the breakdown at year’s end is as follows:

	GA9	GA8	GA7	GA6	GA5	GA4	GA3
'14	7	25	95	62	56	20	8
'13	3	20	93	68	57	26	9
'12	2	17	96	68	54	27	13
'11	0	14	95	70	60	34	11
'10	0	11	100	65	64	37	11
'09	0	13	94	69	67	39	6
'08	0	17	87	70	75	34	6
'07	0	4	82	76	83	30	15

	'14	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07
Bridges	273	276	277	284	288	288	289	290
Excellent	123	108	105	103	98	95	91	85
Good	116	95	90	91	91	91	93	104
Fair	24	59	49	52	65	69	73	72
Poor	10	14	29	38	34	33	32	28
Critical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Posted	13.5	16.3	17.0	20.1	22.2	21.1	22.4	26.6

We received a replacement bridge through the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program. The bridge chosen by ODOT to replace was White Eyes Township Road 90, Bridge 1. This project was administered by ODOT and required no local match. The contractor was McConnell Construction, a local contractor from Coshocton County. The cost for this project was \$312,000.

We also completed a federally-funded LBR funded project in 2014. This simplified bridge project replaced our CR 17, Bridge 7, located in Bedford Township. The Coshocton County Engineer’s Office administered this entire project and was responsible for a 20% local match. The total cost for this bridge was \$268,000.

PENDING BRIDGE PROJECTS

We have three bridges to be built in 2015 that are part of our OPWC Round 28 funding – Bethlehem Township Road 399, Bridge 1; Crawford Township Road 89, Bridge 1; and Crawford Township Road 232, Bridge 2.

Other bridges planned for construction in 2015, provided funds are available, include:

- CR 406, Bridge 5, Keene Township – 2015 MVG
- TR 312, Bridge 2, Clark Township – 2015 MVG
- CR 170, Bridge 6, White Eyes Township – 2015 OPWC
- CR 383, Bridge 4, Pike Township – 2015 OPWC
- TR 172, Bridge 2, Adams Township – 2015 OPWC

- TR 220, Bridge 2, Millcreek Township – 2015 OPWC
- CR 493, Bridge 1, Jackson Township – This will be a federally funded bridge replacement.
- CR 19, Bridge 9, Monroe Township – This will be a federally funded bridge replacement as part of the Ohio County Bridge Partnership through ODOT.

In addition, our crews will be performing various maintenance activities on our inventory of 273 bridges. This includes re-decking, channel work, signage, waterproofing, and any emergency work as needed. We will also be looking for more potential bridge to culvert conversions.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS & CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

County crews completed a total of 41 different installations on our County road system in 2014 at a total cost of \$98,137.38. These installations ranged in size from 12" up to 60" diameter plastic pipe with a total length of 1705 feet installed. Culverts were replaced in 17 of our 22 townships. Tiverton Township, with 12 installations, had the most replacements.

In our ongoing effort to assist our townships we completed 5 large culvert installations for three different townships at a cost of \$11,640.68.

Six different townships and the City of Coshocton purchased a total of \$13,074 worth of culvert through our joint culvert purchase program in 2014.

FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION



We had a variety of floodplain permit activity in 2014. We issued 5 blanket utility permits and 9 specific permits. In addition, the one complaint filed in Common Plea Court for a construction violation was finally resolved with property owner demolishing the structure and reclaiming the site.

We provide floodplain administration support to both the City of Coshocton and the Village of Warsaw. However, we did not issue any permits in either Coshocton or Warsaw in 2014.

We answered a number of inquiries from property owners, and potential property owners, with regard to elevation certificate information that their insurance carriers were requiring.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

A total of 63 access permit applications were received in 2014, generating \$3,100 in fees. Of that total, 17 were minimum volume drives which include new field drives, oil well drives, etc.; 38 were very low volume drives being mostly residential drives; and 8 were low volume commercial drives.

We also worked with various property owners to correct at least 9 existing bad drives. Most of the problems were the result of bad installations and lack of maintenance.

The Coshocton County Engineer's Office receives all OUPS tickets generated in Coshocton County. We use this information to determine if the proposed work is going to adversely impact our roads and to see if the proper permits have been acquired. If necessary, we contact the caller to get the details of the work and schedule a site visit. Twenty-five OUPS tickets were viewed in 2014. These visits resulted in corrective work at some locations, permit applications in others, and the opportunity to counsel folks on our permitting requirements.

A total of 79 proposed splits were reviewed for the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission. Three were not approved. These reviews are provided at no charge to the Planning Commission.

We issued 13 utility permits for installations within the right-of-way of various county roads. These permits generated \$130.

As a reminder, any construction within the public road right-of-way requires a permit. Contact the County Engineer's Office for details.