2009 Annual Report Of The Condition Of Roads, Bridges, And Culverts
Coshocton County Engineer
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This report is filed annually to highlight the Coshocton County Engineer's Office activities of 2009 and to lay out the tentative plans for the year 2010.

In an effort to help stimulate our economy and to improve our county infrastructure, we in the County Engineer's Office prepared twenty stimulus project applications and submitted them to ODOT for consideration. These projects included ten bridge replacements and ten roads to be resurfaced. Unfortunately for our county, none of the projects were chosen by ODOT to be funded. The only highway stimulus money that was spent in our county was for the resurfacing of SR 16 from SR 541 to the Muskingum County Line – a project that was already slated to be funded by ODOT. I guess we didn't need the help as badly as some others.

We have been successful partnering with the Coshocton City / County Park on the acquisition of properties between the Tuscarawas and Walhonding Rivers in an effort to remove structures from the floodways of the two rivers and to improve public access to these valuable natural resources in our county .

We have also been working on completing the unfunded mandate of load rating all of our bridges as dictated by FHWA through ODOT. This exercise is time consuming for our staff now to handle the simpler structures and will require us to hire consultants in the future to load rate our more complex structures. And, when it is all said and done the only thing we will have to show for our effort is a pile of paper.

I hope you will find this report interesting and informative. As always, if you have questions with regard to the county road and bridge system, 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.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

We are operating the County Engineer's Office with 6 less people than we had at the start of 2008. It's a position that we had to take to try to remain financially solvent. This means that everyone is doing more than they did before and that we are also having to re-think the level of service that we can provide to our constituents.

Five employees completed 2009 with perfect attendance – Scott Frazee, Brent Everhart, and John Shroyer two years; Rob Helmick six years; and Jeff Staser has made it nine years in a row.

MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

We had to limit our 2009 resurfacing program so that we could re-pay the loan that we needed to complete our 2008 program. Therefore, the only paving work did was in conjunction with our OPWC grants.

We administered all aspects of three OPWC Round 23 resurfacing projects. The County OPWC Resurfacing Program – 2009 included the County Engineer, the City of Coshocton, the Village of West Lafayette, and the Townships of Franklin, Jackson, Lafayette and Tuscarawas. The Local Resurfacing Program - 2009 included roads for Franklin, Jackson, Lafayette, and Virginia Townships, as well as the County Engineer. The County LTIP Resurfacing Program- 2009 included all county roads.

Coshocton County Engineers' roads included in these programs were:

- CR 75, SR 16 to CR 6, portions totaling 2.88 miles, motor-pave, Virginia Township at a cost of $131,323;
- CR 91, SR 83 to RR crossing, 0.93 miles, asphalt Tuscarawas Township, costing $119,150;

- CR 93, US 36 to Tuscarawas County Line, 6.15 miles, motor-pave, in Oxford and Adams Townships, costing $264,923;
- CR 274, Muskingum County Line to CR 429, 1.84 miles, motor pave, in Franklin Township, costing $91,462;
- CR 294, Muskingum County Line to CR 75, 0.83 miles, asphalt, Virginia Township, costing $86,061;
- CR 495, US 36 to Coshocton City Limits, 0.40 miles, asphalt, Jackson Township, costing $48,786; and,
- CR 497, CR 274 to Muskingum County Line, 0.41 miles, motor-pave, Franklin Township, costing $20,077.

Current condition ratings of our 350 miles of road as reported on our most recent OPWC Capital Improvement Report are: 86 miles are excellent; 120 miles are good; 135 miles are fair; 9 miles are poor; and none are critical. Of these 350 miles almost 60 miles are still gravel roads.

PENDING ROAD PROJECTS

Our 2010 resurfacing program is going to be limited again this year. We never have enough resources to do all the work that needs to be done so our system continues to decline. Projects planned for 2010 will be funded through a combination of County Engineer's Funds and through OPWC grants. No general fund monies are allocated to the County Engineer's Office. The planned projects and include:

- CR 19, 4.17 miles, asphalt, from TR 22 to SR 60, Monroe and Clark Townships, estimated at $476,596;
- CR 20, 1.45 miles, asphalt, from CR 401 to SR 206, Tiverton Township, $158,961;
- CR 254, 0.54 miles, asphalt, CR 9 to RR, Oxford Township, $68,419;
- CR 271, 1.04 miles, motor-pave, from CR 429 to CR 273, Franklin Township, $63,498;
- CR 343, 3.56 miles, motor-pave, from SR 60 to TR 312, Clark Township, $224,435;
- CR 365, 0.58 miles, motor-pave, Knox County Line to CR 368, Tiverton Township, $32,773;
- CR 367, 2.88 miles, asphalt, from SR 541 to SR 229, Perry and Newcastle Townships, $338,680;
- CR 368, portions totaling 3.23 miles, motor-pave, from SR 715 to SR 206, Tiverton Township, $192,846; and,
- CR 402, 3.68 miles, motor-pave, from SR 206 to SR 79, $195,300.

As always, this list is subject to change. Depending upon the severity of the winter, bid prices and other factors it may be necessary to revise the program as the year unfolds.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

We completed 4 bridge replacements in 2009. All were completed by County personnel. Pre-stressed concrete box beam bridges built in 2009 were WHE TR 174 B4 and BED TR 78 B1. One four sided concrete box was installed at LAF TR 159 B16 and one galvanized steel beam, timber bridge was installed at WAS TR 71 B2.

The General Appraisal of our bridges is as follows:

	GA9	GA8	GA7	GA6	GA5	GA4	GA3
'09	0	13	94	69	67	39	6
'08	0	17	87	70	75	34	6
'07	0	4	82	76	83	30	15
'06	0	10	72	80	82	33	13
'05	10	4	67	68	94	38	9
'04	15	3	70	60	97	35	10
'03	1	15	59	60	98	47	10
'02	4	14	64	69	80	55	5
'01	6	11	62	62	88	54	7

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

Condition	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02
Bridges	288	289	290	290	290	291	290	291
Excellent	95	91	85	75	73	69	60	60
Good	91	93	104	98	97	92	86	82
Fair	69	73	72	75	90	93	92	89
Poor	33	32	28	42	30	36	52	51
Critical	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
% Posted	21.1	22.4	26.6	29.3	30.0	30.6	34.0	35.7

PENDING BRIDGE PROJECTS

We have one bridge to be completed in 2010 that was initiated in 2009 - CR 10, Bridge 7, Crawford Twp at the south end of Chili.

Bridges planned for construction in 2010, provided funds are available, include:

- CR 10, Bridge 7, Crawford Twp. – 2009 OPWC
- CR 10, Bridge 8, Crawford Twp. – 2010 OPWC
- TR 5, Bridge 3, Oxford Twp. – 2010 OPWC
- TR 69, Bridge 3, Mill Creek Twp. – 2010 OPWC
- TR 88, Bridge 2, Crawford Twp. – 2010 OPWC
- TR 64, Bridge 1, Virginia Twp. – If funds available
- TR 78, Bridge 1, Bedford Twp. – If funds available
- TR 220, Bridge 2, Mill Creek Twp. – If funds available
- TR 475, Bridge 1, Pike Twp. – If funds available

FLEET MANAGEMENT

We made three significant equipment purchases in 2009. We bid one new dump truck with the successful bidder being an International with a stainless steel dump bed for $109,607. The truck it replaced was sold to Bedford Township for the $17,000 trade-in allowance. We bought a 2001 Mack semi-tractor for $22,900 to replace our 1976 Kenworth that sold at the County Auction. We also purchased a Vermeer BC-1500 brush chipper for $37,630 and sold the old Vermeer chipper to Bethlehem Township for $5000.

VEGETATION CONTROL

We are continuing our mowing and spraying programs with very good results. With each year we are able to clear more of the right-of-way of brushy growth and multi-floral rose and unsightly weeds. The benefits are better sight distances and improved aesthetics as well prolonging the life of our pavements by allowing them to be exposed to more daylight so that they have the opportunity to dry more completely.

SAFETY ISSUES

PDK Construction was again the successful bidder for our joint guardrail project construction with Guernsey County. Nearly 17,000 feet of guardrail was built along CR 323, CR 343, and CR 452. This work was funded by a safety improvement grant through the County Surface Transportation Program (CSTP).

The safety and training of our employees remain one of the priority goals of the Engineer's Office. In 2009 the County Engineer's Office had **NO** lost time accidents!! This is a phenomenal accomplish for an operation like ours and all employees are to be commended for their efforts.

OSHA hours worked by County Engineer personnel in 2009 were 42,007; in 2008, 53,809; 55,875 in 2007; 55,408 in 2006; 58,566 in 2005; and 57,713 in 2004.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

County crews completed a total of 31 different installations on our County road system in 2009 at a cost of $77,104.85. These installations ranged in size from 15” up to 60” diameter plastic pipe with a total length of 1,520 feet installed. Culverts were replaced in 8 of our 22 townships. Clark Township, with 12 installations, had the most replacements. Most of the installations were in preparation for our paving programs so that we won’t have to cut the new pavement in the foreseeable future.

In our ongoing effort to assist our townships we installed a total of 11 culverts for six townships for a cost of $32,321.08.

Ten different townships purchased a total of $9,414.40 worth of culvert from our office in 2009.

WINTER SNOW PATROL

For the winter of 2008-2009, County crews responded 35 times to treat the roads; drove 33,670 miles; spread 1,388 tons of salt and 1820 tons of cinders and sand. The total cost for this work was just over $251,000. By comparison, the cost in 07-08 was $371,000; 06-07 was $141,000, 05-06 was $77,000, 04-05 was $141,000, 03-04 was $156,000, 02-03 was $246,000 and 01-02 was $81,000.

TAX MAP / GIS

In 2009, we reviewed 1685 deeds, affidavits, land contracts and instruments of transfer, as well as 183 property surveys. We performed 84 CAUV calculations for the County Auditor and issued 13 floodplain permits.

A total of 1947 parcel transfers were mapped in 2009. Of these transfers 329 properties transferred twice, 56 transferred 3 times, 11 parcels transferred 4 times, 6 parcels transferred 5 times, and 6 parcels transferred 6 times. A total of 83 lot splits were mapped in 2009. And, 59 new address applications were processed.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

A total of 104 access permit applications were received in 2009, which generated $5400 in fees. Of that total, 5 were minimum volume drives which include new field drives, oil well drives, etc.; 93 were very low volume drives being mostly residential drives; and 6 low volume commercial drives. Thirty-four of the residential drives were in conjunction with the proposed Olde Hickory Subdivision, an “income-qualified” housing project being built in Keene and Tuscarawas Townships. New drives were sited in 17 of our 22 townships. In addition, 12 existing bad drives were identified and corrective action plans worked out with the owners.

Eleven OUPS tickets were reviewed and field inspections made. These visits resulted in corrective work at some locations and permit applications in others. Fifty-four proposed splits were reviewed for the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission. Only one proposed split needed to be re-configured to accommodate a satisfactory access point.

In 2009 we issued 16 utility permits for installations within the right-of-way of various county roads. We are continuing to review this utility permitting program to establish better working relationships with these operators who also need to occupy our rights-of-way.

FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION

With FEMA preparing to release our updated floodplain maps to be effective March 2, 2010 we needed to update our present regulations to reflect the new maps. In addition to the regulations for unincorporated areas in Coshocton County we prepared updated regulations for both the City of Coshocton and the Village of Warsaw. The County Engineer’s Office will be entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with both municipalities to administer their respective programs. Another example of local governments working together to better serve their constituents.

COSHOCTON COUNTY ENGINEER