

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Coshocton County Engineer  
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## CONDITION OF ROADS, BRIDGES, AND CULVERTS

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### *From Fred's Desk...*

We file this report annually to highlight the Coshocton County Engineer's Office activities of 2017 and to lay out the tentative plans for the year 2018.

Throughout this report we will be sharing the good things we have been able to accomplish this past year. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of everyone in our organization. I extend my sincere thanks to all of them for efforts to do all they do with the limited funds available.

A recurring theme in our annual reports over the last several years has been the lack of funding for our operation. Contrary to what many people think, the County Engineer's Office receives no General Fund money except to fund the operation of the Geographic Information System / Tax Map Office. Almost 97% percent of our annual budget is generated from license plate fees, state gasoline tax, and interest. Our total revenue for 2017 was \$4,182,175.36 compared to the 2007 total of \$4,343,311.39 - over \$161,136 less. Therefore, our ability to provide the needed paving and bridge replacement work is greatly hindered by insufficient funding.

A new inter-agency cooperation opportunity arose in the summer of 2017. Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission Director Tiffany Swigert accepted the position of Executive Director at The Coshocton Port Authority Office, thereby creating a vacancy at the Planning Commission. After evaluating various options to staff the position, the Coshocton County Engineer's Office offered to provide administrative services to the Planning Commission for \$1000 per month, plus the split review fees collected for all real estate splits reviewed. Both parties agreed to a six-month trial period to see if the arrangement is providing satisfactory service to the citizens of Coshocton County.

We also participated in the Coshocton Public Library Summer Reading Program Build a Better World Construction Vehicle Showcase. We took several pieces of equipment and four employees to the event and helped the children into and out of the equipment so that they could see what the world looks like from the operator's seat.

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](mailto:fredwachtel@coshoctoncounty.net). For current information with regard to the County Engineer's Office please visit our website at [www.coshoctoncounty.net](http://www.coshoctoncounty.net).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Coshocton County Engineer for the last 25 years and I look forward to serving for many more.

## PERSONNEL MATTERS

We had some personnel changes in the Engineer's Office in 2017.

On a sad note, long time employee Jeff Staser died in a motorcycle accident while on vacation this past fall. Jeff was a highway maintenance worker who had been with the Engineer's Office for over 18 years. Jeff approached his job with a smile on his face and genuinely enjoyed what he did. He is missed by all who work here.

Manager of Operations Brian Simmons resigned from our operation September 1st to pursue other opportunities. Brian had been with us five years and implemented many improvements to the way we had traditionally done things.

At the end of December, we hired Duane McElhaney to fill our Manager of Operations position. Duane joined us from MFC Drilling and brings a varied background to the Engineer's Office.

Seven employees completed 2017 with perfect attendance: Rob Helmick fourteen years in a row; Brent Everhart ten years; Brian Albertson five years; Justin Lapp four years; Mark Westhoefer three years; Nate Moore two years; and Colt Kaser one year.

## FLEET MANAGEMENT

Significant equipment purchases in 2017 were limited due to ever-increasing costs and to stagnant revenue.

We made the following larger purchases in 2017: a 2018 Western Star 4700 SF dump truck outfitted with stainless steel bed and hydraulics for snow plowing, \$161,000; a 2017 John Deere Flex Wing Rotary Cutter CX15 for \$13,600; and a Butler LT1216W trailer for \$7,870.

We decided to refurbish another one of our older dump trucks, a 2003 GMC Top Kick. We had the existing steel bed replaced with a new stainless steel bed and upgraded the hydraulic system for a cost of \$35,000.

We began a 2-year program to replace our current two-way radio system with Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) radios. In 2017, we spent \$64,000 to install 18 new radios and will replace the remaining radios with new MARCS radios in 2018.

We also retired our old GPS vehicle tracking system and have replaced it with stand-alone NexTraQ units.

## SAFETY ISSUES

As of December 31, 2017, the County Engineer's Office had one reportable accident. This is a tremendous accomplishment, especially for the type of work we do. Our last lost time accident was June 22, 2017. As of the end of 2017, we have gone 192 days without a lost time accident.

## WINTER 2016-2017 SNOW PATROL

Our crews were out 14 times the winter of 16-17 and ran a total of 24,288 miles. We used 1,093 tons of salt, 674 tons of 50% cinders/50% grit mix, and 48 tons of straight cinders.

Every year we enter into agreements with other local entities to provide services on select roads to be more efficient with our manpower and equipment. We also entered into an agreement with the Village of Plainfield to provide snow patrol services on a per treatment fee basis. The Village Council was quite pleased with the arrangement and we have entered into an agreement to provide the same service for the winter of 2017-2018.



*"Winter is not a season, it's an occupation."*

*-Sinclair Lewis*

## Coshocton Public Library Summer Reading Program Build a Better World Construction Vehicle Showcase



### BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

We undertook no significant building improvements in 2017.

Our Solar Array to generate electricity for our office and garage has now been in service for over a year. For calendar year 2017, the system generated 19% of the electricity we used.

### ACCESS MANAGEMENT

We issued 118 access permit applications in 2017, generating \$4,250 in fees. Of that total, 13 were minimum volume drives which include new field drives, oil well drives, etc.; 76 were very low volume drives being mostly residential drives; 6 were low volume commercial drives; there was 1 medium volume commercial drive; and 22 temporary minimum volume drives. Four access management variance requests were received in 2017. All four were heard before the Access Management Board of Appeals. Three of the variances were approved and one was denied.

We reviewed 176 OUPS tickets in 2017. 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. These visits result in corrective work at some locations, permit applications in others, and the opportunity to counsel folks on our permitting requirements.

We reviewed 106 proposed property splits for the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission at no charge to the Planning Commission or the applicant. Three were not approved as presented. However, two were resolved by re-configuring the proposed layout. The other included the wrong parcel to transfer to the adjoiner. The application was corrected and the split then approved.

We issued 67 right-of-way permits for installations within the right-of-way of various county roads. These permits generated \$1,228 in permit fees.

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

## MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Our 2017 resurfacing program consisted of a combination of MVG funding and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grants.

We administered all aspects of the OPWC Round 31 resurfacing projects. 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 Virginia, White Eyes, Jackson, Tuscarawas, and Lafayette; the Village of Warsaw; 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 2017 were:

- CR 429, asphalt, CR 171 to SR 83, 0.84 miles, Franklin Township, \$84,010
- CR 171, asphalt, CR 10 to SR 93, 2.09 miles, White Eyes Townships , \$197,655
- CR 19, single seal, TR 312 to SR 83, 0.55 miles, Clark and Monroe Townships, \$7,427
- CR 38, single seal, SR 83 to mm 1.60, 1.60 miles, Keene Township \$18,037
- CR 39, single seal, SR 93 to CR 425, 0.32 miles, White Eyes Township, \$4,366
- CR 41, single seal, SR 79 to SR 36, 3.23 miles, Jefferson Townships, \$40,659
- CR 49, single seal, SR 60 to mm 2.10, 2.10 miles, Various Townships, \$23,457
- CR 58, single seal, CR 17 to mm 0.26 and mm 0.77 to mm 0.93, 0.42 miles, Jackson Township, \$5,028
- CR 75, single seal, CR 6 to SR 16, 4.32 miles, Virginia Townships, \$53,292
- CR 82, single seal, mm 3.66 to SR 60, 0.48 miles, Jefferson Township \$5,253
- CR 123, single seal, SR 541 to mm 0.62 and mm 3.41 to CR 410, 1.93 miles, Linton Township, \$22,892
- CR 124, single seal, SR 541 to CR 16, 3.93 miles, Lafayette Township, \$45,148
- CR 170, single seal, CR 10 to US 36, 2.15 miles, Lafayette, White Eyes and Keene Townships, \$20,215
- CR 190, single seal, SR 643 to SR 621, 1.84 miles, Crawford, White Eyes, and Millcreek Townships, \$19,235
- CR 227, single seal, CR 10 to CR 190, 2.41 miles, Crawford Township, \$25,298
- CR 286, single seal, mm 3.26 to SR 16, 0.83 miles, Franklin Township, \$11,316
- CR 298, single seal, CR 6 to CR 297, 0.94 miles, Virginia Township, \$11,030
- CR 323, single seal, CR 19 to TR 324, 1.56 miles, Monroe and Clark Townships, \$18,481
- CR 410, single seal, mm 10.88 to CR 9, 1.17 miles, Linton and Oxford Townships, \$16,065
- CR 425, single seal, CR 10 to SR 93, mm 2.84 miles, White Eyes Townships, \$34,283
- CR 106, dust mats, various sections, 0.52 miles, Oxford and Linton Townships, \$6,310
- CR 25, dust mats, various sections, 0.50 miles, Bethlehem and Clark Townships, \$6,853
- CR 452, dust mats, various sections, 0.97 miles, Tiverton Township, \$12,118



Although we have no roads classified as critical, many are deteriorating from their original road surface and many sections are reverting to gravel. These are certainly not the conditions we want to provide to our constituents, but it is the harsh reality of insufficient funding.

**CURRENT CONDITION RATINGS OF OUR 350 MILES OF ROAD:**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical
'17	36	216	82	16	0
'16	47	202	92	10	0
'15	37	185	106	24	0
'14	31	206	89	24	0
'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

**AMISH STEERING COMMITTEE**

The following table shows the amount contributed and expenditures of our office on contract repairs on 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
2015	\$9,586	\$791,195
2016	\$23,204	\$628,724
2017	\$23,204	\$242,188

**Cold Mix Production for in-house use:**



## BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

In 2017, we were able to replace nine structures utilizing grants and local funds. These bridges included projects on County Road 4, County Road 41, Township Road 61, Township Road 65, Township Road 85, Township Road 161, Township Road 251, and Township Road 256. These structures were a combination of four sided boxes, large culverts and concrete pre-stressed box beam bridges and were replaced under force account using County personnel.

In 2017, we received funding through the Federal Highway Administration Local Bridge Replacement Program to replace Bridge 1 on CR 493 in Jackson Township. This was a traditional design, bid, build project. The County Engineer’s Office provided the plans and ODOT bid the work, administered the contract, and required a 20% local match from the County Engineer’s Office. However, due to Credit Bridge funds we had, our out of pocket match was only 5%. The contractor was V.O. Menezes & Sons, Inc., a contractor from Holmes County. The total cost for this project was \$393,816.58.

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

	'17	'16	'15	'14	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07
Bridges	270	267	271	273	276	277	284	288	288	289	290
Excellent	106	125	124	123	108	105	103	98	95	91	85
Good	137	118	122	116	95	90	91	91	91	93	104
Fair	17	20	18	24	59	49	52	65	69	73	72
Poor	9	4	7	10	14	29	38	34	33	32	28
Critical	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Posted	10.0	11.2	14.0	13.5	16.3	17.0	20.1	22.2	21.1	22.4	26.6



Township Road 161, Bridge #1

The General Appraisal Summary of our bridges is as follows:

	GA9	GA8	GA7	GA6	GA5	GA4	GA3
'17	13	30	64	91	46	19	7
'16	9	31	69	82	48	23	5
'15	9	27	94	56	57	22	7
'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



Township Road 65, Bridge #1



County Road 493, Bridge #1



County Road 4, Bridge #6

## PENDING ROAD PROJECTS

Our 2018 resurfacing program will be funded through a combination of County Engineer's Office funds, and a pending OPWC grant. No general fund monies are allocated to the County Engineer's Office. The planned projects, providing funding is available, include:

- CR 6, asphalt, TR 306 to CR 286, 2.51 miles, \$ 319,500
- CR 23, asphalt, US 36 to CR 55, 1.54 miles, \$197,435
- 30 miles, single seal, on various county roads
- Various County Roads, spot pave, in various townships. We are purchasing a drag paver for our personnel to use for these repairs.

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.



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## PENDING BRIDGE PROJECTS

We have one bridge to be built in 2018 that is part of our OPWC Round 30 funding – White Eyes Township Road 178, Bridge 2.

Other bridges planned for construction in 2018, provided funds are available, include:

- Township Road 330, Bridge 1, Monroe Township – OPWC 2018
- Township Road 351, Bridge 1, Tiverton Township – OPWC 2018
- County Road 27, Bridge 3, Bethlehem Township – OPWC 2018
- Township Road 437, Bridge 2, Washington Township – OPWC 2018
- Township Road 330, Bridge 2, Monroe Township – OPWC 2018
- Township Road 77, Bridge 1, Bedford Township – OPWC 2018
- County Road 80, Bridge 2, Pike Township – MVG 2018
- County Road 10, Bridge 2, Keene Township – MVG 2018

In addition, our crews will be performing various maintenance activities on our inventory of 270 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.

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## DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS & CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

County crews completed a total of 31 different installations on our County road system in 2017 at a total cost of \$145,142.90. These installations ranged in size from 12" up to 60" diameter plastic pipe with a total length of 1,807 feet installed. Culverts were replaced in 11 of our 22 townships. Virginia Township, with 11 installations, had the most replacements.

Four different townships, plus the City of Coshocton, purchased a total of \$4,243 worth of culvert through our joint culvert purchase program in 2017.

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## GIS / TAX MAP

Our GIS / Tax Map Office is staffed by two people, Jona Lee Mikesell, who handles our survey and deed reviews and T. J. Hootman, who handles our mapping and GIS system. I provide professional support and guidance to help these two with the many challenges they face dealing with all aspects of land records in our county. We keep an electronic log of every instrument submitted for approval. You can view it at [www.coshoctoncounty.net](http://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. In addition, we have scanned all the boundary surveys we have in our files and have them available on website as well. Because all of the records we have in the Map Office are accessible through our website, our office is figuratively open 24/7/365. In addition, we post many other datasets on our website for download free of charge.

In 2017, we reviewed 1,313 documents of transfer, of which 130 were Sheriff's deeds and two were the new "Auction Sale by Private Auctioneer" in lieu of the Sheriff Sale. We also provided 56 description reviews for realtors and others to advise them whether or not the property would need surveyed prior to transfer. We reviewed 160 property surveys as well.

A total of 1,745 parcels transferred in 2017

compared to 1,957 parcels in 2016. Of these transfers, 164 parcels transferred twice, and 16 transferred 3 times.

A total of 107 parcels were split in 2017; 61 surveys combined two or more parcels; 51 new surveys of existing tracts were put on record; and 18 parcels had their minerals separated from the fee parcel.

We performed 273 Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) calculations for the County Auditor.

We assigned 77 new addresses in 2017.

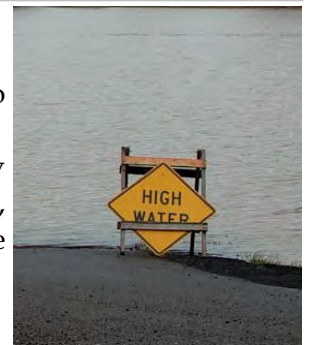
Ohio University is still hosting our website. We are still exploring other alternatives for web hosting providers. More to come on this in 2018.

We also provide GIS mapping services for many other governmental entities in Coshocton County including: the City of Coshocton; the Villages of Baltic, and West Lafayette; many of our 22 townships; the Coshocton County Offices of the Auditor, Dog Warden, Probate and Juvenile Court, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, and Recycling and Litter Prevention Office; Coshocton County Emergency Management Agency; Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District; the Coshocton Port Authority; the Coshocton Public Library; Coshocton County Veterans' Services Office and the Coshocton Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

## FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION

Floodplain permits issued in 2017 included seven blanket utility permits and two project specific permits.

We continue to answer inquiries from property owners, and potential property owners, with regard to floodplain development conditions and limitations. In addition, we provide floodplain administration support to both the City of Coshocton and the Village of Warsaw.



## 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. We are pursuing the possibility of hiring the Village of West Lafayette to be our contract operator of the system.