



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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

## CONDITION OF ROADS, BRIDGES, AND CULVERTS

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

We are filing this report to highlight the Coshocton County Engineer's Office 2023 activities and to lay out our tentative plans for the 2024. It has been an honor to serve as Coshocton County Engineer for the past 31 years.

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).



In memory of Sam Maple a former County Engineer employee.  
He enjoyed and took great pride in his flower garden.

### **CONTACT US:**

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## PERSONNEL MATTERS

Eight employees completed 2023 with perfect attendance: Brent Everhart completed 16 years; Cody Westhoefer 5 years; Brian Albertson 4 years; Rob Helmick 3 years; Jason Hamlett and Duane McElhaney 2 years; Darlene Art and Scott Frazee 1 year.

Moving on to pursue other opportunities in 2023 included Rick Brenly, Jessica Goodsell, and Nate Moore. Joining the Engineer's Office in 2023 were John Hardesty and Jimmie McMillan.

## OTHER THINGS WE DO

- ♦ The Coshocton County Engineer's Office provided engineering design, and construction administration for two walking / bicycle path projects in the Tuscarawas Township and the City of Coshocton.
  - ◇ The McWane River Walk connecting Main Street with Skip's Landing on the Three Rivers Peninsula was designed and the construction monitored by Deputy County Engineer Josh Kempf and Inspector Matt Shannon. McWane Ductile providing the funding for this \$500,000 project.
  - ◇ The Coshocton Connector was also designed and administered by the Engineer's Office. This path connects the McWane River Walk with CR 621 and will be extended with the CR 621 Multi-Use Path all the way to Canal Lewisville. The Connector was funded by a capital grant that was sponsored by our former State Senator Jay Hottinger.
- ♦ Fred serves as the Executive Director of the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission
- ♦ Fred serves as the Chair of Coshocton County Transportation Improvement District.
- ♦ Fred is the Floodplain Administrator for the Coshocton County Commissioners, the City of Coshocton, and the Village of Warsaw.
- ♦ Fred represented the County Engineers Association of Ohio on the ODOT Technical Advisory Committee which was charged with identifying alternative funding mechanisms for infrastructure funding in Ohio. With the improvement in vehicle fuel efficiencies and the ever-increasing use of electric vehicles, relying on the motor fuel taxes to provide the largest portion of infrastructure resources is not a sustainable financial model. The committee's final report was filed with ODOT in the fall of 2023.

## FLEET MANAGEMENT

We continue to evaluate our fleet to try and position our operation with the right combination of vehicles and construction equipment so that we can effectively provide service to our constituents. In our ongoing effort to maintain a serviceable fleet, the following lists are our major equipment purchases and deletions:

### Additions:

- ♦ New John Deere 6110M Tractor - \$91,803
- ♦ New Alamo Matchete-3 22-foot Boom Mower - \$84,823
- ♦ Used Falcon 2-ton Hot Box - \$10,898
- ♦ Used Case CE 590 SM2 Backhoe - \$39,900

### Deletions:

- ♦ 2001 GMC C7 Dump Truck - Gov.Deals - \$8,500

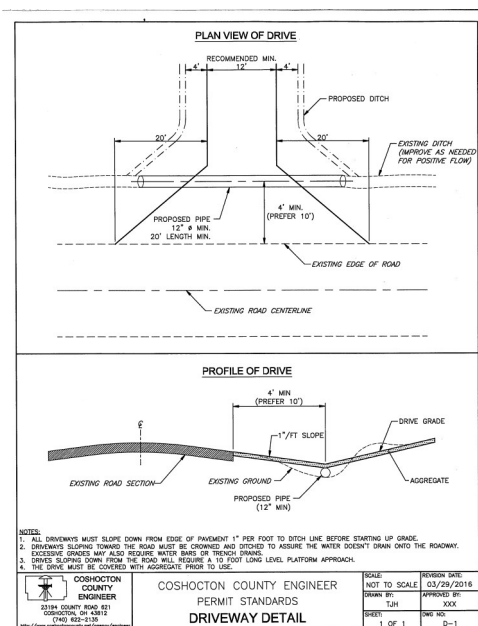


## ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS

Access Management is an important piece of our highway safety plan. A properly sited drive that is built correctly and properly maintained helps to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the property owner and the travelling public as well as helps preserve the public investment in the road serving the property.

A total of 141 access permit applications were processed in 2023. These permits consisted of 16 field drives, 27 Temporary field drives, 84 residential drives, 2 medium volume commercial drives, and 12 low volume commercial drives. Nine penalties were assessed for construction of a new access point without a permit. In addition, we dealt with one access management variance request which was ultimately approved by the Board of Appeals for the Smart Growth Transportation Policy.

There were 103 Right-of-Way permits in 2023. Most were for utility installations.



## COSHOCTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The County Engineer's Office continues to be contracted to serve as the Director for the Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission. A lot of time is spent answering questions from property owners, realtors, developers, and surveyors with regard to splitting property. All fees are processed through our office and any necessary field reviews or inspections are performed by County Engineer's Office personnel. The contract agreement has the County Commissioners paying the Engineer's Office \$1,000 per month. The County Engineer's Office and the County Health District each receive \$50 of the CCRPC split fees for every new property shape created. In 2023 we processed 150 (119 in 2022) applications that created 370 (2023-280) parcels (property shapes). There were seven private road subdivisions approved, three private road subdivision re-plats, and four variances requested, all of which were ultimately approved. All 22 townships had at least one lot split application, the majority of the splits being in the northern portion of the county.

## SAFETY ISSUES

In 2023 we had one lost time accident involving a chainsaw laceration.

## FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION

The County Engineer's Office serves as the Floodplain Administrator for the Coshocton County Commissioners, the City of Coshocton, and the Village of Warsaw.

Floodplain permits issued in 2023 included 11 blanket utility permits and 11 project specific permits.



## MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Our 2023 resurfacing program consisted of a combination of MVG funding, and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grants.

We administered all aspects of the OPWC Round 37 resurfacing projects. County Engineer's personnel administered the contracts and provided the construction inspection. Entities that were participants in these projects included the Coshocton County Engineer; the City of Coshocton; the Village of Warsaw; the Village of Nellie; the Townships of Franklin, Jackson, Lafayette, and Tuscarawas. 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 2023 were:

- CR 12, Asphalt, SR 83 to TR 212, 3 miles, Keene & Millcreek Townships, \$486,920 (OPWC)
- CR 402, Single Seal, SR 206 to SR 79, 3.65 miles, Perry Township, \$68,781
- CR 79, Single Seal, CR 3 to TR 79, 0.42 miles, Bedford Township, \$9,172
- CR 92, Double Seal & Spot FDR, CR 367 to SR 206, 1.20 miles, Newcastle & Perry Townships, \$69,256
- CR 410, Double Seal, TR 121 to existing Chip Seal, 1.43 miles, Oxford Township, \$105,652
- CR 436, Double Seal & FDR, TR 71 to CR 3, 4.79 miles, Pike & Washington Townships, \$268,354

Total Resurfacing Expenditure 2023 -  
\$1,008,135

OPWC Grant (CR 12) - \$243,460

Total County MVG Expenditure - \$764,675



## DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS & CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

County crews completed 26 different installations on our County road system in 2023 at a total cost of \$160,930. These installations ranged in size from 15" up to 48" diameter plastic pipe. The installations were in 10 different townships with the most installations, 9, being in Jefferson Township. Most of the installations were done in preparation for paving work done later in the year.

Maintaining our road-side ditches to protect the integrity of our infrastructure and protect the traveling public is an ongoing priority.



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

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical
'23	34	238	58	18	0
'22	37	243	56	14	0
'21	39	244	54	13	0
'20	41	232	64	13	0
'19	30	231	75	14	0
'18	23	228	86	13	0
'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

\*County Road 120 reassigned to Township  
Road 120 in 2023 (2 miles)

## AMISH STEERING COMMITTEE

The following table shows the amount contributed and the amount of expenditures the County Engineer has spent on contract repairs on roads frequently used by animal drawn vehicles:

\* The 2022 contribution was actually two payments because Amish Steering Committee is changing to a fall distribution.

Final plans to extend the existing buggy lane on CR 12 approximately 300 feet to the intersection with SR 643 have been submitted to ODOT D5. The funding for the project is through ODOT and the project is scheduled to in July, 2024 with construction to be completed this fall.

Another successful collaboration including our office, the NECCIC, the Coshocton Port Authority, The Coshocton County Transportation Improvement District, and the Ohio Mid-East Government Association (OMEGA) has resulted in two significant

grant awards for the re-construction of the 4 mile long CR 126 in Mill Creek Township. Due to the ever-increasing economic growth in this part of Coshocton County, the Coshocton Port Authority was able to apply for funding through the Governor's Office of Appalachia and the Coshocton County TID to re-build CR 126 to support the numerous businesses that are accessed from this road. In addition to the two grants totaling \$750,000, the local community has raised over \$200,000 toward the estimated \$1.1 million project.

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
2018	\$26,454	\$0
2019	\$28,185	\$104,821
2020	\$27,677	\$186,775
2021	\$30,201	\$380,166
2022	*\$64,310	\$461,062
2023	\$48,044	\$486,920

## BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

In 2023, we were able to replace 3 bridges utilizing grants and local funds. These projects were: County Road 6, Bridge 10 – a 49' pre-stress concrete box beam bridge completed through a combination of force account and contracted work with McConnell Contracting at a cost of \$228,777; Adams Twp. Road 176, Bridge 5 – a 49' pre-stress concrete box beam bridge at a cost of \$290,890, completed thorough a combination of force account and contracted work with McConnell Contracting, \$78,752 reimbursed through OPWC; Monroe Twp. Road 338, Bridge 2 – a four-sided concrete box at a cost of \$177,420 contracted through McConnell Contracting.



In addition, County forces made major repairs to one other bridge: Tiverton Twp. Road 452, Bridge 3, – abutment replacement at a cost of \$53,720.

Total Bridge Replacement/Rehab Expenditure - \$750,807

OPWC Grant (TR 176) - \$78,752

Total County MVG Expenditure - \$672,055

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

	'23	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16	'15	'14	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08
Bridges	268	268	269	269	270	270	270	267	271	273	276	277	284	288	288	289
Excellent	102	96	100	106	102	102	106	125	124	123	108	105	103	98	95	91
Good	139	142	142	135	132	140	137	118	122	116	95	90	91	91	91	93
Fair	20	20	16	17	19	19	17	20	18	24	59	49	52	65	69	73
Poor	5	9	9	9	15	8	9	4	7	10	14	29	38	34	33	32
Critical	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Posted	5.2	5.6	7.4	7.4	10.0	9.3	10.0	11.2	14.0	13.5	16.3	17.0	20.1	22.2	21.1	22.4

**The General Appraisal Summary of our bridges is as follows:**

	GA9	GA8	GA7	GA6	GA5	GA4	GA3	GA2
'23	12	18	83	89	39	18	6	2
'22	7	20	81	86	46	21	7	0
'21	5	19	81	84	47	28	5	0
'20	7	23	77	94	45	21	2	0
'19	7	30	69	88	47	24	4	1
'18	11	30	66	89	49	20	5	0
'17	13	30	64	91	46	19	7	0
'16	9	31	69	82	48	23	5	0
'15	9	27	94	56	57	22	7	0
'14	7	25	95	62	56	20	8	0
'13	3	20	93	68	57	26	9	0
'12	2	17	96	68	54	27	13	0
'11	0	14	95	70	60	34	11	0
'10	0	11	100	65	64	37	11	0
'09	0	13	94	69	67	39	6	0
'08	0	17	87	70	75	34	6	0



## PENDING ROAD PROJECTS

- Our 2024 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 22, asphalt, from Warsaw CL to TR 341, 3.53 miles, Jefferson Township., \$626,624 (pend. OPWC)
  - CR 3, FDR, from CR 383 to County Line, 5.67 miles, Pike Township, \$110,446
  - CR 23, Single Seal, from CR 55 to CR 17, 3.34 miles, Jackson Township, \$87,893
  - CR 75, Double Seal & Spot FDR, from CR 294 to CR 6, Virginia Township, 2.53 miles, \$173,263
  - CR 149, Single Seal, from SR 93 to CR 410, 0.543 miles, Linton Township, \$14,310
  - CR 294, Single Seal, from County Line to CR 75, 0.818 miles, Virginia Township, \$19,375
  - CR 298, FDR & Double Seal, from CR 6 to CR 297, 0.909 miles, Virginia Township, \$59,215
  - CR 410, from CR 149 to End of Pavement, 1.45 miles, Linton Township, \$38,066

Total Estimated Resurfacing Expenditure - \$1,129,192

Pending OPWC Grant - 50% construction cost County Road 22

Total Estimated MVG Expenditure - \$815,880

## PENDING BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Bridge projects planned for construction in 2024, provided funds are available, include:
  - Township Road 173, Bridge 1, (OPWC 21) in White Eyes Township (box beam)
  - Township Road 28, Bridge 4, in Bethlehem Township (box beam)
  - County Road 106, Bridge 2, (OPWC Emergency) Linton Township (major rehab)
  - County Road 189, Bridge 5, in Millcreek Township (box culvert)

In addition, our crews will be performing various maintenance activities on our inventory of 268 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.

We were granted LBR funding to replace the CR 365 bridge over the Mohican River in Cavallo (Tiverton Twp.). This is scheduled for construction in Fiscal Year 2026. We have reassessed the project and will be doing all design work in house.

Additionally, we were granted Federal Bridge Formula Program (BFP) funding to replace TR 252, Bridge 1 in Adams Twp. This is scheduled for construction in Fiscal Year 2025. Plans are in the final stages of approval.



## GIS / TAX MAP

We bid farewell to our GIS Analyst in 2023. Jessica Goodsell accepted a GIS position in the private sector that afforded her the opportunity to work remotely and to significantly increase her compensation. We wish her the best.

After several months of searching we hired Jimmie McMillian to be our GIS Technician. He is comfortable with the normal day-to-day operations and is expanding his working knowledge of the various ESRI products.

Our GIS / Tax Map Office is staffed by two people, Jona Lee Mikesell, who handles our survey and deed reviews and Jimmie, who handles our mapping and GIS system. I provide professional support and guidance to help these two serve our community's land records and mapping needs.

Year	Documents of Transfer	Surveys	Platted Subdivisions	Description Checks
2023	1434	207	9	26
2022	1516	194	14	65
2021	1687	193	12	58
2020	1387	197	12	68
2019	1581	219	8	89
2018	1259	168	10	128

### GIS parcel maintenance activities were:

Year	Parcels Transferred	Parcels Split	Parcels Combined	Parcels Resurveyed	CAUV Calculations
2023	2626	169	59	102	0
2022	2451	153	57	52	0
2021	2673	140	82	56	0
2020	2359	139	81	55	286
2019	2084	179	102	96	338
2018	1964	102	53	55	247

Although the real estate market has slowed a little compared to the last few years there are still some parcels that transfer several times in the course of a year. Included in the Parcels Transferred were 56 parcels that transferred 4 times and 6 parcels that transferred six times.

We assigned 139 new addresses in 2023 compared to 113 in 2022 and 92 in 2021.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[www.coshoctoncounty.net](http://www.coshoctoncounty.net)