



Hancock County Engineer's 2024 Annual Report

Requirement for this Report

The Ohio Revised Code 5543.02 mandates the County Engineer to annually report to the Board of County Commissioners the state of the County Roadways and Bridges



Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS
Hancock County Engineer

County Engineer's Office

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Findlay, Ohio 45840
419-422-7433

Highway Maintenance Garage

Mike Clark—Superintendent
419-424-7225

Hours

7:00—3:30 M-F

Summer Maintenance Hours

6:00—4:30 M-Th

Web:

www.co.hancock.oh.us/159/Engineer

Message from the County Engineer

Our Mission is to provide a safe and cost-effective system of transportation that promotes the transportation economy for Hancock County in a global marketplace.

As I enter my 31st year in the civil engineering and surveying profession, I find myself continuing to learn and improve my knowledge on the responsibilities of the Office of the County Engineer. From land surveying to designing bridges to managing the County Highway Maintenance crews that plow and repair our local roads, there is not a day that I do the same thing, except work to solve problems and improve life for the citizens of Hancock County.

I do not take the responsibility of being the elected County Engineer lightly. I am a willing servant of our community and I look after your property rights with every boundary survey and deed that passes through my Office and every road and bridge that you cross every day to travel to work, school, and evening activities.

I look forward to what 2025 brings and will work hard for you everyday to improve our roads and bridges and look after your property rights as your County Engineer.

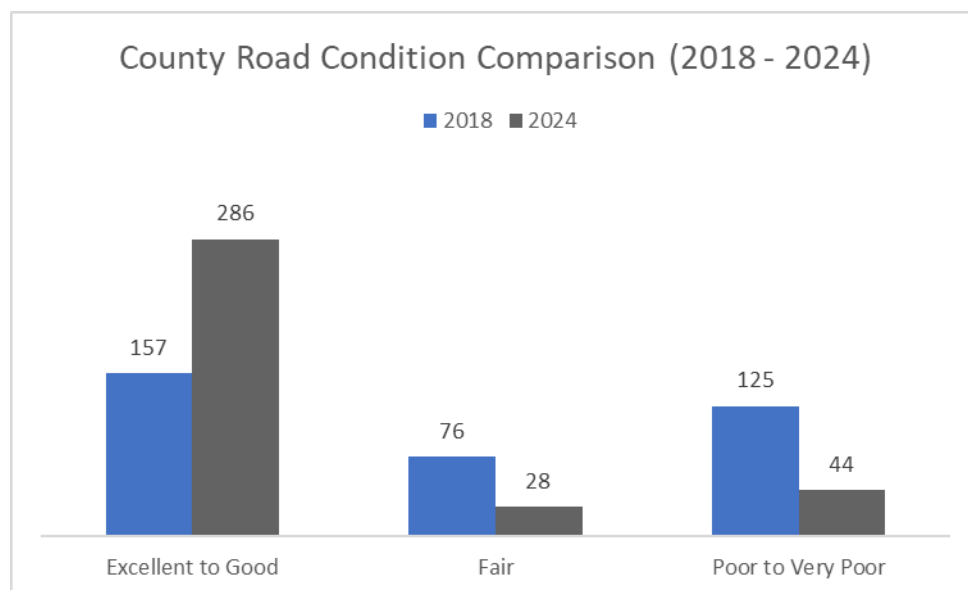
Thank you,

Hancock County Engineer

Roads

The County Highway System has 358 centerline miles, which is 720 lane miles. We evaluate those pavements using a detailed Pavement Condition Rating system every three years, allowing us to make sound engineering-based decisions to maximize our pavement life and triage our roadway system. Additionally, we are constantly monitoring the pavements with our engineering and maintenance team. Currently, we have 80% in Excellent to Good Condition, 8% in Fair Condition and 12% in Poor to Very Poor Condition, as shown in the table below. The estimated cost in 2025 to maintain and repair these Poor to Very Poor Condition roads is \$4,400,000.

Ideally, we would like to see our roads be resurfaced on a 12 to 15-year rotation, which would reduce the preventative maintenance and critical maintenance that we have to perform daily. We are striving to improve that resurfacing cycle with the existing gas tax funds to make our County Roads better for all of Hancock County.



The following is a look at what we accomplished in 2024 and what we are planning to improve in 2025.

2024 Resurfacing Program

Asphalt Resurfacing

(Funded with Local and OPWC grant funds)

County Road 15 – 2.09 Miles - \$217,004

County Road 26 – 5.77 Miles - \$522,602

County Road 37 – 1.02 Miles - \$92,721

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 37 – 2.00 Miles - \$177,149

County Road 24 – 8.96 Miles - \$829,091

County Road 9 – 3.53 Miles - \$315,610

County Road 236 – 0.68 Miles - \$155,802

County Road 212 – 0.34 Miles - \$56,779

Total Completed in 2024 – 24.39 Miles - \$2,366,758

Our Plan for 2025

Asphalt Resurfacing – 8.49 Miles - \$889,816

(Using Local Gas Tax and OPWC Funds)

County Road 139 – 1.89 Miles - \$212,074

County Road 203 – 5.17 Miles - \$477,134

County Road 95 – 1.43 Miles - \$200,607

Asphalt Resurfacing – 15.51 Miles - \$1,840,320

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 37 – 5.96 Miles - \$639,670

County Road 33 – 3.36 Miles - \$312,177

County Road 304 – 4.00 Miles - \$782,364

County Road 2 – 1.44 Miles - \$106,109

Planned in 2025 – 24.00 Miles - \$2,730,136

Roads

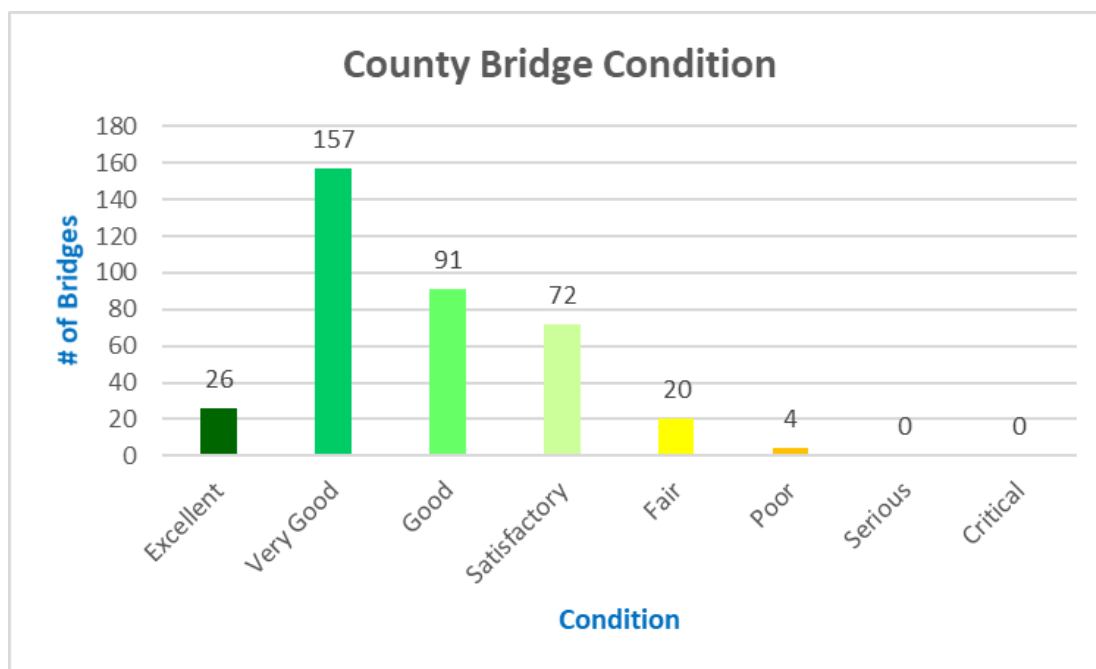


County Road 26 at Mt. Cory

Bridges

In Ohio, a “bridge” is considered a structure spanning 10 ft or more, carrying vehicular or pedestrian traffic over an obstruction such as water, highway, bikeway or railway. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the span must be 20 ft or greater. In Hancock County, we have 125 bridges between 10 ft and 20 ft (69 of which are pipe culverts), and 245 bridges over 20 ft.

Our office performs annual detailed inspections of all 370 bridges that are located on County and Township roads and in some of our 13 Municipalities. In addition to these inspections, we create an inspection report and evaluate all of our bridges for their load carrying capacity. There are 10 County bridges that have a reduced weight limit, with 4 of those in fair to poor condition. The remaining Posted bridges are in good condition and will be replaced as the poor condition bridges are completed. From these reports and evaluations, we create a bridge replacement priority list to efficiently and strategically replace our bridges over time. The estimated cost to maintain and repair our priority bridges in the next 15 years is \$14,629,000.



In 2024, we replaced 3 bridges totaling \$295,779 utilizing Local Gas Tax funds. We also began a waterproofing rehabilitation program to extend the life of existing bridges by re-applying waterproofing membranes to the bridge decks, installing drip strip along the deck edges, and applying a urethane concrete sealant. We waterproofed 3 bridges totaling approximately \$30,000 with an estimated life extension of 15+ years.

In 2025, we plan to replace 1 bridge with an estimated total of \$639,000 and we have 1 bridge scheduled for either the 2025 or 2026 season with an estimated total of \$2,049,150 utilizing local, state and federal funds. We also plan to continue our waterproofing program for 7 bridges this year with an estimated total cost of \$70,000.

The following is more information on those projects.

Bridges

2024 Completed Bridges

Gibson St (Arcadia) Bridge Replacement



Location:

*Gibson St over Joseph Boley Ditch
Between E South St & Water St*

New Structure:

16' x 8' Box Culvert

Cost:

\$140,420 (Local Funds)

Hancock County Road 18-2.04 Bridge Replacement



Location:

*CR18-2.04 over Hiram Grubb Ditch
Between TR99 & TR213*

New Structure:

8' x 8' Box Culvert

Cost:

\$76,913 (Local Funds)

Hancock County Road 109-5.14 Bridge Replacement



Location:

*CR109-5.14 over Mellott Ditch
Between TR232 & TR236*

New Structure:

8' x 8' Box Culvert with wing walls

Cost:

\$78,446 (Local Funds)

Waterproofing



Location:

*TR 139 – 10.51
TR 218 – 11.80
TR 107 – 0.69*

Our Plan for 2025

Morey Ave. (Findlay) Bridge Replacement



Location:

*Morey Ave. over Howard Run Ditch
Between Davis St & Swing Ave.*

Condition:

Poor Condition

Project Estimate:

\$639,000 (Local & State Exchange Funds)

Hancock County Road 180-3.67 Bridge Replacement



Location:

*CR 180 over Lye Creek
Between SR 37 & SR 568*

Condition:

Fair Condition

Project Estimate:

\$2,049,150 (Federal & Local Funds)

Waterproofing – Various Locations

Bridge:

1. CR 37 – 11.44
2. Independence Rd (Fostoria)
3. CR 226 – 3.78
4. CR 193 – 2.77
5. TR 152 – 3.34
6. TR 68 – 2.43
7. CR 252 – 0.03

Location:

Between CR 75 & TR 74
Between SR 12 & TR 218
Between TR 262 & Fostoria Corp. Limit
Between CR 26 (West) & CR 26 (East)
Between CR 183 & TR 184
Between TR 30 & TR 66
Between TR 205 and TR 174

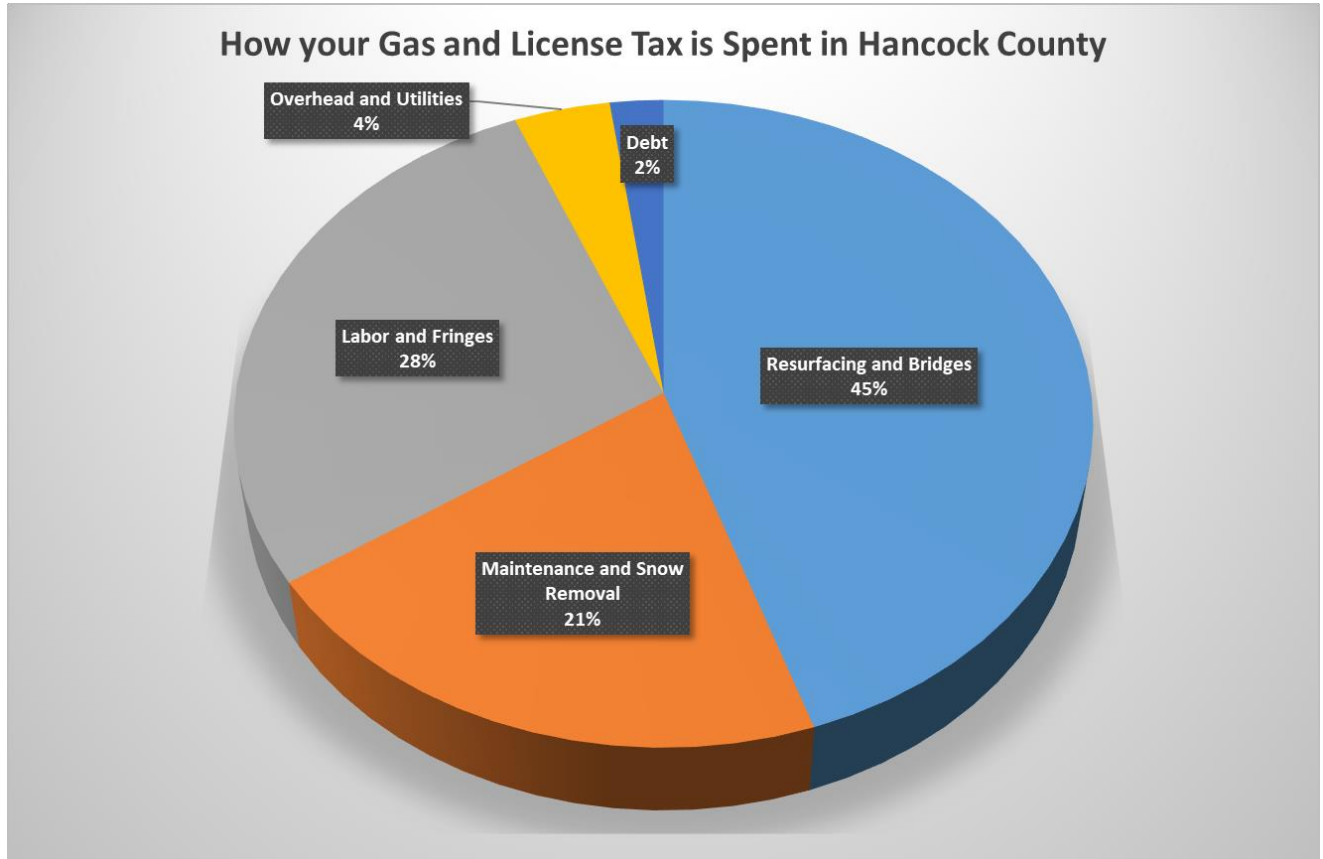
Additionally, we are partnering with ODOT on the SR 15 / CR 193 Overpass which will begin construction in the spring of 2025.

Budget / Fiscal Outlook

Our Team is always working to find a more cost-effective way to improve the safety of our County's Roadways and stretch our revenue as far as we can. Our employees are dedicated to serving the public and making sure your roads and bridges are as safe as possible, because their families also travel the roads. During the past 25 years, we have become more efficient in our operations, more prudent in our expenses, and have reduced our workforce, through attrition, to a total of 28 employees. That savings has been converted to more resurfacing and bridge replacement and matching funds for state and federal grants. But as with most things, the cost of materials has seen a rapid increase over the past few years while our revenues have remained flat.

We work efficiently by partnering with other agencies to purchase salt; utilize the State Cooperative Purchasing program; utilize the state surplus property program, competitively bid our aggregate, fuel and asphalt; serve as a fuel depot for all County vehicles and some participating Townships; jointly bid with Townships and Villages resurfacing, chip-seal and pavement striping projects; and evaluate every single item that we purchase to make sure we are getting the best possible price.

During 2024, our Direct Revenue from State Gas Tax, License Plate Fees, County Vehicle Fuel Sales, Township Road Maintenance, Fines, and Interest was \$6,931,024. The following chart describes how those funds were spent for the maintenance and improvement of the County Roads and Bridges.



Tax Mapping

One of many statutory duties of the County Engineer is to serve as the County's Tax Map Draftsman and this is also one of the primary reasons that the County Engineer is required to have a Professional Surveyor License as a qualification to serve. These duties often are not seen as being under the County Engineer because our employees are housed with the County Auditor's staff, making for a seamless operation in the transfer of property in Hancock County. It is an important job that we take pride in, efficiently working with land owners, surveyors, real estate agents, and attorneys to make the conveyance of property an easy process.

In 2024, my Team reviewed the legal descriptions and appropriately mapped **3,493** transfers and surveys, which was down 3% from 2024. Those included the following:

	2023	2024
Conveyed Transfers	1434	1360
Exempt Transfers	1126	1179
New Surveys	134	129
Pre-approvals	917	825

Permits

Our office serves as the central location to obtain permits for work in the Road Right of Way, Oversized and Overweight trucking permits, and Floodplain Development for all County roads and many of the Township Roads. While this is not a statutory duty of the County Engineer, we are glad to provide this assistance to the County Commissioners and all 17 Townships, and serve as their engineering advisor.

In 2024, my Team reviewed the **369** Permits and numerous inquiries from business and residents wishing to develop in Hancock County. Those included the following:

Permit Type	2021	2022	2023	2024
Drive Access Permits	77	72	51	62
Drive Access Variances	6	1	7	5
Utility Installations (County Roads)	35	58	60	81
Utility Installations (Township Roads)	37	68	197	146
Overweight/Oversize Trucks	63	31	32	48
Roadside Ditch Work (County Roads)	5	3	2	6
Roadside Ditch Work (Township Roads)	1	3	5	4
Floodplain Development	9	31	23	17
Total Permits	233	267	377	369

Subdivisions

While the County Engineer's statutory responsibility is limited to the review of Subdivision Roads and Bridges, our Team provides assistance to the Hancock County Regional Planning, the County Commissioners, and the Township Trustees, to review the County's minimum requirements for Subdivision construction.

The following subdivisions are currently in the design / review process:

1. Hickory Lakes 4th Addition (12 Lots)
2. LB Estates (46 Lots)
3. The Woods at Hillcrest (27 Lots)
4. Hickory Lakes (12 Lots)
5. Somerset (15 Lots)
6. Meadow Ridge (34 Lots)
7. Hunter Creek (121 Lots)
8. Eagle Estates (7 Lots)

The following subdivisions are currently under construction:

1. Glenmar 3rd Addition (9 Lots)
2. King Development (10 Lots)
3. North Findlay Commerce Park (4 Lots)
4. The Woods at Hillcrest (20 Lots)

Petition Ditch Construction

Our Office provides assistance to the County Commissioners for the engineering and construction of Ditches that are petitioned through the Ohio Petition Ditch Law Process. This assistance is primarily through the Public Viewing, Preliminary Engineering Report, project design, Final Engineering Report, initial construction assessments, and 6-year reviews. In 2002, the County Engineer, County Commissioners, and Hancock Soil and Water entered into an agreement that Soil and Water would administer all of the Petition Ditch Maintenance for the County. We continue to provide assistance to Soil and Water on an as needed basis. New subdivisions are now required to put their drainage infrastructure on petition ditch maintenance as part of the requirements in the Hancock County Subdivision Regulations. Currently, our team is working on the following Petition Ditches:

1. Oil Ditch (City of Findlay and Liberty Township)
2. Howard Run (City of Findlay and Marion Township)
3. Western Meadows Outlet Ditch (Liberty Township)
4. Wells Tri-County (Delaware Township)
5. Conrad Hilshafer (Liberty Township)
6. Forest Lake Subdivision (Marion Township)
7. Eagle Estates
8. Beck Extension (Joint County ditch with Wyandot County)
9. Glenmar 3rd Addition



County Road 18 Box Culvert Installation

Check out our website by searching Hancock County Ohio Engineer

New information is being added daily including Property Survey Records, Township Information, Subdivision Records, and information that you once had to visit the County Engineer's Office in person to research paper files.



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