



Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS  
Hancock County Engineer

**County Engineer's Office**

1900 Lima Avenue  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-422-7433

Hours 7:00—3:30 M-F

**County Engineer's  
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Mike Clark—Superintendent

419-424-7225

Hours  
7:00—3:30 M-F

Summer Hours  
6:00—4:30 M-Th

Web:  
[www.co.hancock.oh.us/  
government-services/  
engineer](http://www.co.hancock.oh.us/government-services/engineer)

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

**Message from the County Engineer**

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

Transportation is a fundamental component of economic development and personal prosperity for all our fellow citizens of Hancock County. We all drive daily on our local roads to work, home, play, shopping and businesses delivering their goods and services. Our role in all of that is to deliver the safest and most efficient local transportation system possible for our County. We do that by collaborating with our agri-business, business, economic development, township and municipal government partners to find ways to improve safety, maintain our road and bridge system and plan for the future of our transportation system.

Our daily charge is to make our roads and bridges safe for our residents and the public. We accomplish this by planning how we can improve the safety and condition of all of our roadways and how we can maintain and enhance our County, Township and Municipal bridges. As part of this planning, our team evaluates the 358 miles of your County Roads and perform inspection on all 374 County, Township and Municipal bridges annually. From this evaluation, we are planning work for 2 to 25 years out into the future and making changes to our priorities as conditions require more immediate attention.

This Annual Report is a summary of all of those evaluations that demonstrates the condition of our County Roads and Bridges and how we plan to address those facilities. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as your Hancock County Engineer and will work hard every day to improve our transportation system and our community.

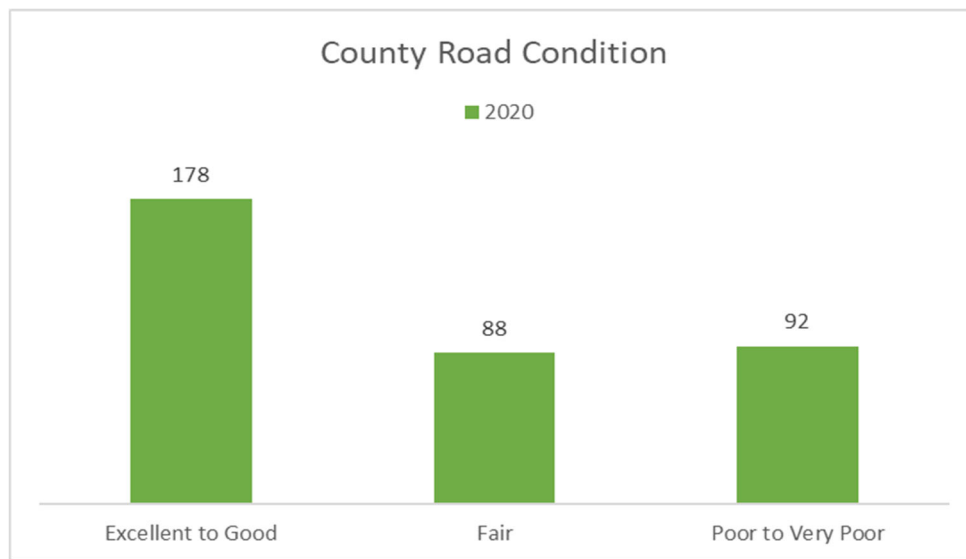
Thank you ,

Hancock County Engineer

# Roads

The County Highway System has 358 centerline miles and we evaluate those pavements using a detailed Pavement Condition Rating system on those roads every three years so that we can make sound engineering-based decisions to maximize our pavement life and triage our roadway system. Additionally, we are constantly monitoring our pavements with our engineering and maintenance team. Currently, we have 50% in Excellent to Good Condition, 25% in Fair Condition and 26% in Poor to Very Poor Condition, as shown in the table below. The estimated cost to maintain and repair these roads is \$7,766,162.00.

Ideally, we would like to see our roads be resurfaced on a 12-15 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.



Here is the progress that we made in 2020:

### Asphalt Resurfacing

#### (Funded with Local and OPWC grant funds)

County Road 53 - 6.93 Miles - \$444,222      County Road 203 - 5.44 Miles - \$405,189

#### (Funded with Local and Federal grant funds)

County Road 313 - 13.82 Miles - \$1,725,453

#### (Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 12 - 3.00 Miles - \$141,802	County Road 18 - 3.10 Miles - \$289,598
County Road 86 - 3.92 Miles - \$351,234	County Road 96 - 2.03 Miles - \$152,353
County Road 99 - 0.20 Miles - \$59,532	County Road 126 - 3.80 Miles - \$308,37
County Road 180 - 1.41 Miles - \$156,124	County Road 220 - 3.24 Miles - \$149,087

## Roadway Widening

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 2- 2.95 Miles - \$234,280



County Road 313 - Prior to Resurfacing



County Road 313 - After Resurfacing

## Our Plan for 2021

### Asphalt Resurfacing – 37.8 Miles - \$2,642,756

**(Using Local Gas Tax and OPWC Funds)**

CR 2 - 4.32 Miles	CR 60 - 2.00 Miles	CR 45 - 2.51 Miles	CR 75 - 1.06 Miles
CR 139 - 1.40 Miles	CR 16 - 3.34 Miles	CR 26 - 6.80 Miles	CR 9 - 8.17 Miles
CR 273 - 2.19 Miles	CR 4 - 1.00 Miles	CR 197 - 4.14 Miles	CR 156 - 0.70 Miles

### Road Widening – 2.00 Miles - \$498,893

**(Using Local Gas Tax Funds)**

CR 172 – 2.00 Miles

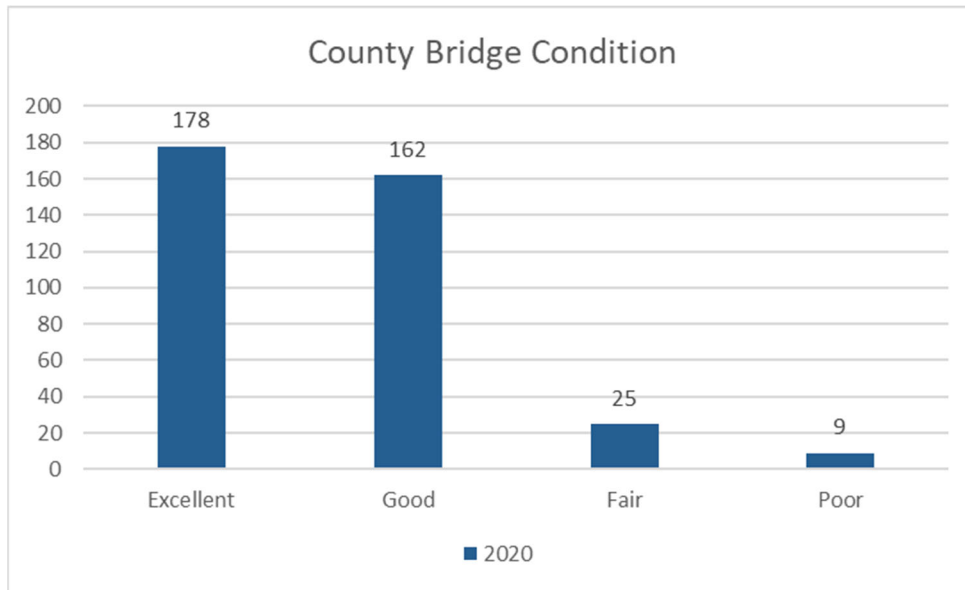
### Roadway Drainage - \$250,000

**(Using Local Gas Tax Funds)**

CR 99 / 212 Storm Sewer - 540 Feet

# Bridges

Our office does detailed inspections of the 374 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 18 County bridges that have a reduced weight limit with 9 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. The estimated cost to maintain and repair these bridges is \$16,450,000.00.



In 2020, we deferred our bridge program to 2021 due to the uncertainty of funding from the pandemic.

## Our Plan for 2021

Howard Street Bridge - \$354,902

CR 2 - 4.99 Bridge - \$122,500

CR 153 - 0.91 Bridge - \$375,000

TR 137 - 1.01 Bridge - \$319,233



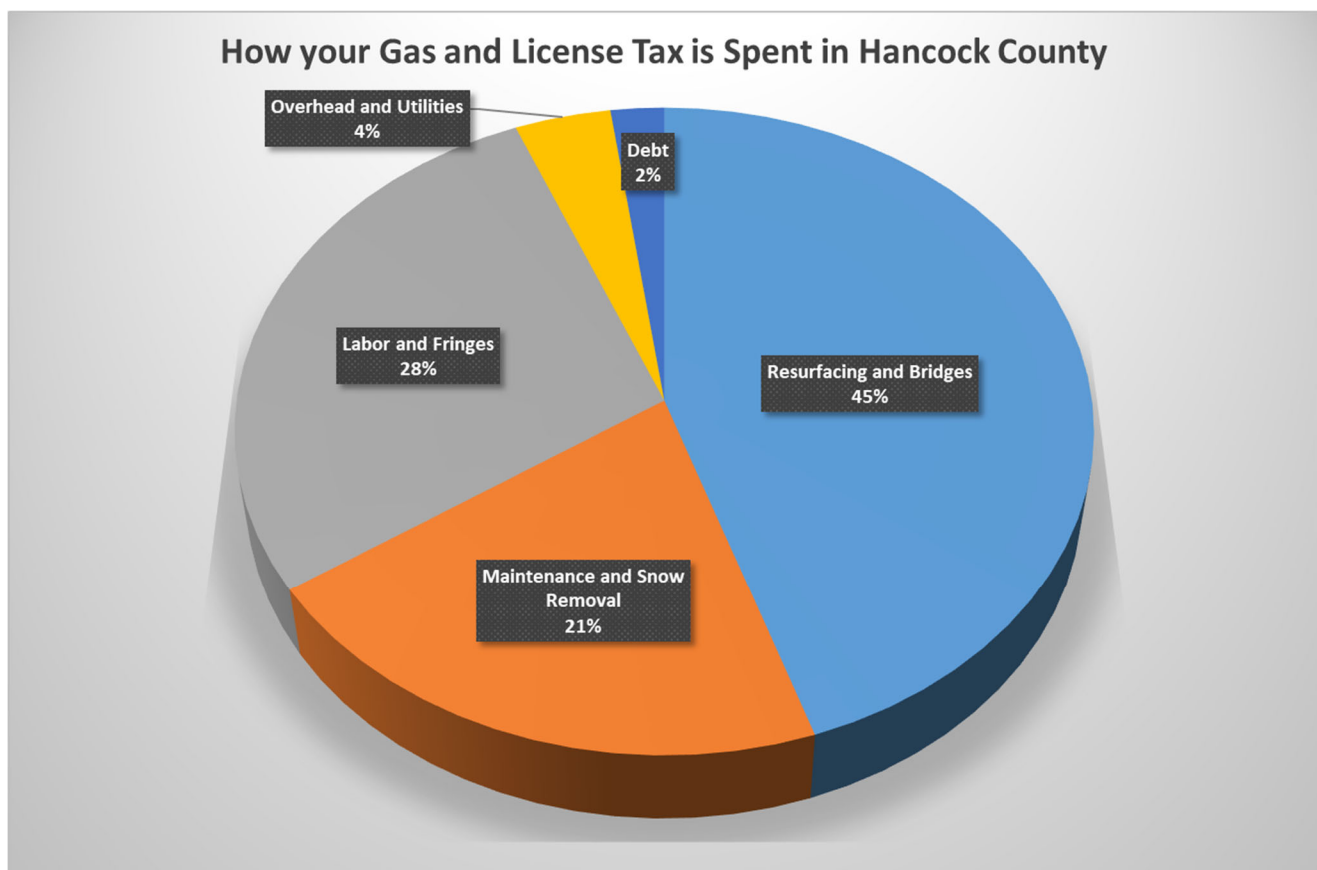
Portage TR 137 Bridge Replacement

# Budget/ Fiscal Outlook

My Team works every day 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. Naturally, our single largest and most important expenditure is our workforce. Our employees are dedicated to serving the public and making sure your roads and bridges are as safe as they can be, because it is their families that travel the roads as well. During the past 20 years, we have become more efficient in our operations and 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 have seen a steady increase over the years while our revenue and Force Account limits have remained largely 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 we look at every single item that we purchase to make sure we are getting the best price possible.

During 2020, our Direct Revenue from State Gas Tax, License Plate Fees, County Vehicle Fuel Sales, Township Road Maintenance, Fines, and Interest was \$6,652,567. Additionally, we received \$1,380,362 in Federal Grants and \$373,741 in State OPWC Grants that were dedicated to specific projects. 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. But 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 2020, my Team reviewed the legal descriptions and appropriately mapped 3,157 transfers and surveys. Those included the following:

Conveyed Transfers -	1,829
Exempt Transfers -	1,160
New Surveys -	168
Pre-approvals -	506

# Permits

Our office serves as the central location to obtain permits for work in the Road right of way, oversize and overweight trucking permits and floodplain development for all County roads and many of the Townships. While this is not a statutory duty of the County Engineer, we are glad to provide this assistance to the County Commissioners and 14 of the 17 Townships and serve as their engineering advisor.

In 2020, my Team reviewed the 173 Permits and numerous inquiries from business and residents wishing to develop in Hancock County. Those included the following:

Drive Access Permits -	44
Drive Access Variances -	3
Utility Installations (County Roads) -	24
Utility Installations (Township Roads) -	7
Overweight/Oversize Trucks -	74
Roadside Ditch Work (County Roads) -	4
Roadside Ditch Work (Township Roads) -	2
Floodplain Development -	15

# 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. We do this work as time allows due to no funding being provided nor reimbursed from Construction Fees. Currently, our team is reviewing and / or inspecting the following subdivisions:

1. Best Liberty Addition
2. Best Liberty 1<sup>st</sup> Addition
3. Hickory Lake 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition
4. Hickory Lake 4<sup>th</sup> Addition
5. The Woods at Hillcrest 9<sup>th</sup> Addition
6. The Woods at Hillcrest 10<sup>th</sup> Addition
7. The Woods at Hillcrest 11<sup>th</sup> Addition
8. Glenmar 1<sup>st</sup> Addition Plat 2
9. Glenmar 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Plat 2
10. Somerset 4<sup>th</sup> Addition
11. Deer Landing 1<sup>st</sup> Addition
12. North Findlay Commerce Park
13. Eagle Estates 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition
14. Meadow Ridge 1<sup>st</sup> Addition Subdivision
15. Hunter Creek 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Additions

# Petition Ditch Construction

The County Engineer's Office provides assistance to the County Commissioners for the Construction of Ditches that are Petition through the Ohio Petition Ditch Law Process. This assistance is primarily through the Public Viewing, Preliminary Engineering Report, project design and Final Engineering Report and initial construction assessments. 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. Like the Subdivision Program, we do this work as time allows due to no funding being provided nor reimbursed from Construction Fees. Currently, our team is working on the following Petition Ditches:

1. Dalzell Petition Ditch Reconstruction
2. Oil Ditch Petition Ditch
3. Howard Run Petition Ditch
4. Liberty Reed Petition Ditch
5. Western Meadows Outlet Petition Ditch
6. McComb Schroll Petition Ditch
7. Hickory Lake 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Petition Ditch
8. Best Liberty Addition Petition Ditch
9. Conrad Hillshafer Petition Ditch
10. Wells Tri-County Petition Ditch

# Featured Project CR 220



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