

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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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/  
government-services/engineer](http://www.co.hancock.oh.us/government-services/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.***

It is an honor to serve the citizens of Hancock County. I know that many politicians say that, but I really do mean it. Since I was a teen, I wanted to be a County Engineer, serve my community and make our roads and bridges safer for everyone. My team and I work toward that mission every day.

As part of delivering this mission, I have had the opportunity to take on some roles at the regional and state level to better serve our community and to share what we are doing in Hancock County. I was recently elected to serve as the Chairman of the newly formed West Ohio Regional Transportation Planning Organization which will serve 7 counties in west and northwest Ohio as well as being elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio. Along with these roles I continue to serve on the Ohio Traffic Safety Council and the executive Committee of the District 13 Ohio Public Works Commission. All of these organizations have a benefit to our community through being able to provide input and guide their direction, only helps to improve our community.

As we move forward into the next year, my team and I will continue to do our best to serve you, improve our roads and bridges, and make our transportation system as safe as it possibly can be.

Thank you,

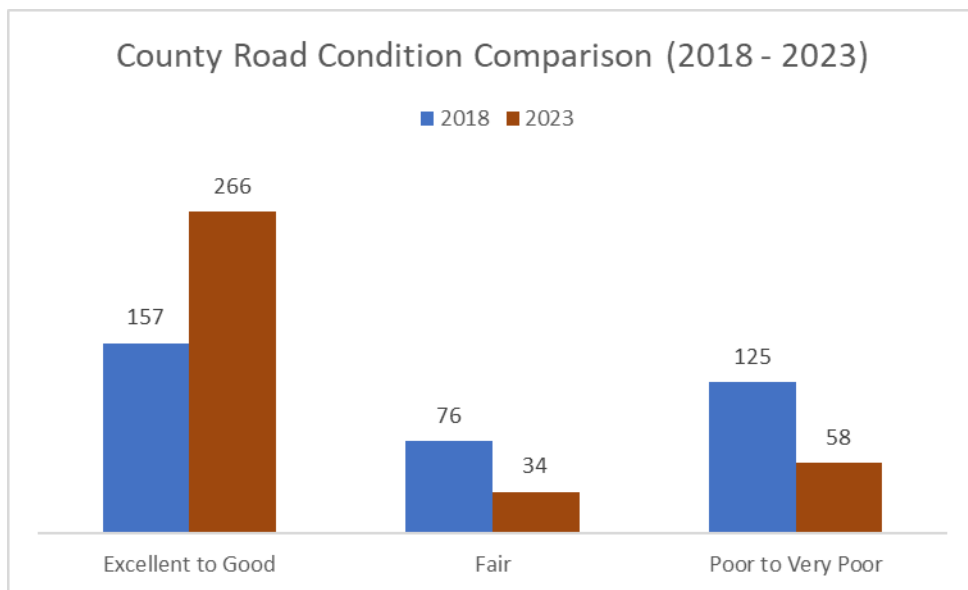


Hancock County Engineer

# Roads

The County Highway System has 358 centerline 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 74% in Excellent to Good Condition, 9% in Fair Condition and 16% in Poor to Very Poor Condition, as shown in the table below. The estimated cost in 2024 to maintain and repair these Poor to Very Poor Condition roads is \$5,684,000.00.

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.



The following is a look at what we accomplished in 2023 and a look at what we are planning to improve in 2024.

## 2023 Resurfacing Program

### Asphalt Resurfacing

(Funded with Local and OPWC grant funds)

County Road 9 – 1.89 Miles - \$187,541	County Road 300 – 0.50 Miles - \$50,650
County Road 88 – 1.14 Miles - \$126,197	County Road 40 – 2.52 Miles - \$196,600
County Road 144 – 1.00 Miles - \$83,056	County Road 16 – 3.05 Miles - \$211,796
County Road 223 – 0.32 Miles - \$34,250	

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 26 – 0.80 Miles - \$111,342



County Road 88 – During Resurfacing



County Road 88 – After Resurfacing

## Our Plan for 2024

### Asphalt Resurfacing – 8.88 Miles - \$832,327

(Using Local Gas Tax and OPWC Funds)

County Road 15 – 2.09 Miles - \$217,004	County Road 26 – 3.04 Miles - \$275,377
County Road 26 – 2.73 Miles - \$247,225	County Road 37 – 1.02 Miles - \$92,721

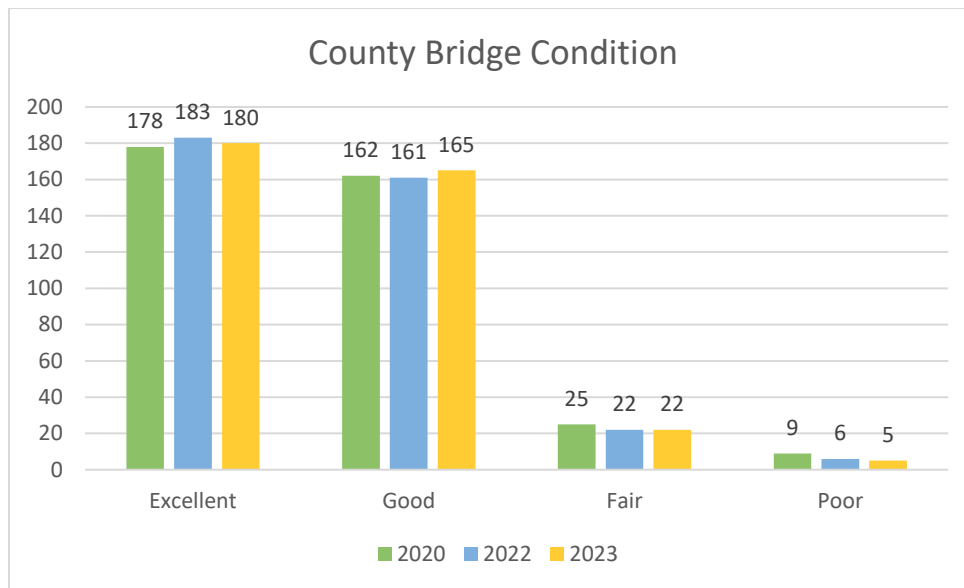
### Asphalt Resurfacing – 15.51 Miles - \$1,714,309

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 37 – 2.00 Miles - \$198,635	County Road 236 – 0.68 Miles - \$173,032
County Road 24 – 8.96 Miles - \$920,867	County Road 212 – 0.34 Miles - \$78,445
County Road 9 – 3.53 Miles - \$343,330	

# Bridges

Our office performs annual detailed inspections of all 372 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 12 County bridges that have a reduced weight limit, with 5 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 \$22,400,000.



In 2023, we replaced one bridge totaling \$108,785 utilizing Local Gas Tax funds. This bridge was in poor condition. 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 two bridges totaling approximately \$18,000 with an estimated life extension of 15+ years.

In 2024, we plan to replace three bridges with an estimated total of \$218,000 utilizing Local Gas Tax funds. We also plan to continue our waterproofing program for four bridges this year with an estimated total of \$40,000.

The following is more information on those projects.

## 2023 Completed Bridges

### Hancock County Road 216 – 2.88 Bridge Replacement



#### **Existing:**

Built in 1975  
Single Span, Prestressed Concrete Box Beam,  
Asphalt Wearing Surface,  
Span = 22'-0"  
Condition – Poor

#### **New:**

Built in 2023  
Single Span, Reinforced Concrete Beams with  
Precast Block Abutment Walls, Asphalt  
Wearing Surface, Span = 28'-0"

*Location: CR216-2.88 over Hiram Grubb Ditch  
Between CR18 & CR236*

**Project Total:** \$108,784.37 (Local Funds)

### Waterproofing Program – CR8-3.80 & TR174-1.13



## Our Plan for 2024

### Gibson St (Arcadia) Bridge Replacement



**Location:**

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

**Condition:**

Poor Condition

**Project Estimate:**

\$120,000 (Local Funds)

### Hancock County Road 18-2.04 Bridge Replacement



**Location:**

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

**Condition:**

Fair Condition

**Project Estimate:**

\$45,000 (Local Funds)

### Hancock County Road 109-5.14 Bridge Replacement



**Location:**

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

**Condition:**

Fair Condition

**Project Estimate:**

\$48,000 (Local Funds)

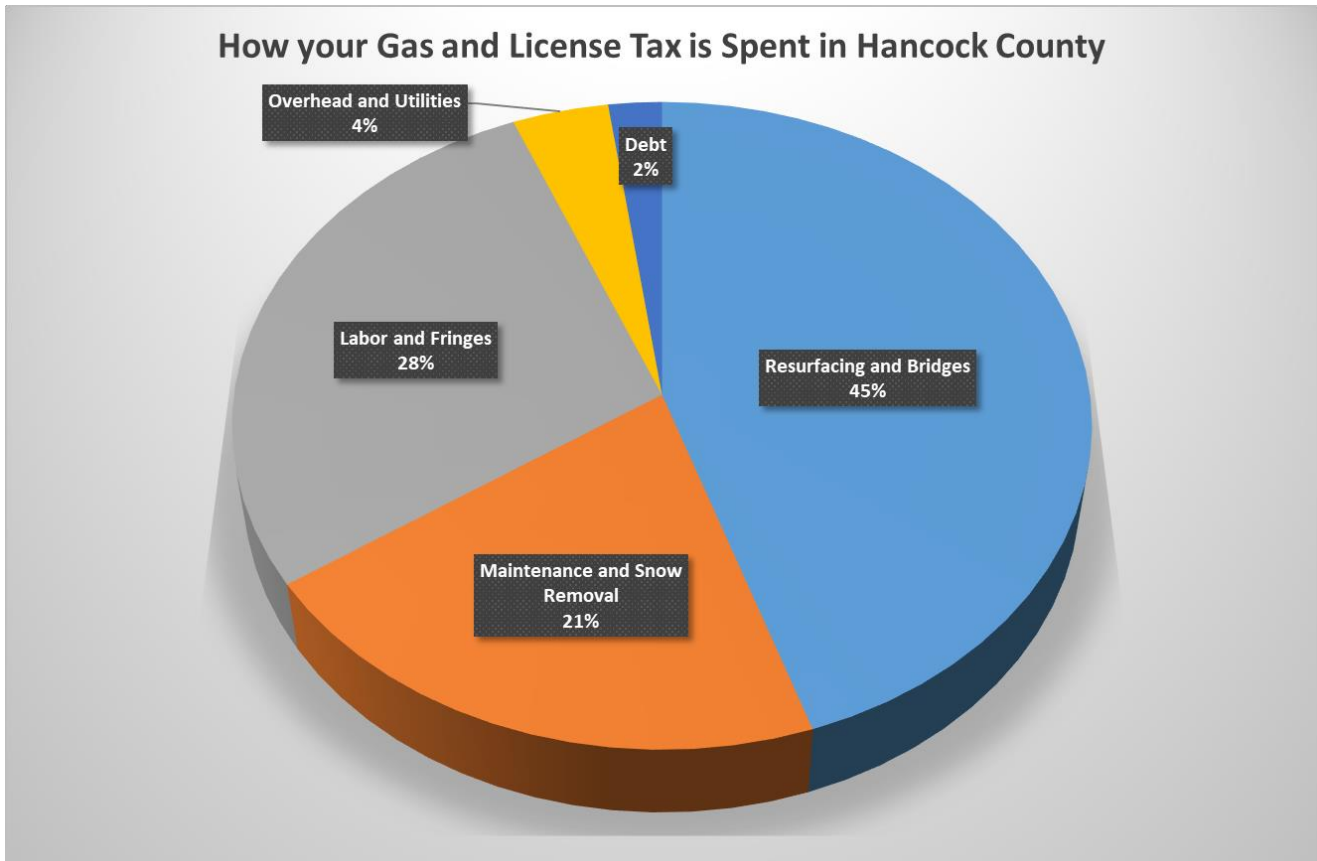
Additionally, we are partnering with ODOT on the SR 15 / CR 193 Overpass which will begin construction in the summer of 2025.

# 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 20 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 29 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 2023, our Direct Revenue from State Gas Tax, License Plate Fees, County Vehicle Fuel Sales, Township Road Maintenance, Fines, and Interest was \$7,010,181. 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 2023, my Team reviewed the legal descriptions and appropriately mapped 3,611 transfers and surveys, which was down 10% from 2022. Those included the following:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Conveyed Transfers	1,788	1,434
Exempt Transfers	1,194	1,126
New Surveys	157	134
Pre-approvals	873	917

# 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 2023, my Team reviewed the 377 Permits, a 39% increase, and numerous inquiries from business and residents wishing to develop in Hancock County. Those included the following:

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



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> Addition (12 Lots)
2. Glenmar 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition (9 Lots)
3. Liberty Dold (Remaining 46 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

**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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