



Hancock County Engineer's 2025 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

Message from the County Engineer



Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS
Hancock County Engineer

County Engineer's Office

1900 Lima Avenue
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

Our mission is simple and unwavering: to provide a safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation system that supports Hancock County's economy and enhances the daily lives of our residents. As I enter my 32nd year in the civil engineering and surveying profession, I continue to learn, adapt, and strengthen the work of this Office. Every day brings new challenges—whether in land surveying, bridge design, roadway maintenance, or winter operations—but each challenge is an opportunity to improve the infrastructure that our community depends on.

I take seriously the responsibility entrusted to me as your elected County Engineer. My team and I work diligently to safeguard your property rights, ensure the integrity of every boundary survey and deed, and maintain the roads and bridges that carry you to work, school, and the activities that shape your lives. In 2025, we continued to invest in long-term pavement health, strategic bridge replacement, waterproofing rehabilitation, and efficient maintenance practices. We also remained committed to fiscal responsibility, stretching every dollar through partnerships, cooperative purchasing, and careful evaluation of all expenditures.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will build on this momentum—advancing resurfacing programs, replacing priority bridges, expanding waterproofing efforts, and supporting responsible development through surveying, permitting, and subdivision review. My team is dedicated, skilled, and deeply committed to serving this community, and I am proud of the work they do every day.

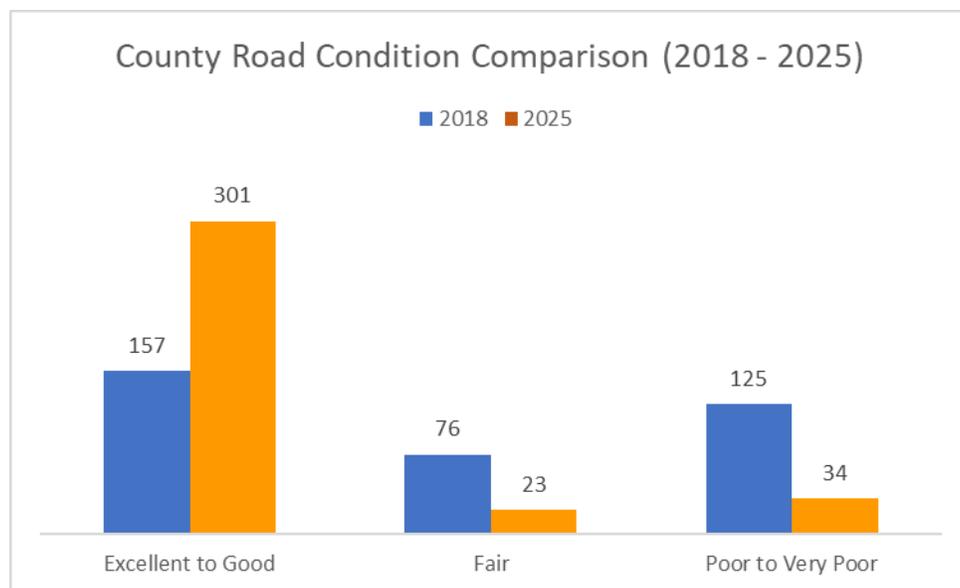
Thank you for the privilege of serving as your County Engineer. I look forward to another year of improving our roads, strengthening our bridges, and protecting the property rights of the citizens of Hancock County.

Thank you,

Hancock County Engineer

The County Highway System has 357.8 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 84% in Excellent to Good Condition, 6% in Fair Condition and 9% in Poor to Very Poor Condition, as shown in the table below. The estimated cost in 2026 to maintain and repair these Poor to Very Poor Condition roads is \$3,740,000.

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 2025 and what we are planning to improve in 2026.

2025 Resurfacing Program

Asphalt Resurfacing

(Funded with Local and OPWC grant funds)

County Road 139 – 1.89 Miles - \$209,542

County Road 203 – 5.17 Miles - \$481,151

County Road 95 – 1.43 Miles - \$202,402

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 37 – 5.96 Miles - \$555,937

County Road 33 – 3.36 Miles - \$265,521

County Road 304 – 4.00 Miles - \$676,908

County Road 2 – 1.44 Miles - \$89,758

Total Completed in 2025 – 23.25 Miles - \$2,481,219

Our Plan for 2026

Asphalt Resurfacing – 11.78 Miles - \$964,843

(Using Local Gas Tax and OPWC Funds)

County Road 257 – 3.09 Miles - \$265,014

County Road 248 – 4.38 Miles - \$355,561

County Road 182 – 1.01 Miles - \$89,362

County Road 169 – 3.30 Miles - \$254,906

Asphalt Resurfacing – 18.57 Miles - \$1,734,361

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 304 – 3.02 Miles - \$494,877

County Road 8 – 7.50 Miles - \$685,755

County Road 172 – 1.44 Miles - \$103,411

County Road 193 – 5.06 Miles - \$361,203

County Road 162 – 1.55 Miles - \$89,115

Planned in 2026 – 30.35 Miles - \$2,699,204

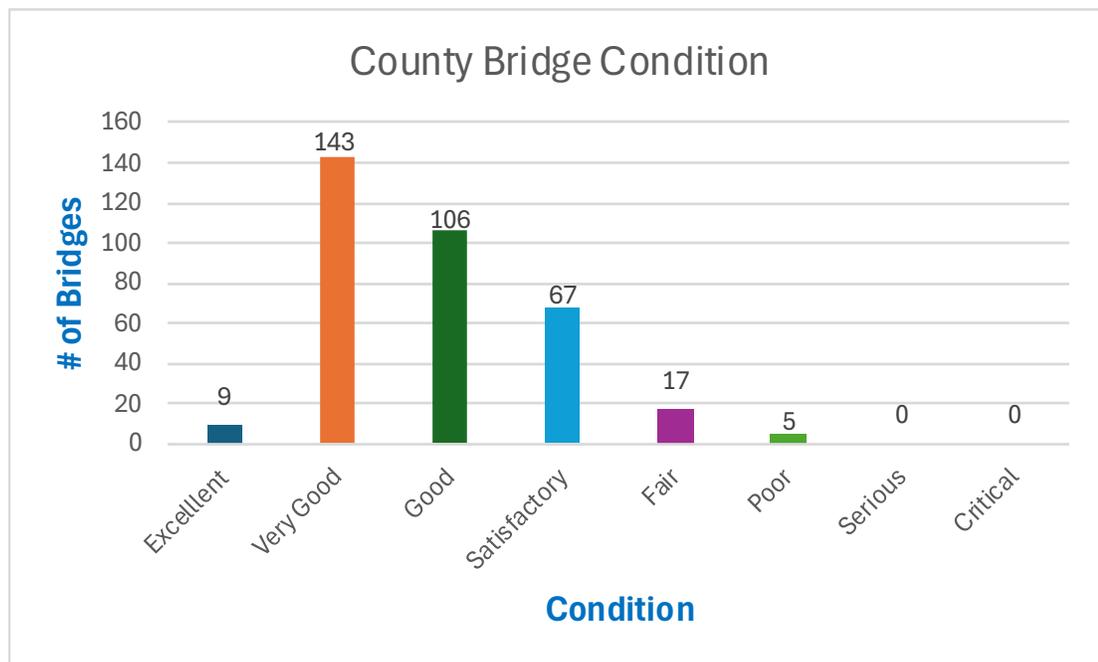


County Road 95

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 136 bridges between 10 ft and 20 ft (66 of which are pipe culverts), and 211 bridges over 20 ft.

Our office performs annual detailed inspections of all 347 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 \$15,615,000.



In 2025, we replaced 1 bridge totaling \$639,149.80 utilizing Local Gas Tax and Federal State Exchange 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 4 bridges totaling approximately \$75,000 with an estimated life extension of 15+ years.

In 2026, we plan to replace 2 bridges with an estimated total of \$1,395,310 utilizing local, state and federal funds. We also plan to continue our waterproofing program for 6 bridges this year with an estimated total cost of \$70,000.

The following is more information on those projects.

2025 Completed Bridges

Morey Ave. Bridge Replacement



Location:

*Morey Ave. over Howard Run
Between Davis St. and W. Foulke Ave.*

New Structure:

35' Prestressed Concrete Box Beams

Cost:

\$638,018.82 (Local Funds)

Waterproofing



Location:

CR 37 – 11.44

CR 226 – 3.78

TR 68 – 2.43

CR 193 – 2.77

Our Plan for 2026

Hancock County Road 8-2.38 Bridge Replacement	
	<p>Location: <i>CR 8 over Lye Creek Between CR 26 and TR 25</i></p> <p>Condition: Poor Condition</p> <p>Project Estimate: \$128,000 (Local Funds)</p>

Hancock County Road 180-3.67 Bridge Replacement	
	<p>Location: <i>CR 180 over Lye Creek Between SR 37 & SR 568</i></p> <p>Condition: Fair Condition</p> <p>Project Estimate: \$1,267,310 (Federal & Local Funds)</p>

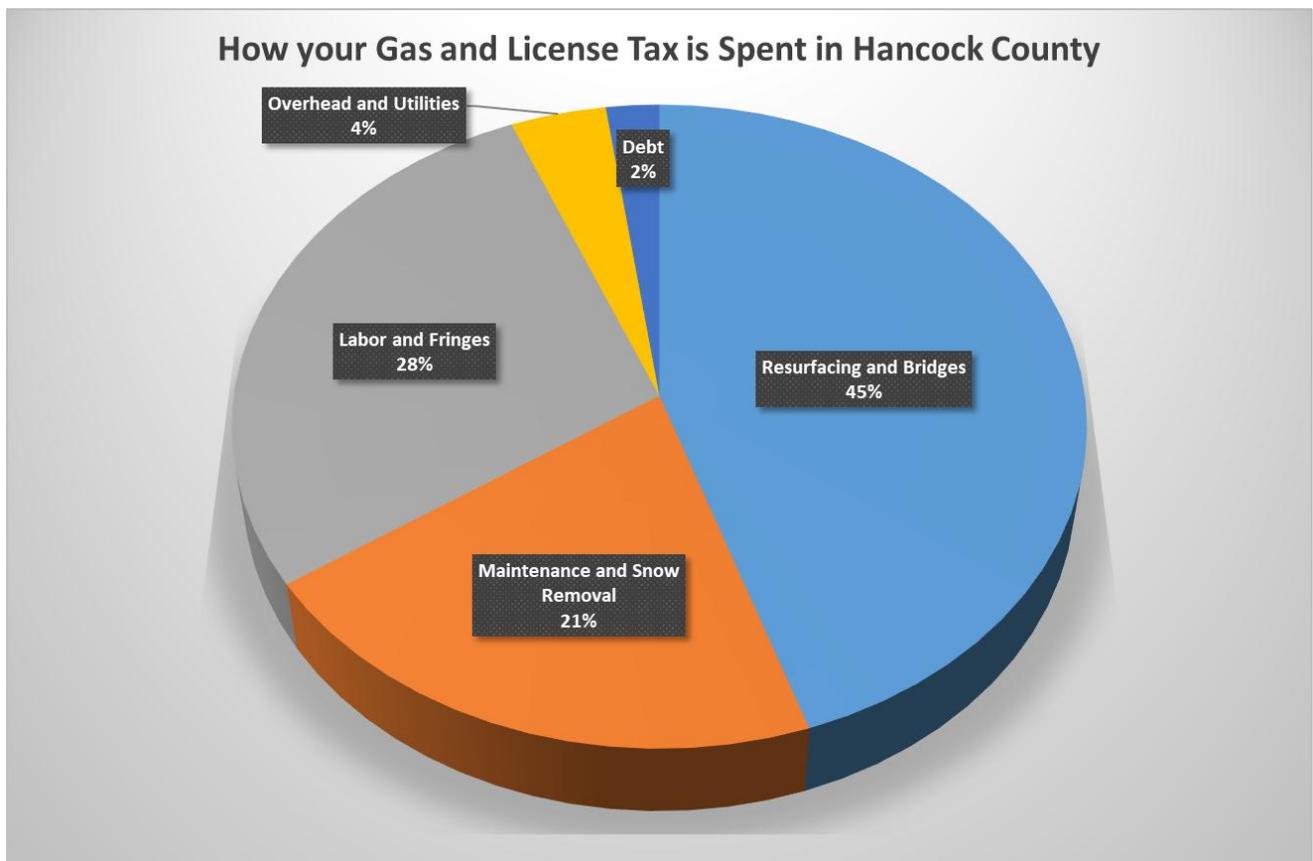
Waterproofing – Various Locations	
<p>Bridge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CR 169 – 1.33 2. Independence Rd (Fostoria) 3. CR 23 – 5.81 4. TR 152 – 3.34 5. TR 25 – 6.71 6. CR 109 – 0.03 	<p>Location:</p> <p>Between TR 190 & CR 193</p> <p>Between SR 12 & TR 218</p> <p>Between CR 216 & TR 214</p> <p>Between CR 183 & TR 184</p> <p>Between TR 70 & TR 72</p> <p>Between TR 236 & TR 238</p>

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 30 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 and pavement striping projects; and evaluate every single item that we purchase to make sure we are getting the best possible price.

During 2025, our Direct Revenue from State Gas Tax, License Plate Fees, County Vehicle Fuel Sales, Township Road Maintenance, Fines, and Interest was \$7,434,958. The following chart describes how those funds were spent for the maintenance and improvement of the County Roads and Bridges.



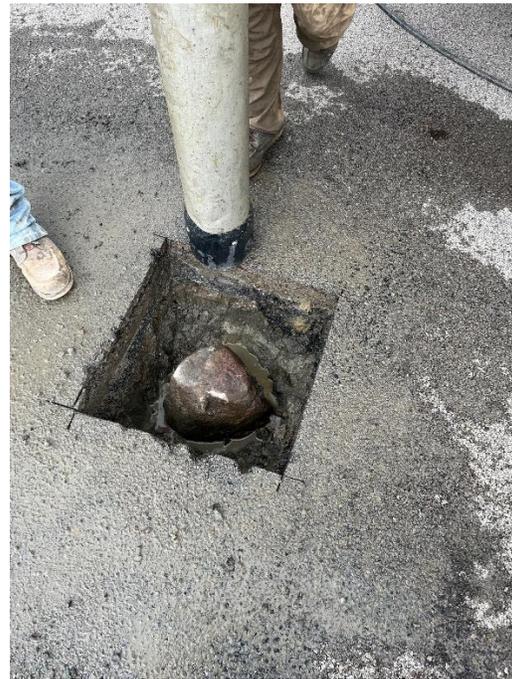
Tax Mapping and Surveying

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 2025, my Team reviewed the legal descriptions and appropriately mapped **3,674** transfers and surveys, which was up 5% from 2024. Those included the following:

	2023	2024	2025
Conveyed Transfers	1434	1360	1434
Exempt Transfers	1126	1179	1181
New Surveys	134	129	158
Pre-approvals	917	825	901
Total	3611	3493	3674

Our office has also started re-establishing the original section corners for the county. Over time, survey monuments have been covered up, lost or destroyed since most were installed in the early 1800's. As part of this process, we review and analyze the original Hancock County survey records, Commissioner's road records, existing right-of-way plans and any relevant surveys for each area.



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 2025, my Team reviewed the **354** Permits and numerous inquiries from business and residents wishing to develop in Hancock County. Those included the following:

Permit Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Drive Access Permits	77	72	51	62	38
Drive Access Variances	6	1	7	5	6
Utility Installations (County Roads)	35	58	60	81	68
Utility Installations (Township Roads)	37	68	197	146	129
Overweight/Oversize Trucks	63	31	32	48	88
Roadside Ditch Work (County Roads)	5	3	2	6	3
Roadside Ditch Work (Township Roads)	1	3	5	4	2
Floodplain Development	9	31	23	17	20
Total Permits	233	267	377	369	354

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. Somerset 5th Addition (24 Lots)

The following subdivisions are currently under construction:

1. Glenmar 3rd Addition (9 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

Check out our website by searching Hancock County Ohio Engineer

**New information is being added daily including Property Survey Records,
Township Information, and Subdivision Records.**



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