



ALLEN COUNTY ENGINEER

2022-2023 Annual Report of the Engineer

As your Allen County Engineer, my job is to administer all aspects of design, construction, repair and maintenance of our local roads and bridges. This includes 353 miles of roads and 376 bridges. Ultimately, my goal is to provide the safest and most efficient roadway system possible. So, every year we strive to make major improvements to our county infrastructure.

2022 was a pretty good year, but good or bad, you can always count on some challenges and last year was no exception. Just like the rest of the world, we dealt with supply chain issues and staggering inflation. In 2021, it was traffic paint and signal poles. Last year it was surcharges and shortages on items like steel, tires and cement. The shortages on cement were so bad that concrete suppliers had a daily ration and required concrete to be ordered 7-10 days in advance. Scheduling jobs became more challenging and it's likely continue as concrete prices are expected to double by this summer.

Unfortunately, these supply issues affected our equipment purchases as well. Disruptions in the supply chain tripled the time to acquire a dump truck. Case in point, I ordered four (4) dump trucks in October of 2021 and still don't have them. They're expected to be built in May, then outfitted and delivered by fall, which is about 18 months longer than normal. Pickup trucks aren't much better. Ford, GM and Ram are only making limited amounts, which has created a high demand. So, currently there is no State Co-Op pricing or discounts, which has resulted in the price doubling since 2019.

Therefore, these issues are affecting our budget as well. Extended lead times are forcing me to appropriate funds 1-2 years in advance, which is a long time to tie up funding while equipment is manufactured. I've been aggressive on my replacement schedules in the past, so hopefully we can ride out some of these challenges until conditions improve.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report, which summarizes the condition of our department and our roads and bridges in 2022. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 419-228-3196 or visit us on the web at www.allencountyohengineer.com.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brion E. Rhodes".



Brion E. Rhodes, P.E., P.S.
Allen County Engineer

ENGINEER'S OFFICE

1501 North Sugar Street
Lima, OH 45801
p. 419-228-3196
f. 419-227-2920

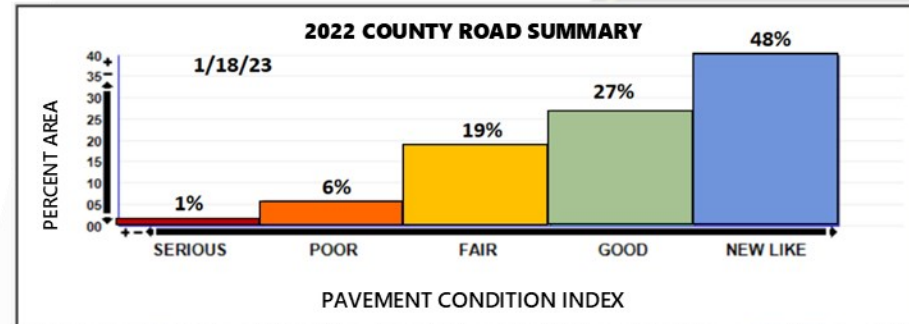
TAX MAP

301 North Main Street
Lima, OH 45801
p. 419-228-3700
f. 419-228-7243

ROADWAY DEPARTMENT

The Roadway Department is responsible for the safety and maintenance of over 353 miles of county roads. In 2022, over \$3.2 million dollars was spent on county road work. Our paving contractor and our own road crews were very busy paving 35 miles and chip sealing 18.2 miles of roads here in the county. Each year, the cost of asphalt and stone continues to rise, while the revenue doesn't keep pace with inflation. This means that each year it becomes more difficult to maintain the same miles of roads. Ideally, we would like to see a newly paved road last 20 years before it needs re-paved. At that rate, we should be paving nearly 20 miles of roads per year to properly maintain our roadway system.

To help manage this, we have a detailed Pavement Condition Rating system in place to use as a tool to help grade or index (aka: PCI Rating) the roads in Allen County. Each road section is driven and given a PCI rating based on the current surface condition of the roadway. These ratings help categorize our roadways today and forecast their ratings into the future. The table below shows the overall status of our roadways as of January 2023:



and pave a 1.0 mile section of Sugar Street, between Bible and Blucluck Roads, in Bath Township. These funds are available due to the proposed expansion of the Lima Ford Engine Plant here in Allen County. We also received a \$300,000 Federal Safety Grant to replace deteriorating guardrail along county roads.

If you have any questions about road maintenance or about the Allen County Road Program in general, please feel free to give the Roadway Department a call at 419-996-7110 or visit our website.



SNOW & ICE

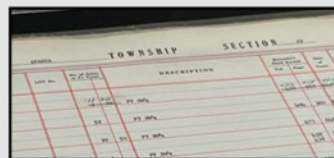
Our crews worked diligently this winter to keep the roadways safe in Allen County. Thankfully, it was mild compared to the average winter. For the 2022/23 season we had 8 Snow/Ice Events and our Plow Trucks went out only 13 times. This helped the budget as we spent just under \$231,000 on Salt/Grit/Fuel/Overtime, which is well below the 10 year average of \$313,348.

TAX MAP DEPARTMENT

The Allen County Tax Map Department is located in the County Courthouse, and process all conveyances or transfers of property in the County. This includes reviewing all parcel splits, deeds and surveys to make sure they comply with the County Conveyance Standards.

In 2022, the Tax Map Office processed 372 parcel splits and combinations keeping the Tax Maps current for use by the Auditor, realtors and the citizens of Allen County. They also processed 288 survey/plat reviews and 6,747 deed reviews in accordance to the County Conveyance Standards.

For Deed and Survey information, please visit the Allen County Engineer's website or call the Tax Map at 419-228-3700 x.8746

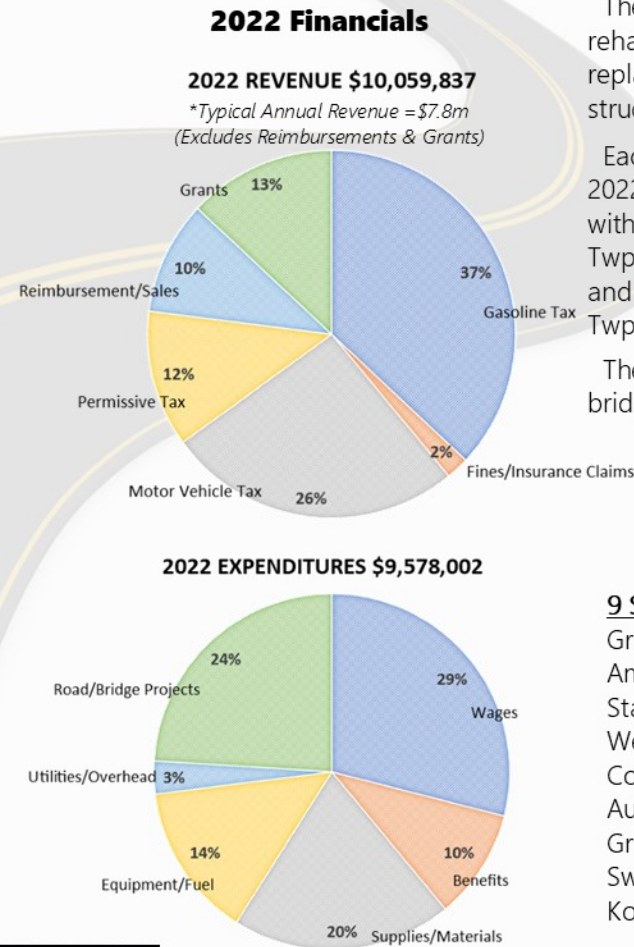


BRIDGE & CULVERT DEPARTMENTS

The Allen County Engineer's Office is responsible for the maintenance, inspection, construction, and/or rehabilitation of 376 bridges in the county along with thousands of culverts. In recent years the County has replaced 4 structures per year on average. However, 2022 proved to be a very busy year as we replaced 9 structures and repaired 6 others that needed significant maintenance to extend their life.

Each year, our annual inspection process reveals various maintenance issues that need to be addressed and 2022 was no different. While most issues are minor, others require more immediate attention. This was the case with 3 culvert structures where high water and erosion washed out the footings on Amherst Road (Auglaize Twp.), Phillips Road (Richland Twp.), and Huber Road (Jackson Twp.). Our crews were able to quickly come in and make the necessary repairs to extend their life. Additionally, some steel beams on Phillips Road (Auglaize Twp.) and Pevee Road (Jackson Twp.) required replacement in order to keep the bridges open to traffic.

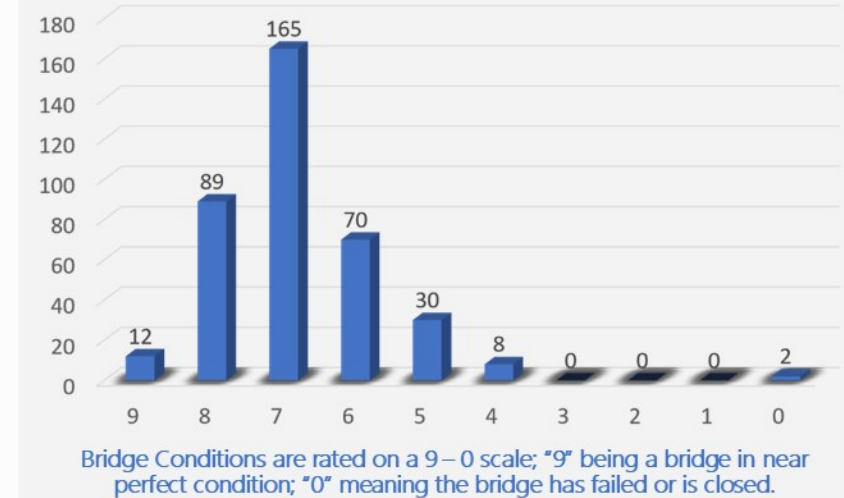
The forces of nature never end so, our crews continue to work diligently towards maintaining safe roads and bridges for the County's residents as well as the traveling public.



9 STRUCTURES REPLACED IN 2022

Grubb Road—Amanda Twp.
 Amherst Road—Auglaize Twp.
 State Road—Marion Twp.
 Wentz Road—Monroe Twp.
 Cool Road—Perry Twp.
 Auglaize Co. Line Road—Perry Twp.
 Grismore Road—Richland Twp.
 Swaney Road—Richland Twp.
 Kolter Road—Spencer Twp.

2022 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF BRIDGES



STATE ROAD BRIDGE—ALL-CR 84-6.49

The largest project undertaken by the County in 2022 was the replacement of the State Road Bridge over the Auglaize River. The original (3) span steel beam structure, which was built in 1948, was replaced with a 173' long (3) span composite pre-stressed box beam structure. New reinforced concrete piers were constructed on bedrock in the river and new abutment walls were built upon the existing abutments. The new prestressed concrete box beams were set over the course of two days and a reinforced concrete deck was poured over top. The reinforced concrete deck along with the semi-integral design of the abutments will help prevent water and salt intrusion into the superstructure and substructure, thereby lengthening the life of the bridge. RG Zachrich was the prime contractor and the project took 7 months to construct at a cost of \$1,190,284.05, which was \$251,648.95 under the estimate. The project was 95% funded (80% state funds through the Local Bridge Program + 15% Credit Bridge funds) while 5% was paid for through local funds.



DRAINAGE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Drainage Engineering Department has a dual role within the county structure. It operates as the reviewing agency for commercial, industrial, and residential developments, as well as being responsible for all Petitioned Drainage Improvements. We manage the entire process of Petitioned Drainage Improvements for the Commissioners, of which they have final authority. All projects constructed through petition are placed on permanent maintenance once construction is completed.

Our responsibility includes the management of over \$23.6 million dollars in drainage improvements and we work consciously to provide the most pro-active and cost-effective maintenance possible. Funding for the engineering, administration, construction and maintenance of petitioned drainage improvements is derived from funds acquired from parcel owners within the watershed of each project. The method-ology is outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 6131, 6133, and 6137.

The Allen County Drainage Department currently maintains 256 miles of open ditches, 58 miles of agricultural and residential conduits, 21 miles of waterways, and 18 detention ponds. These projects benefit 256,532 watershed acres and 45,728 parcels. Additional projects are always in progress, with multiple improvement plans in various stages of completion at all times.



Projects Completed in 2022

Jackson Twp—Napoleon Road Improvement #1137
American Twp—Smith Improvement #1332

Projects in Process

Jackson Twp—Hutchinson #1347
American Twp—Baughman #1198
Shawnee Twp—Indianbrook & Wildbrook Estates #1322
American Twp—Dutch Hollow Improvement #1344

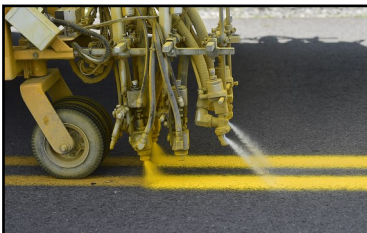
We are also the compliance coordinators of the OEPA's Phase II Stormwater Regulations and manage the Stormwater Management & Sediment Control Regulations (SMSCR) for the Commissioners. These regulations are necessary to comply with the latest mandates by Ohio EPA. The Stormwater Regulations are a self-supporting entity funded entirely from permit and review fees acquired from developers. In 2022, 15 permits were issued to developers, which collected approximately \$74,800 to help fund the management of these OEPA mandates.

If you would like additional information on any of our endeavors, contact the Allen County Engineers Office, Drainage Engineering Department at 419-228-3196 or visit our website.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

In 2022, the Allen County Engineers Traffic Maintenance Department had a typical busy year. The Traffic Department spent the summer striping center lines, edge lines as well as other pavement markings including: railroad crossings, school zones, crosswalks, lane arrows and stop bars at intersections.

The Traffic Department also maintains 16 traffic lights, 1 signal flasher and over 5,300 traffic signs. Every year, these traffic lights are inspected to ensure proper working order and all traffic signs are checked for condition and visibility. It is important that all signs meet the minimum reflectivity standards, so any missing or substandard signs are replaced.



As signs are replaced, they are upgraded with a High-Intensity Prismatic surface that reflects light at a further distance and thus attracts motorist's attention earlier.

In 2022, the County installed new signal flashers for a school speed zone on Kolter Road at Spencerville Schools. These flashers help alert motorist that traffic will be entering and exiting the school zones at specific times of the day.

5,280 Gallons - Yellow Center Line

County Roads—215 miles
Township Roads—100 miles
Village Roads—14 miles

605 Gallons - White Edge Line

County Roads—36 Lane Miles
Township Roads—14 Lane Miles

