



ALLEN COUNTY ENGINEER

2024-2025 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, bridges and ditches, which includes 353 miles of roads, 371 bridges and over 259 miles of open ditches.

This by itself is a monumental task, but we do more than just engineering. We also oversee surveying and land transfers in the county, install and maintain traffic signals/signs and pavement markings, maintain the drainage throughout the county, administer the petition ditch process, trim trees along the road right-of-way, and of course we plow snow in the winter.

Obviously, I can't do this alone, which is why I'm so thankful to have a great staff and strong partnerships with our Commissioners, Township Trustees and ODOT. Together, we strive to provide the safest and most efficient roadway system possible.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report, which summarizes the different departments in my office, the work we performed and the current status of our roads and bridges. 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, reading "Brian E. Rhodes".



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

ENGINEER'S OFFICE

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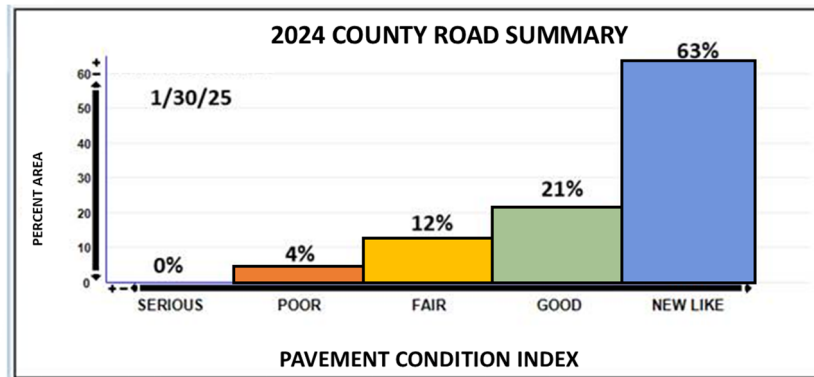
TAX MAP OFFICE

301 North Main Street
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ROADWAY DEPARTMENT

The Roadway Department is responsible for the safety and maintenance of over 353 miles of County roads. Over \$2.24 million dollars was spent in 2024 on County road improvements. Our paving contractor and our own road crews were very busy paving 23.6 miles and chip sealing 58.24 miles of roads in Allen County. Each year, the cost of asphalt and stone continues to rise, while the revenue does not keep pace with inflation. This means that each year it becomes more difficult to maintain the same number of miles of roads.

To help manage the upkeep of our roads, 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 attached bar graph shows the overall status of our roadways as of January 2025.



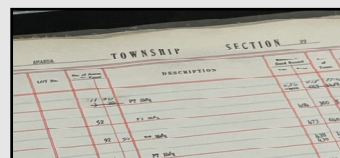
townships. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Jobs and Commerce (through the Allen County Transportation Improvement District) awarded Allen County a \$280,080 grant for the milling and paving of Lincoln Highway between Lehman Road east of US 30 to German Road (0.87 miles). Last May, ODOT awarded a \$2,353,500 federal safety grant for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Ft. Amanda Road and Buckeye Road. Construction is scheduled for 2027.



SNOW & ICE

During the 2024/25 season, most of our weather events took place on weekends, holidays and during busy travel times. Our crews worked diligently to keep the roadways safe in Allen County. We had our full crews out 28 separate times and skeleton crews went out 10 different times. All totaled, we spent \$334,085 on Salt/Grit/Fuel/Overtime, which is well above the 10 year average of \$285,136.

TAX MAP DEPARTMENT



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

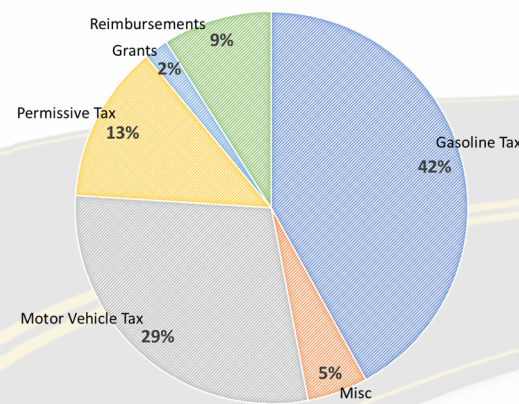
In 2024, the Tax Map Office processed 389 parcel splits and combinations keeping the Tax Maps current for use by the Auditor, realtors and the citizens of Allen County. They also processed 261 survey/plat reviews and 6,029 deed reviews in accordance to the County Conveyance Standards.

For Deed and Survey information, please visit the Allen County Engineer's website or call the Tax Map Office at 419-228-3700 x8746.

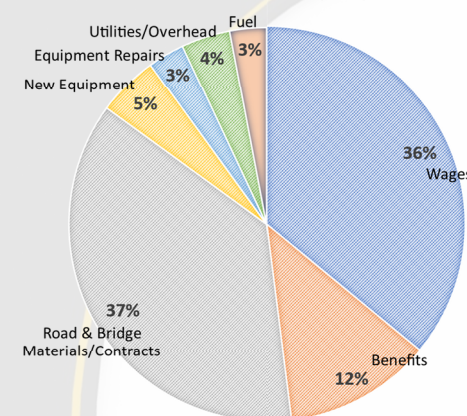
2024 Financials

2024 REVENUE \$9,188,039

**Typical Annual Revenue = \$7.8m
(Excludes Reimbursements)*



2024 EXPENDITURES \$8,048,605.87



In 2024, we received \$152,043 in Federal Grants, \$645,934 in State Grants and \$136,608 in OPWC Grants. These were paid directly to contractors/consultants, amounts are not included in the revenue and expenditures referenced above.

BRIDGE & CULVERT DEPARTMENTS

The Allen County Engineer's Office is responsible for the maintenance, inspection, construction, and/or rehabilitation of 371 bridges in the County along with thousands of culverts. In 2024, the County replaced 1 bridge with a box culvert and completed 3 major rehabilitation projects.

Each year, our annual inspection process reveals various maintenance issues that need to be addressed. As an example, in 2024 we repaired four bridges, including the Fort Amanda Road Bridge over the Little Ottawa River, by encasing the steel pier columns with concrete. Other maintenance issues included minor work like tree trimming, adding rock channel protection for erosion control and low strength mortar to scour prone areas.

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

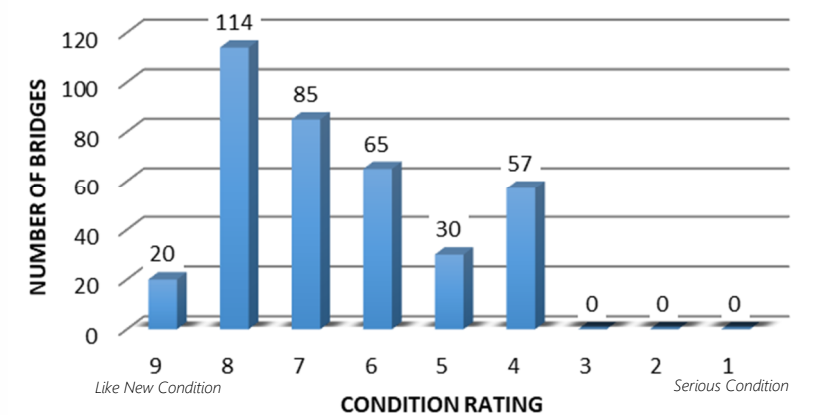
REPLACED IN 2024

- Phillips Road – Auglaize Twp.

REHABED IN 2024

- Shaffer Road – Amanda Twp.
- Robinson Road – Marion Twp.
- Olt Road – Monroe Twp.

2024 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF BRIDGES



PHILLIPS ROAD BRIDGE –AUG-229-0.15

In 2023, ODOT and the Village of West Minster undertook a streetscape project along State Route 117 which closed down the highway through West Minster for (8) months. As a result of the road closure, cars and heavy truck traffic chose to detour along Phillips Road and over an existing 70 year old steel beam structure in Auglaize Township just north of State Route 117. Given the already deteriorated state of the bridge and the increase in traffic, it was decided this structure needed to be replaced. The bridge was completely removed and replaced with a reinforced concrete box culvert structure by Allen County Forces. The total cost of the project was \$138,986.19 and paid for using the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Tax fund. Construction lasted approximately 2 months and finished toward the end of August.



SHAFFER ROAD - AMA-113-0.24, OLT ROAD - MON-178-1.74 & ROBINSON ROAD - MAR-057-0.91

Shaffer, Robinson, and Olt Roads were rehabilitated by removing the existing steel beam superstructure and replacing them with a reinforced concrete slab. On each project, the County was able to save and reuse the existing concrete abutments and build the new concrete slab on top. R.G. Zachrich Construction was hired to help with the forming, pouring and finishing work for each bridge while County forces removed the old superstructure, installed the new reinforcing steel in the slab, constructed new steel guardrail, and paved new approaches. The total cost of each structure was \$126,886.18 (Shaffer), \$135,143.18 (Robinson), and \$104,023.56 (Olt). All projects were funded using the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Tax fund.

DRAINAGE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Drainage Engineering Department operates as both the reviewing agency for developments (commercial, industrial, and residential) and fulfills the responsibility as the drainage consultant for the County. The Drainage Department is also responsible for all Allen County petitioned drainage improvements.

Funds generated from parcel owners within petitioned drainage project watersheds finance the engineering, administration, construction and maintenance of petitioned drainage projects throughout the County. For over a hundred years, rural and urban drainage projects have benefited agricultural activities and have made the County's soils more suitable for homes, roads and businesses. Ohio Revised Code, sections 6131, 6133, and 6137 outline the petition process, and since 1957, all projects constructed through petition are placed on permanent maintenance once construction is completed.

Currently, the Drainage Department maintains 259 miles of open ditches, 65 miles of agricultural and residential conduits, 22 miles of waterways, 21 detention ponds, and 3 wetlands. We are continually striving to provide the most pro-active and cost-effective maintenance possible. The important work of preserving and maintaining drainage systems to benefit private property and public roads is never ending.

Petitioned ditch projects are always in process, so there are a number of them at various stages of completion. During 2024, in American and Bath Townships, the long awaited Baughman Wetland Project #1198 concluded. The wetlands contract was completed in 2023 and the tile contract work was completed in July of 2024. This highly visible project received over \$1.4 million through a grant from H2Ohio, and over \$1.3 million in a grant from the Grant Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). These combined Baughman Drainage projects will bring relief to the area, slow down water, reduce flooding, and improve water quality. In American Township, the Stevick Road Drainage Improvement #1348 was constructed privately saving the watershed several thousands of dollars. It was then put on County Maintenance to ensure the improvement will continue to function as designed.

In 2025, the Drainage Department anticipates to construct Indianbrook-Wildbrook Estates Improvements #1322, Dutch Hollow Drainage Improvements #1344, and three, if not four Two-Stage Ditch projects. The Two-Stage Ditch projects are all funded by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), through the H2Ohio grant program.

As the compliance coordinator of the OEPA's Phase II Stormwater Regulations, the Drainage Department also oversees the Stormwater Management & Sediment Control Regulations (SMSCR). The SMSCR is mandated by Ohio EPA, and is a self-supporting entity by the use of permit fees. In 2024, 15 permits were issued for private developments at a cost of \$26,000, which helped fund the program.

If you would like additional information, contact the Allen County Engineers Office, Drainage Department, phone (419) 996-7130, or visit our website.



TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

The Allen County Engineers Traffic Maintenance Department has a vital role in keeping the roadways safe in Allen County. The Traffic Department spends the majority of 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 is responsible for maintaining 16 traffic lights, one signal flasher and over 5,300 traffic signs. Annually, all traffic lights and traffic cabinets are cleaned and inspected to maintain proper working order.

In 2024, during the Sugar Street Roadway Improvement Project, we were able to upgrade 2 traffic lights. The traffic lights at Bluelick Road / Sugar Street and Bible Road / Sugar Street intersections had the traffic heads upgraded with reflective back plates and added video detection.



5,005 Gallons - Yellow Center Line

County Roads—175 Miles
Township Roads—75 Miles
Village Roads—13 Miles

770 Gallons - White Edge Line

County Roads—46 Lane Miles
Township Roads—15 Lane Miles

