



The Orange Brigade



Winter 2023

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 62

Coleman's Comments



The one-half percent sales tax for roads, bridges, and Sheriff generated \$4,183,319.50 in 2022. These funds are collected and divided among county engineer (\$1,735,612.79), county sheriff (\$356,046.98), townships (20%, \$836,663.87), municipalities (20%, \$836,663.87), and land use and economic development (10%, \$418,331.99). Sales tax revenue increased by 2 percent from 2021.

By combining sales tax with motor vehicle fuel tax, vehicle registration fees, and federal and state grant funds, we were able to complete several construction projects in 2022. County road resurfacing totaled \$1,637,617.03, and rejuvenating sealer came in at \$154,313.25. Township resurfacing was \$1,988,817.56 (funded by Ohio Public Works Commission, sales tax, and township funds), and township chip-sealing totaled \$313,676.31. Federal aid pavement markings totaled \$216,525.85 (federal and local funds). Federal and local funds were used, totaling \$39,560.00 for the county guardrail study contract.

County road chip sealing cost \$926,106.45, and fog sealing was \$55,322.66 this year. These projects would not have been possible without the sales tax for roads and bridges. Thank you for supporting this program.

The new motor vehicle fuel user fee increase of 10.5 cents per gallon on gasoline, 19 cents per gallon on diesel, \$200 registration fee for electric vehicles, and \$100 registration fee for hybrid vehicles began collection in July of 2019. In 2022, we received \$3,700,502.64 from motor fuel tax. This is approximately \$1.3 million more than we received in 2018, which is still less than the projected increase of \$1.5 million.

In 2022, we contracted for the construction of Shape Ditch through the petition ditch process. This project will be finalized in the early summer of 2023 at a projected cost of \$ 352,615.70. A petition for the upgrade of Cherry Lane in Indian Lake Shores Allotment No. 1 in Richland Township was received. We will submit the Engineer's Report to the County Commissioners in January of 2023 for a final hearing to be scheduled.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.
Logan County Engineer



New Hires, Milestones and Promotions

*By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist*



Anniversaries

Congratulations to Bryan Levan and Todd Wise for 10 years, Mark Dearwester for 20 years, and Mark Hilty for 25 years of service! You have set an exemplary standard for all of us with your work ethic and your dedication. Thank you for everything you have done for us all these years!

Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to Mark Dearwester and T.J. Yoder for having outstanding attendance during 2022.

Employee of the Quarter

We are very pleased to announce that Trent Helmlinger, Highway Technician I, has been selected for the Employee of the Quarter award for Q4 of 2022.

Promotions and Re-classifications

In October, David Kirkpatrick was re-classified from a Highway Technician I to a Bridge Technician I and Christopher Loudermilk from a Highway Technician I to a Ditch Technician I. Congratulations on successfully transitioning to new positions!

New Hires

This past fall, several new employees joined the LCEO team full-time. In September, Troy Miller was hired as a Highway Technician I Trainee. In November, Lester Blosser was hired as a Survey Technician I. Benjamin Willoby and Elverton Hyland joined the team in July 2022 as seasonal employees but converted to full-time in September 2022.

Milestones

In September, Kyle Rumer obtained his Class A CDL; in October, David Kirkpatrick acquired his Class A CDL. Congratulations!

Access Management Regulations

*By Todd Bumgardner
Administrative Coordinator*

2023 marks the sixth year of Access Management Regulations for Logan County. In general terms, access management is the structured regulation of traffic to and from roadways to minimize disruption to the intended function and conflicts with traffic movement.

Implementation of these regulations accomplished:

- Improved public safety by reducing accidents
- Preserves the useful life of the highway system by maintaining highway capacity
- Facilitates the movement of people and goods by reducing travel delays and congestion
- Supports orderly economic development by providing appropriate access to property consistent with the operation and safety of the highway
- Minimizes transportation costs by making highways more efficient
- Encourages closer cooperation between state and local governments in land use and transportation decisions
- If you plan to install an access drive to the county or township right of way, our office can help you through the process. Contact The Logan County Engineer's Office for additional information.

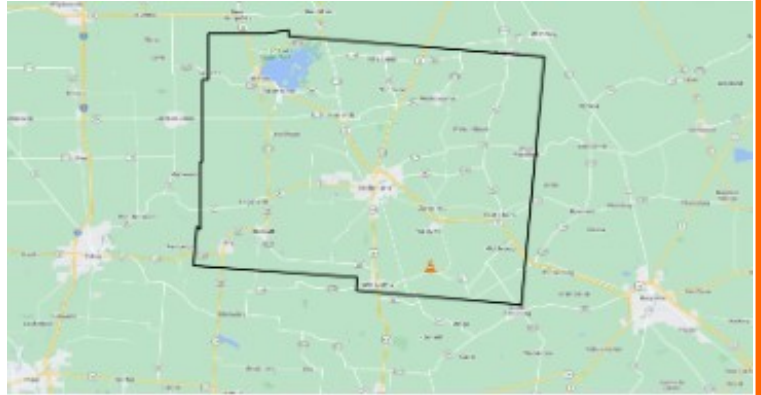


Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping Updates

*By: Michael J. Kerns, P.E.
Assistant Engineer*

The Engineer's Office is pleased to announce that within the past year our staff has developed two major GIS mapping updates that include a major update to the Logan County GIS map and a new interactive, GIS-based map that displays construction updates.

GIS is a computer-based data-collection system that is used to locate, manage, store, and analyze information that identifies the location and characteristics of the features surrounding us. In short, once the GIS information for a particular piece of data is located, gathered, and placed online, a user can see that data on an online map.



Construction Updates

The Logan County Engineer and the Logan County Auditor worked jointly to prepare the current model of the Logan County GIS map and will continue to work together to maintain and update the Logan County GIS map.

The Logan County GIS map allows a user to quickly view parcel information, topography, soil type, historical aerial images, various boundaries (i.e., townships and school districts), and other data. This GIS map is located at this link: <https://realestate.co.logan.oh.us/> Once on the website, use the layers tab in the top right corner to filter thru the data you want to review. The top left corner of the GIS map has useful tools, such as a measurement tool to roughly measure distance and area. Please note that the information on this map is used by Logan County to locate, identify, and inventory parcels of land for reference purposes only. This information may not be suitable for legal, engineering, surveying purposes, or determining property boundary lines and should not be used as a legal description or survey.

In addition to the Logan County GIS map update, construction updates can now be viewed on an interactive map by going to our website and clicking on 'Construction Updates'. The construction cone symbols show where projects are happening and if you click on a construction cone symbol, you'll see details on the type of work that is being performed at that location, the estimated project length, and an option to click on a link that includes the entire press release associated with said project. It's our hope this interactive map provides a quick way for roadway users to check and see if any of our construction projects will impact you. Please understand that all of our projects are weather-dependent, and issues could arise during each project that extends the project's duration and thus extends the length that the roadway is closed or restricted.

A huge thank you to Jonathan Parthemore, our Engineering and Map Room Assistant, for the hard work he has put in to make a majority of the above updates possible.

Highway Update

*By Dan McMillen
Highway Superintendent*

With the changing seasons, so goes the highway department. After chipseal season, we replaced aged and deteriorated culverts ahead of the 2023 road-preserving program. We replaced culverts on County Roads 120, 277, and 35. Due to County Road 35 being a heavily traveled road with semi-traffic, we widened 2.5 miles of this road in Pleasant Township between State Route 47 and State Route 235. We took the road from 20.5' to 21.9' wide. We laid 490 tons of type 2 base asphalt in the berm 8" deep to 16"-18" wide the same day the berm was removed. Then we hauled approximately 1,500 tons of earth dirt to back up the new asphalt on the newly widened side. This road also had an old culvert replaced when we crack sealed after the widening was complete. We used 11,800 lbs. of rubberized crack fill. The road crew also widened a half mile of County Road 106 north of Belle Center in Richland Township, which also sees heavy semi-traffic use. Again, we used 169 tons of type 2 base asphalt. This road is now 20'9" wide.



Bridge Crew Update

*By: Elliott Fullerton
Bridge Superintendent*



This fall, the bridge crew installed eight culverts on county roads that are on the 2023 pavement preservation paving schedule. Putting the culverts in this fall gives them time to settle and makes for a more smooth ride after being paved over.

We stripped the asphalt-wearing surface of Bridge TR 131-0.72 and Bridge TR 99-0.87 and re-waterproofed them. After removing the old wearing surface, we spread a hot liquid rubberized material across the concrete bridge beams. Then, we used an asphalt-based nylon material to roll over the rubberized material while it was still hot to create a bond. Next, the stainless steel drip edge is put down, and all seams are covered with rubberized tar before a new asphalt-wearing surface is applied. Sealing out the rain and salt water from the concrete beams will prolong the life of the bridges we have in the county.

We continue with general maintenance of bridges, cutting trees growing under the bridges, blowing grass and stone off the bridge abutments, and putting dump rock in washouts or bank sides. We cleaned a set of double boxes on County Road 152 using our Bobcat skid loader while the Link Belt trackhoe removed the material from the inlet and outlet and put it back along the banks from which it came. The stream was straightened and lined with dump rock to prevent the material from falling back into the stream, causing other alignment issues.



 **Ice and Snow ...
Take it Slow**
Don't crowd the plow.



Safety Update

By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist

Our crews had one reportable injury since the 2022 summer Orange Brigade, but we are thankful that the employee was able to return to normal daily activities within a very short time. We are reminded daily that heavy highway work is a hazardous profession. Our work crews often work under live traffic coordinating multiple pieces of complex machines and equipment. We have to constantly be aware of our surroundings and ensure that worksites are maintained accordingly and free from any potential hazard that could cause injury.

Cold Weather Tips

- Dress in layers, with a wind resistant outer layer
- When it is cold, wear a hat, mittens or insulated gloves, scarf, neck tube or face mask
- Wear warm and waterproof footwear
- When it is very cold, or when the wind chill is significant, cover as much exposed skin as possible
- Your body's extremities, such as the ears, nose, fingers and toes lose heat the fastest
- Know frostbite signs: numbness, flushed, gray, white blue or yellow skin discoloration.
- Frostbite could occur in less than 30 minutes if proper precautions are not taken.
- Know hypothermia symptoms: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion, and severe shivering.



Deer Crossing Tips

- Deer are most active between sunset and midnight, and during pre-dawn hours.
- October-January is migration and mating season for deer.
- When you see a deer, there are likely others nearby.
- Keep your brights on when there is no on-coming traffic.
- Honk your horn if you see a frozen deer in headlights.
- Brake and stay in your lane if you can't avoid a deer.
- If you see a deer-crossing sign, slow down. The locations of the deer signs on Logan County roads have been determined by analyzing deer collision data. Please be extra careful and attentive if you see a deer sign as it signals that you are entering one of the highest deer collision segments on our county roads.

2023 Holiday Closure Notice

Date	Holiday	Date Observed
1/1/2023	New Year's Day	Mon. 1/2/2023
1/16/2023	Martin Luther King Day	Mon. 1/16/2023
2/20/2023	President's Day	Mon. 2/20/2023
5/29/2023	Memorial Day	Mon. 05/29/2023
6/19/2023	Juneteenth	Mon. 6/19/2023
7/4/2023	Independence Day	Tue. 7/4/2023
9/4/2023	Labor Day	Mon. 9/4/2023
11/11/2023	Veterans Day	Fri. 11/10/2023
11/23/2023	Thanksgiving Day	Thu. 11/23/2023
11/24/2023	Day after Thanksgiving	Fri. 11/24/2023
12/25/2023	Christmas Day	Mon. 12/25/2023



Ditch Maintenance & Traffic Department

*By Steve Tracey
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent*

The Ditch Department finished up a busy 2022 season. All ditches were mowed twice and sprayed. Our boom mower ran all season long, cutting behind guardrails for sight distance issues, and was used to mow around all the bridges in the county. It was also used to finish yearly mowing for Union Township in certain areas they couldn't get to with standard equipment. The Ditch Crew removed two beaver dams on the Cummins Ditch and repaired twenty feet of 8" tile on the Fun Place Ditch. We pushed a lot of spoils out from a center dip, disced them up, and removed numerous downed trees on the Houchin-Slough Ditch. We also removed a very large tree out of the South Fork of the Miami River that had fallen into the ditch.

The Traffic Department had a busy summer as well. They finished centerline and edge line pavement markings and painted the school and railroad crossings on county roads. They completed the yearly nighttime inspection, checking reflectivity to meet standards and damaged signs. They finished upgrading all of Richland Township signs to make them meet standards. Currently, they are striping the tailgates of our fleet pick-up trucks with reflective tape to help them stand out and be more visible while on our highway system.

Fleet Maintenance

*By: Mark Hilty
General Superintendent*



We have had another year of difficulty securing new vehicles due to low inventory, parts shortages, and soaring costs. We have had an International dump truck on order from April 2020 that is yet to be built. It is now scheduled for build in January of 2023. We are in line for two more dump trucks that we hope to get by 2025. In the meantime, we are taking steps to keep what we have up and running. We are doing repairs that in the past would have sent older vehicles to the auction block. Transmission rebuilds and engine swaps are just a couple of examples. We have tagged five vehicles to do some in-house bodywork and painting this winter. These vehicles are around ten years old and started to rust out in spots, victims of Ohio

winters. This brings me to our aggressive undercoating program. Back when it began, we were using a subcontractor and spraying eight dump trucks and our main front end loader. Now we are doing all undercoating in-house. This year we sprayed 51 trucks and miscellaneous equipment. Thanks to everyone involved with washing and prepping trucks and equipment and the guys that did the spraying. Great job! Let's keep pulling those dipsticks, doing our pre-trips, and keeping these older units serving the public.



Map Room

By Suzie Cochran
Map Room Supervisor



In 2022, the Map Room Staff checked legal descriptions on 2,863 real estate documents. There were 2,071 deeds, 633 Affidavits, 100 Certificates of Transfer, 27 easements, and 25 land contracts. Additionally, two condominium plats, 7 Declarations, and two road extension dedications were filed & recorded. New property splits totaled 151 for the year, with 75 new survey descriptions recorded along with 48 documents combining properties into one Tax Parcel Number.

Surveyors submitted 261 new surveys that we reviewed, approved, indexed, scanned, and filed. In addition, 106 house numbers were entered into the 911 system and 1,064 parcels were adjusted on the maps to reflect the new property splits and surveys.

In addition to providing monthly updates to the Engineer's Office, the Map Room sends updates to the Auditor's Office, Sherriff's Department, OUPS, State of Ohio GIS support, Health Department, Logan County Farm Services, Bellefontaine City Code Enforcement, Logan County Sewer District and Pictometry.

The records of the Map Room are on the Logan County Engineer's Office website at: www.lceo.us.



The Annex Building recently enhanced building security. To accommodate the fobbing & locking of the front hall office doors in the Annex Building, the Map Room needed renovations to enable continued daily operations.

The staff diligently worked stripping and scraping the nearly 20-year-old wallpaper to accommodate a new layout. The Map Room staff teamed up with Kenny & Terry of the Logan County Maintenance crew to coordinate efforts in making the renovation possible. The newly stripped walls were prepped and painted by the Map Room staff before moving the numerous heavy cabinets and wall racks to their new locations. The larger office equipment was moved and painted in intervals over three weeks to allow the Maintenance team to cut and frame a window opening to accommodate a new front counter location. The Map Room maintained daily duties and provided uninterrupted service to the public as the office was in disarray.

Additionally, the Logan County Highway Department members picked up and transported unneeded office equipment and brought in items to help make the new layout possible. The Auditor's Office provided two updated computers and a monitor to serve both the public and the surveyors, completing the needs of the Map Room to operate efficiently.



The Map Room Staff is grateful and appreciative of everyone's contribution to completing the renovation.

Safe Winter Driving Reminders and Tips

- Before driving, clear ice and snow from all windows, headlights, and taillights. Clear snow that may be on the hood and roof.
- Know the current road conditions.
- Turn on your lights to see and be seen.
- Buckle up/phone down.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement. Don't try to outride the road conditions.
- Look further ahead in traffic than you usually do. Actions by cars and trucks may alert you quicker to problems and give you extra time to react safely.
- Use brakes carefully. Brake early. Brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- Bridge decks freeze first. Due to different air exposure, the surface condition can be worse on a bridge than on an approach road.
- Exit ramps may receive less anti-icing material than the main road. Be careful when exiting the highway.
- Turn off your cruise control. Roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots, and the slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Don't get overconfident in your 4WD vehicle. 4WD helps get you moving in the snow but does not help you to stop or improve handling on slick ice and snow-covered roads. A slippery surface requires more stopping distance regardless of the type of vehicle you're driving.
- Remember that snow plows are huge heavy vehicles that travel around 25 MPH. They have many blind spots and cannot maneuver easily or stop quickly. The plow blade extends several feet ahead of the truck.
- The road in front of the plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind the plow.
- During plowing operations, visibility can be reduced by blowing snow, and plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles.
- Keeping a safe distance between your vehicle and the plow is essential to prevent and avoid accidents.
- When you see an approaching snow plow on an undivided roadway, move as far away from the center line as you safely can, as blowing snow may obscure the actual width of the snow-plow's blade.
- Winter driving requires motorists to be careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is: **SLOW DOWN!**

