

The Orange Brigade



Summer 2024

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 65

Colemans's Comments



Overall, we experienced a relatively mild winter season. We had 625 regular time hours and 772 overtime hours this season in snow and ice control. Totals costs included labor at \$52,627.99, equipment at \$45,028.63, and materials at \$140,310.22 for a grand total of \$237,966.84.

On March 14, 2024, a devastating tornado ripped through the Indian Lake area. We thank the many volunteers that came together to help our community. The Logan County Engineer's Office (LCEO) worked closely with the Logan County Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA), Logan County Solid Waste District, Auglaize County Engineer's Office (ACEO), Hardin County Engineer's Office (HCEO), Shelby County Engineer's Office (SCEO), U.S. Air Force National Guard, and the Ohio Department of Transportation to help clean-up debris from the disaster. We also want to thank the many surrounding county engineers who offered their assistance.

The LCEO total costs for clean-up were \$83,483.86 and we have applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement of \$68,379.49 of equipment costs. The County Commissioners and County Auditor established a tornada clean-up fund and paid for the LCEO overtime hours of \$2,501.93, ACEO expenses of \$12,921.68, HCEO expenses of \$18,341.74, and SCEO expenses of \$3,935.87.

Our office will continue to work with the LCEMA, Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission, and other local agencies in planning the recovery efforts of the area. So far this summer, we have completed our County Chip Sealing Project. Over the next few months, we will complete the Township Chip Sealing contract, Township Sales Tax Resurfacing Project, County Resurfacing contract, County Road 18 Profile Improvement contract, County and Township fog sealing, Township Road 209 bridge replacement, and County Pavement Marking contract. We thank you for your patience during these construction projects.

Sincerely,

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



New Hires, Milestones and Promotions



*By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist*

New Hires

Welcome Aboard Our Newest Highway Worker Trainees!

In March, we welcomed **Terry Bricker**, **Matthew Phelps**, and **Ethan Pope** to the team as Highway Worker Trainee 1s. In April, **Thomas Drake** joined the crew, and in May, **Joshua McCrum** rounded out the group. We're excited to welcome them aboard.

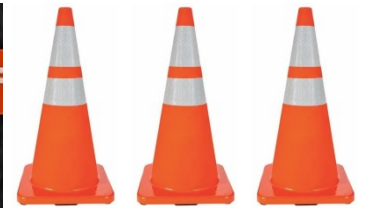
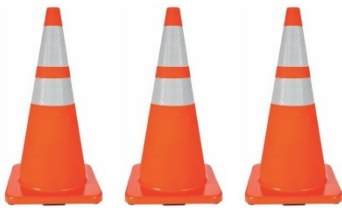
Employee of the Quarter

Our quarter 1 employe of the quarter was David Kirkpatrick. He was nominated by his peers for going above and beyond the normal scout of work. Congratulations!

We're excited to announce David Kirkpatrick as our Employee of the Quarter for Q1! David was nominated by his peers for going above and beyond the normal scope of work. His dedication and hard work are truly appreciated by everyone here. Congratulations, David!

Milestones

Terry Bricker, **Matthew Phelps**, and **Ethan Pope** have all obtained their Class B CDL licenses! This qualification opens doors to new opportunities within our operations. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication!



Safety Update

*By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist*

As of our monthly safety meeting in June, our employees have completed 367 days without a lost-time accident. This achievement is a direct result of our ongoing commitment to safety and everyone's vigilance. Through monthly meetings, we've covered topics like chainsaw safety, chipper operation, proper flagging procedures, and heat illness prevention. But our commitment goes beyond meetings. Our superintendents, senior employees, and crew leads conduct daily work site and equipment trainings, ensuring everyone has the knowledge and skills to stay safe on the job.

We're particularly proud that despite having fourteen new employees with less than a year of experience, they've seamlessly integrated into our safety-first culture. This reflects the dedication of our entire team to creating a safe work environment for everyone.

Let's keep up the excellent work! Remember, safety is always our top priority.

Member Spotlight

Q—What work achievements are you most proud of?

A—My vast knowledge of equipment and operations and most recently my promotion to Assistant Superintendent.

Q—Any tips or advice for new members?

A—Give it time. Things change everyday.

Q—What's your favorite way to spend your weekends off?

A— Spending time with family and friends. Fishing and farming.

Q—What's one item you can't live without?

A—Chewing tobacco and food.

Q—What's your go-to comfort food?

A—Roast with mashed potatoes and gravy.

Q—Do you have any unique family traditions?

A—Were just normal.

Q—If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?

A—Hawaii.

Q—What was the last tv show you binge watched?

A—Yellowstone.



John Spencer
Assistant Superintendent
25 years of service

Q—What excites you most about your new role?

A—Getting to work outside.

Q—How do you see yourself developing in your role?

A—Learning equipment, processes and working my way up the chain.

Q—What would you like to learn in the future?

A—More complex equipment like the gradall and big hoe.

Q—What's your favorite way to spend your weekends off?

A—Watching my son play hockey. He plays center.

Q—What's one item you can't live without?

A—Pocket knife.

Q—What's your go-to comfort food?

A—Any kind of pizza.

Q—Do you have any unique family traditions?

A—We don't have any.

Q—If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?

A—Out west like Montana to see the mountains and hunt.

Q—What was the last tv show you binge watched?

A—I don't watch a lot of tv.



Jesse Strayer
Highway Worker Trainee 1
1 year of service

Update on Bid Projects

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

The Logan County Engineer's Office (LCEO) has a very busy construction season scheduled and here is a brief update, as of June 10, on the bid projects that have been awarded:

2024 County and Township Paving Projects

The Shelly Company was the lone bid for the 2024 County Paving Project and they were awarded the bid for \$1,753,719.00. To date, The Shelly Company has completed a majority of the 2024 County Paving Project. Contractor Pavement Technology will apply Reclamite asphalt rejuvenator on these newly resurfaced roads.

The Shelly Company was also the lone bid for the 2024 Township Paving Project and was awarded the bid for \$560,537.40. To date, The Shelly Company has completed a majority of the 2024 Township Paving Project.

PID 115979 - LOG CR 18 Profile Improvements

J & J Schlaegel, Inc. was one of three bidders for this project and they were awarded the bid with a bid amount of \$167,228.25. They are planning on beginning this project as soon as the end of August and construction will likely take around three weeks.

PID 114412 - 2024 Logan County Federal Aid Resurfacing Project

The Shelly Company was the lone bid for this project and they were awarded the bid for \$1,956,098.90. We have not yet had the preconstruction meeting so we don't know when they are planning on beginning this project but the work is scheduled to be completed by May 4, 2025.

PID 114411 - 2024 Logan County - Pavement Markings

The Aero-Mark Company LLC was one of three bidders for this project and they were awarded the bid with a bid amount of \$179,163.00. They are planning on beginning this project near the end of July or near the beginning of August and the work is scheduled to be completed by October 18, 2024.

2024 Township Chip Seal Program

Ray Hensley, Inc., was one of four bidders for this project and they were awarded the bid with a bid amount of \$472,667.54. They are planning on beginning this project in June and the entire program is scheduled to be finished by September 21, 2024.

PID 117601 - LOG BRIDGE TR 209-00.18 Replacement

This bid was for supplying and placing precast concrete beams for Bridge Township Road 209-0.18, which was damaged beyond repair as a result of a tree falling on it during a storm event in June of 2022. R & I Construction, Inc., one of three bidders for this project, was awarded the bid with a bid amount of \$147,115.00. We have not yet had the preconstruction meeting so we don't know when they are planning on beginning this project but the beams are scheduled to be installed no later than October 31, 2024. After the beams are placed, LCEO forces will pour a cast-in-place concrete deck, perform minor roadwork, and perform any other required site work.

Bridge Crew Update

*By Elliott Fullerton
Bridge Superintendent*

In the wake of the devastating EF3 tornado that struck the Indian Lake region in March, our bridge crew played a vital role in the cleanup efforts. Beginning on March 19th, they joined forces with road and ditch crews, the National Guard, Townships, ODOT, surrounding Engineer Office personnel, and countless volunteers. Together, they cleared debris in Lakeview, Russells Point, Orchard Island, Midway, Dunns Pond, and Tracy Farm Addition. Excavators of all sizes loaded debris, including tree limbs and building materials, into dump trucks. Some trucks hauled debris directly to the landfill, while others transported tree debris to the helipad in Russells Point and building materials to the Lakeview ball diamonds. Cleanup efforts continued through the last week of May. Despite the widespread destruction, the combined efforts of our crew and partner organizations fostered a strong sense of community as we worked together to cleanup.

When not assisting with tornado cleanup, the crew tackled essential bridge maintenance tasks. They replaced washed-away channel protection, such as dump rock, removed dead and uprooted trees and debris from under bridges, and cleaned bridge decks of winter salt and grit residue. This proactive maintenance extends the lifespan of our bridges and ensures safe passage for motorists.

Highway Crew Update

*By Dan McMillen
Highway Superintendent*

Our highway crew has been busy preparing for a summer of road improvements and projects across the county. They've replaced 11 culverts, put down over 45,000 lbs. of crack seal, capped culverts with asphalt and cut berms on 79 miles of the county road system. They also replaced culverts in Perry and Jefferson township and widened township road 251 for Richland Township.

This summer, with the help from the ditch and bridge crew, they'll be chip-sealing 31 miles of county roads. Chip-sealing is designed for low volume roadways to provide a new wearing course, eliminate raveling, retard oxidation, reduce the intrusion of water and improve surface friction for stopping. Deterioration of cracks in the asphalt is slowed to allow less water to permeate into the base that will create failures such as potholes. Chip-sealing is a cost-effective way to extend the lifespan of our roads, and saves the taxpayers money.



The highway crew is dedicated to keeping our roads in top shape. While there may be some temporary road closures during construction, please be patient as they work to improve our infrastructure.

Ditch Maintenance and Traffic Department Update

*By Steve Tracey
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent*

The Ditch Department has had a productive spring, focusing on several key initiatives in preparation for the mowing and spraying season. With our mechanics help, we ensured all equipment was operational and ready for seasonal tasks. We provided vital support in debris removal from the Houchin-Slough ditch following the Indian Lake tornado. We assisted with debris pile management at the Lakeview debris site utilizing our newly acquired pre-owned dozer. We completed center dips in the Stewart, E.B. Fry, and Dutch ditches to enhance drainage functionality. We installed reflective posts on the Mouser, Green, Stewart, and E.B. Fry ditches to improve tile outlet location and maintenance efficiency.

The Ditch Department is currently focused on performing roadside and maintenance ditch mowing, along with herbicide application. Utilizing our new Alamo Machete Boom Axe mower for brush control along guard-rails, bridges, and areas with limited sight distance throughout the county.

The Sign Department has been diligently working to ensure proper signage on county roads. They have installed "Fresh Tar Loose Stone" signs along county roads scheduled for new pavement and chip-seal projects. Following pavement and chip-seal completion, "Unmarked No Passing" signs will be installed until the Centerline Striping program is completed in the fall. In collaboration with townships and villages, the Sign Department replaced bent, broken, or vandalized signs. The Sign Department maintains a comprehensive inventory of over 7,000 signs throughout the county.

Map Room Update

*By Suzie Cochran
Map Room Supervisor*

The Logan County Map Room maintains a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) web map. This interactive resource is updated weekly to reflect the latest changes in property data, including new property splits, surveys, Tax ID Parcel Number (PIN) associations, addresses, and survey links.

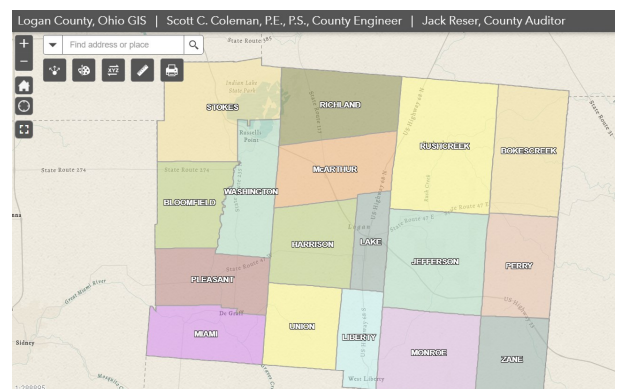
Beyond property information, the map features a variety of thematic layers that can be viewed and printed on demand. These layers encompass subdivisions, contours, watersheds, voting precincts, school districts, and the most recently revised FEMA Flood Plain maps

In addition to maintaining the GIS web map, the Map Room staff plays a critical role in ensuring the accuracy of land records. They review legal descriptions for all new deeds, subdivisions, condominiums, and other instruments of conveyance prior to document recording. This review process verifies compliance with County Conveyance Standards and closure requirements for new legal descriptions and survey plats submitted by surveyors. All approved surveys are subsequently archived within the permanent office records, which extend back to the mid-1800s, contributing to a valuable historical resource.

The County GIS webpage can be found under the Map tab at <https://realestate.co.logan.oh.us/>

The Map Room records can be found at under the LCEO MAPROOM tab at <https://www.lceo.us/>

The Map Room can be reached at 937-599-7230 or at map-room@logancountyohio.gov



Equipment Acquisitions

By Mark Hilty
General Superintendent

To optimize resource allocation and address pressing needs, we have acquired a mix of new and pre-owned equipment. While the global supply chain remains impacted by the pandemic, equipment ordered in 2022-23 is starting to arrive. We are still experiencing delays in parts and builds, sometimes for months at a time.

The following equipment was either ordered or delivered in 2024:

- **2024 Freightliner Tandem Axle Plow Truck:** Replaces a 2009 International tandem axle plow truck.
- **2024 Freightliner Single Axle Plow Truck:** Replaces a 2010 International single axle plow truck.
- **2024 Dorsey Lowboy Trailer:** Replaces an aging 1996 Dynaweld lowboy trailer.
- **2024 Ford F550:** Replaces a 1992 Ford F350.
- **2024 Alamo Boom Mower:** Replaces a 2014 Alamo boom mower.
- **2015 John Deere 550K Bulldozer:** Replaces a 1990 Case 850D model.



2024 Freightliner



2024 Lowboy Trailer

We express our sincere gratitude to the general public for their continued support. Their support makes it possible to make these purchases to help us maintain and improve our road and bridge infrastructure.



2024 Ford F550



2015 Bulldozer



2015 Boom Mower

New Equipment

Traveling Safely Through Work Zones



Traveling safely, slowly, and attentively through work zones is critically important. Do your part to stay safe with tips from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Our Roads, Our Safety campaign:

RESEARCH YOUR ROUTE Before setting out on the road, research your route. When possible, avoid work zones and use any detours that are available.

PAY ATTENTION Be aware of all signs throughout work zones that can indicate reduced speeds, lane changes, and other important information. Avoid distractions such as your cellphone, eating, drinking, the radio, GPS, and conversing with other passengers.

SLOW DOWN Lane closures, traffic pattern shifts, and reduced speeds are common in work zones. Make sure to slow down when entering a work zone and keep an eye out for road workers

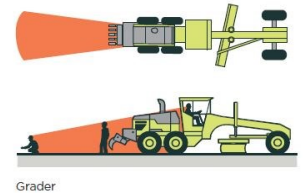
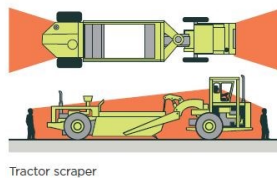
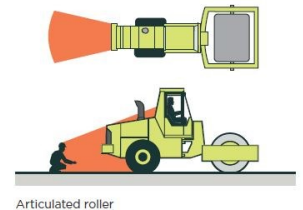
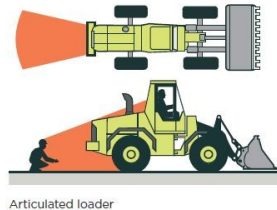
MOVE INTO THE OPEN LANE When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible. Be sure to pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot, and ensure you're not traveling in someone else's.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones. Always maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you.

Ensuring Safety Around Equipment

This guide outlines essential safety practices to minimize risks when working near operating equipment.

1. Avoid entering designated equipment operating areas.
2. When working near moving, swinging, or equipment with pinch points:
 - Obey all posted signage and barricades in the work area, staying outside established danger zones.
 - Be aware of the equipment's full range of motion, including its swing radius.
3. Never enter an equipment operation area unannounced. Approach operating equipment only after directly communicating with the operator via:
 - Radio communication for clear and concise communication.
 - Universally recognized hand signals to communicate your intentions. Wait for the operator to acknowledge and respond to your signal before proceeding.
 - Never assume the operator sees you. Make direct eye contact whenever possible.
4. Be aware of equipment blind spots where operators may not be able to see workers on foot.
5. Respond promptly to all audible backup alarms.
6. Utilize Spotters to warn operators about nearby workers and potential hazards
7. Continuously scan your surroundings for potential hazards and listen for warnings from operators or other personnel.
8. Minimize distractions while working near equipment to maintain focus and situational awareness.



By following these safety guidelines, we can create a safer work environment for everyone around operating equipment.