

# The Orange Brigade



Summer 2025

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 67

## Coleman's Comments



Dear Voter,

I am reaching out to invite you to join a growing bipartisan list of businesses, elected officials, trade associations, and industry leaders committed to preserving the dual registration qualification for Ohio's County Engineers—a requirement that ensures they are both a Professional Engineer (PE) and Professional Surveyor (PS). This is not a technical debate—it's a fight for fiscal responsibility, infrastructure excellence, and property rights protection in every corner of our state.

### Why This Matters

#### Development Without Delays or Cost Overruns

County engineers are responsible for over 29,000 bridges and 28,000 miles of road. The PS qualification enables them to make precise, legally defensible decisions on boundary lines and public easements. Removing this requirement invites *project delays*, *boundary disputes*, and *costly mistakes* that jeopardize growth and drive up construction costs for private developers and public agencies alike.

#### Safeguarding Economic Development

Surveying is foundational to infrastructure planning. Eliminating the PS requirement could force counties to outsource this function—at inflated prices and with longer timelines. This disproportionately harms rural counties and townships, where there is already a lack of funding and professional surveyors. It will slow the pace of development and add risk to capital investments.

#### Protecting Property Rights and Local Control

Surveyors defend the integrity of private and public boundaries. A County Engineer without PS credentials has diminished authority to resolve disputes, approve plats, or protect the public right-of-way. This shift could lead to more litigation, conflicting records, and political interference in what should remain a technical and impartial process.

#### The Hidden Cost to Taxpayers

Counties will be forced to hire additional staff or consultants to do what one dual-licensed professional can handle today. Over time, the burden of inefficiency will be paid by taxpayers through higher costs, degraded infrastructure, and legal exposure.

#### Stand With Us

This is a moment to act. We need your voice to protect the integrity of public infrastructure, the pace of development, and the rights of property owners across Ohio. Joining the growing list is simple, and your support sends a clear message: Ohio doesn't lower its standards—we lead by them.

Please contact your state legislators and urge them to keep Ohio's County Engineers dual licensed Professional Engineers (P.E.) and Professional Surveyors (P.S.). Let's stand together to keep Ohio's County Engineers highly qualified, accountable to the voters, and capable of meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

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

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## Kudos Corner: Celebrating Successes & Welcoming New Faces



*By Misty Centers  
Personnel Specialist*

### **New Hires**

We're thrilled to announce the recent additions to the Logan County Engineer's Office! Our team continues to grow, bringing fresh talent and new energy to our various departments. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us over the past few months.

### **March Arrivals:**

In March, we welcomed **Daniel Johnson** and **Nakia Bailey** as Highway Technician 1's, strengthening our highway maintenance efforts.

### **April Additions:**

April saw the arrival of **Carson Copas** and **Stephen Krock**, both joining us as Highway Technician 1's.

### **May Welcomes:**

May was a busy month as we brought aboard **Andrew Rose**, **Matthew Scott**, and **Landon Tipton** as Highway Technician 1's. We also welcomed **David Mann** as a seasonal Pavement Specialist and **Haiden Manns** as seasonal summer intern, who will be valuable assets during our busy warmer months.

### **June Introductions:**

Rounding out our recent hires in June, we are excited to have **Steven Frost**, **Ethan Higgins**, and **Ethan Rister** join as Highway Technician 1's. Additionally, we welcomed **Alejandro Orjuela** as our Summer Survey Intern, who will be contributing to our survey projects.

We are incredibly excited to have these individuals aboard and look forward to their contributions to the Logan County Engineer's Office!

### **Employee of the Quarter**

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

### **Milestones**

**Daniel Johnson** and **Nakia Bailey** have obtained their Class B CDL licenses! This qualification opens doors to new opportunities within our operations. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication!

## Thank You to Our Superintendents and Seasoned Team!

We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to our incredible superintendents and seasoned crew members. We know that the past few months have brought significant changes with recent turnover, and now, with our team fully staffed, a great deal of focus has rightly shifted to training.

We recognize that balancing this crucial training with your ongoing daily duties is no small feat. Yet, you've all stepped up magnificently, dedicating extra time to guide and help our new employees. Beyond just onboarding, your willingness to share your invaluable expertise has been instrumental in honing the skills of our entire staff, making everyone more knowledgeable and effective.

Your dedication, patience, and hard work truly do not go unnoticed. We deeply appreciate each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more skilled team. Thank you!

## Township Road 30-0.80 Bridge Completed

*By Michael J. Kerns, P.E., S.I.*

County crews recently completed Bridge TR 30-.80, a bridge on Township Road (TR) 30 located in Miami Township between TR 33 and TR 205. The project involved the replacement of a single span steel thru truss bridge that was built in 1922 with an ultra-high performance concrete (UHPC) box beam composite bridge on concrete capped pile abutments.

The 1922 truss bridge was posted for 30% Ohio legal loads and had a total width of 13'-9". The new bridge was built to handle modern traffic loads and is 24-feet wide. This project also involved some roadwork extending about 100-feet on each side of the bridge to adequately tie the existing road into the new bridge. There was also embankment work performed along TR 30 near the bridge approaches.

In addition to saving money on initial construction costs (project estimates showed an estimated savings of approximately \$90,000 when comparing the precast box beam bridge to a steel galvanized truss bridge), the precast box beam bridge will be easier to inspect and maintain versus a steel truss bridge because steel truss bridges are classified as Non-redundant Steel Tension Member (NSTM) bridges. NSTM bridges have fracture critical members that don't have redundancy built into them, i.e. if a fracture critical member were to fail the whole bridge could suddenly fail. These bridges require more intensive – and thus more costly – inspections compared to a non-NSTM structure. Furthermore, truss bridges are much more difficult to load rate versus a precast box beam or steel beam structure.

Speaking of load ratings, our office has been load rating our existing county and township bridges using AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Load Rating software in order to comply with federal and state bridge load rating requirements and we were able to use this software to analyze the proposed BR T 30-0.80 structure options. Using UHPC with a design strength of 10 ksi allowed us to use beams that had a 21-inch depth versus using beams that had that had a 27-inch depth, the typical precast beam depth for a 65-foot span length. This 6-inch difference in beam depths combined with the lengthening of the bridge by a little over 13-feet allowed us to meet the hydraulic capacity requirements of the site.

Thank you to the Bridge Department, Highway Department, and Survey Department for working hard to complete this project.



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Get To Know Our Team



**Kyle Rumer**

Highway Technician 1

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

*3 years*

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

*Being a positive asset to my community.*

**IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?**

*Heaven, to hug my cousins who didn't get to enjoy enough time on earth with us.*

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER?**

*70 degrees*

**ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHTOWL?**

*Morning.*

**WHAT'S SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?**

*I enjoy reading.*

**COFFEE, TEA, OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY?**

*Sweat tea or hot tea.*

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?**

*Family, real estate, building generational wealth!*

**WHAT'S THE MOST ADVENTUROUS THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?**

*Spent five days in New Orleans with my wife exploring the city, eating all the food and shopping flea markets.*

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

*Have the ability to change peoples life for the better.*

**WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED LEARNING AND WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT?**

*Learning the processes of all the jobs we do. I want to leave a work site knowing the pro's did it to the best of our ability.*

**IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

*Beef or deer jerky.*

**DOGS OR CATS?**

*Dogs all day long.*

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

32.5 years

**WHAT CAREER HIGHLIGHT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

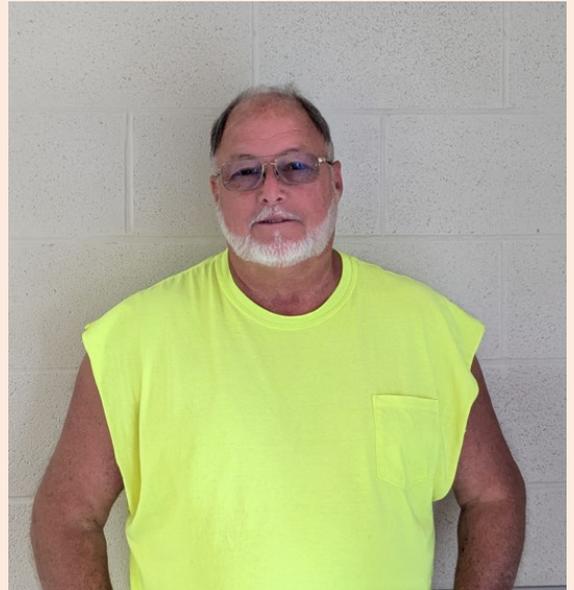
Being able to pass on job knowledge to my co-workers and being able to work with all the great people through the years.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LOOKING TO GROW THEIR CAREERS WITHIN THE LCEO?**

Stick it out. It's a good job. The grass is not always greener on the other side.

**WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN OUR LINE OF WORK?**

The willingness to learn and hone your craft as a high-way worker or being a complete construction worker.



**Dan McMillen**

Highway Maintenance Superintendent

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORK AT THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

Working outside. I have done this my whole life since I was young. Also, all the help I've gotten from staff, management and co-workers through the years.

**WHAT CAREER ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?**

I have always known I was going to be a construction worker, but I would advise being more patient and understand it all takes time.

**IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?**

This bug has really never bitten me. I can't think of any place I can't wait to see.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER?**

Fall and summer. I dislike the muddy months.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?**

Working on the farm and enjoying the shooting sports with my young grandson. I also like to fish and hunt.

**WHAT'S THE MOST ADVENTUROUS THING YOU'VE DONE?**

Flying in an airplane. I still don't like it much.

**IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF OUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Ribeye steak. Also my wife's wild game cooking is off the charts!

**ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL?**

Morning.



## Bridge Crew Update

*By Elliott Fullerton  
Bridge Superintendent*

Construction on Bridge TR 30-0.80 began March 3 and after the old bridge was removed and an aggregate base was set for the abutments, Precise Pile Driving from Fort Recovery drove six HP 10x42 steel piling for each abutment on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Logan County Bridge Department had the east abutment formed and on March 27<sup>th</sup> they poured the east abutment. Heavy rains slowed construction but on April 8<sup>th</sup> the west abutment was poured. Prestress Services Industries designed, manufactured, and installed the precast beams and necessary hardware for a winning bid amount of \$164,400. Said beams were installed April 18 and the beams were set via crane by Bay Crane Midwest.



Members from both the Logan County Highway Department and Logan County Bridge Department poured the composite concrete deck on May 2. A concrete screed was rented from BEEM Construction to help ensure a smooth and level deck.

The Highway Department and Bridge Department paved the approaches on June 16th and 17th.

## Highway Crew Update

*By Dan McMillen  
Highway Superintendent*



The Highway Department has been working tirelessly this spring and summer, tackling the challenges brought by persistent heavy rains and diligently preparing for upcoming projects. Their dedication ensures our county's infrastructure remains in top condition, even with Mother Nature's unpredictable whims.

One of the department's primary focuses has been addressing drainage issues. With unusually high water levels, crews have been diligently fixing blocked or broken tiles and undertaking extensive ditching to keep water flowing smoothly throughout the county. This proactive approach helps prevent flooding and maintains safer road conditions for everyone.

In the weeks leading up to June, when they weren't battling high-water issues, crews were out crack sealing roadways in preparation for the summer chip seal program. This essential step helps extend the life of our roads before the chip seal application.

Now, the summer chip seal program is in full swing! We are chip sealing 11 roads, including our portion of the fairgrounds, covering 27 miles across the county. This year, we're especially thrilled to be utilizing our new distributor, a state-of-the-art piece of equipment that represents a significant enhancement for the Highway Department. It promises increased efficiency and effectiveness in their work, making this program even more impactful for maintaining the integrity of our roadways and providing a smoother, safer driving experience for everyone.



## Equipment Upgrades

*By Skip Judd  
Administrative Coordinator*

2025 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for equipment upgrades within our organization. The high costs and limited availability of newly manufactured items had significantly hindered our purchasing ability over the past couple of years. However, we've been fortunate this year to finally receive several critical pieces of equipment that had been on our committed purchases list since as far back as 2022. We've also acquired a few additional units that, while not on that initial list, were desperately needed replacements.

In the beginning months of 2025, we've welcomed some significant additions:

- Two new tandem axle dump trucks: One committed in spring 2022, and a second ordered in 2023.
- A new liquid asphalt distributor: Delivered in March, this state-of-the-art unit replaces our previous one, which served us faithfully for 35 years.
- An upgraded bucket truck: We've replaced our 23-year-old model with a clean, low-mileage used unit, a purchase made locally that benefits both the Engineer's Office and the vendor.
- Updated office equipment: This includes new desktop computers, monitors, a new office copier, and several crucial pieces of networking equipment that were beginning to fail.

These new purchases are vital for our operations, enabling our county crews to continue completing essential highway, bridge, and ditch work efficiently. This approach ultimately saves taxpayer dollars compared to contracting out the work to independent outside contractors. While our 2025 equipment purchasing isn't quite finished, with a few more minor replacements for severely outdated equipment still needed, we're eager to put these new assets to use, ensuring the safety of Logan County residents and keeping our roadways open.

## STAY FOCUSED



WHEN TRAVELING THROUGH WORK ZONES, AVOID ALL DISTRACTIONS

## Ditch Maintenance and Traffic Department Update

*By Steve Tracey  
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent*

Our Ditch Crew has been working hard, focusing on essential tasks to maintain our infrastructure. They've been busy mowing roadsides and addressing sight distance issues to improve visibility and safety. Additionally, they've been actively spraying roadsides for vegetation control.

Recently, the crew completed work on Stony Creek, dipping out the upper end and then placing dump rock for slope protection. To further prevent erosion, they added more concrete on the outlet end. They also successfully dipped out the outlet of the Badger tile. Finally, they tackled bank slides on the Bokengehalas ditch, adding dirt and dump rock for crucial erosion control.

Our Sign Department has had a particularly busy spring, especially with the recent heavy rain events. They've been diligently chasing and putting up high water signs to alert drivers to hazardous conditions. This includes installing new high water flip signs in some new areas and continuously monitoring others.

Currently, the department is focused on conducting traffic counts on all our roadways to gather important data. They're also actively putting up advanced warning signs for the construction season to prepare for upcoming projects. On top of all this, they continue their ongoing work of fixing bent or broken signs and replacing any that need replaced, ensuring our roadways are clearly marked and safe.

## Navigating the Path to Your CDL: A Guide for Our Team

*By Mark Hilty  
General Superintendent*

We've currently got seven new eager team members who are on their way to obtaining their Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and six of them are still working towards getting their CDL permit. For everyone working toward this important credential, understanding the proper steps is key.

Here's a breakdown of the official internal process to get your CDL with the LCEO:

1. **CDL Permit:** Study the Ohio Commercial Driver License Manual to prepare. Pass the test at the Lima examination station to obtain your permit.
2. **Theory (Classroom) Training:** Complete self-paced PowerPoint modules. Pass a 380-question test with 80% or higher to be placed into the CDL portal.
3. **Pre-Trip Inspection:** Memorize and perform a thorough pre-trip inspection in under 30 minutes.
4. **Behind-the-Wheel Range:** Practice essential maneuvers (Forward Stop, Straight-Line Backing, Forward Offset Tracking, Reverse Offset Backing) on campus with cones.
5. **Behind-the-Wheel Road:** Drive on city, county, and state roads with an experienced CDL-licensed driver who has at least two years of experience.

### A Note on Training

We strongly advise against online CDL training and testing from unverified training sources; it often doesn't provide the comprehensive preparation you'll need. Everything you need to know is right there in the Ohio Commercial Driver License Manual, which is available in the Clerk's office. You can also head next door to the DMV to get your own copy. This allows you to study at your leisure, and with our current summer schedule and Fridays off, now could be a great time to take your permit test!

We've successfully tested and trained 21 CDL drivers to date, and we're confident we'll be just as successful with the remaining 7!

GOOD LUCK!!

## GIS: Enhancing Public Access and Transparency

*By Jonathan Parthemore  
GIS Technician/Tax Map Draftsperson*

At the heart of transparent governance lies easily accessible information, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are a powerful tool for achieving this. GIS connects data to a specific location, allowing us to visualize, analyze, and understand information in a way that traditional spreadsheets or reports simply cannot. We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new public GIS viewer, built and maintained by our dedicated Map Room staff!

This new viewer, powered by ArcGIS Experience Builder, gives us more control over the design and responsiveness across all devices compared to our old site. This means a better experience for you, whether you're on a desktop, tablet, or smartphone. You can explore property information, aerial photos dating as far as 1996, and access important public safety data like flood zones, all with just a few clicks. This new site will eventually replace the current GIS viewer linked from the Auditor's website.

Our Map Room has worked diligently to create a user-friendly and informative platform, ensuring this powerful tool is accessible to everyone in Logan County. By providing direct access to this geographic information, we believe we can foster greater civic engagement, promote informed decision-making, and enhance the overall quality of life for all residents. We encourage you to explore our new public GIS viewer by going to [arcg.is/1eyTiK1](http://arcg.is/1eyTiK1).

## Safety Update

*By Misty Centers  
Personnel Specialist*

We're thrilled to report we've had no recordable injuries since September 2024! This is fantastic news and a true testament to everyone's dedication to maintaining a safe work environment.

This achievement highlights the positive impact of our collective commitment to safety protocols, proactive hazard identification, and looking out for one another. Every individual's effort in following procedures, utilizing proper PPE, and reporting potential concerns contributes to a safer workplace for all.

### Recent Safety Training Highlights

Beyond our daily vigilance, continuous learning is key to our safety success. Here are some of the training initiatives we've completed recently:

**March Safety Meeting:** Our team participated in a valuable hands-on demonstration and training session for our new wood chipper. Following that, we headed next door to Logan County Co-op for essential power line safety training.

**April Training:** Southeastern Equipment provided our team with comprehensive training on our new distributor, ensuring everyone is proficient and safe with this equipment.

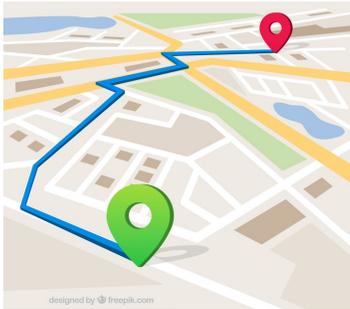
Let's keep this excellent momentum going! Remember, safety is a continuous effort and our shared responsibility. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant, participate in safety discussions, and always prioritize safe practices in every task.

Thank you for making safety a top priority each day.



# Navigating Work Zones Safely: Your Guide to Protecting Our Workers

Traveling safely, slowly, and attentively through work zones is critically important. These areas are active workplaces where our crews are dedicated to improving roads and infrastructure. Their safety, and yours, depends on every driver's vigilance. Do your part to stay safe and protect our workers with these tips from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA):



- **RESEARCH YOUR ROUTE:** Before heading out, research your route. Listen to local radio stations, check your local newspaper, or visit our website ([www.lceo.us](http://www.lceo.us)) for construction updates and road closures. Whenever possible, avoid work zones and use available detours.

- **PAY ATTENTION:** Be aware of all signs throughout work zones, which indicate reduced speeds, lane changes, and other vital information. Stay alert for road workers, their equipment, and flaggers. Avoid distractions such as your cell phone, 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. Always reduce your speed when entering a work zone and remain vigilant for workers in or near the roadway.

- **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.



**Remember: Our workers are real people with families, just like you. Please give them the space and attention they need to do their jobs safely.** Your patience and caution in work zones directly contribute to their well-being and the timely completion of essential road projects.

