

The Orange Brigade



Winter 2026

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 68

Colemans's Comments

As we look back on 2025, I am pleased to provide an update on the infrastructure investments and legislative efforts that have shaped our county over the past year. A critical component of our success remains the local support that allows us to maintain safe and efficient travel for our residents. The following summary outlines the vital role of local support in maintaining our transportation network.



Sales Tax Revenue and Distribution

The one-half percent sales tax for roads, bridges, and the Sheriff generated \$3,938,188.61 in 2025. While this revenue saw a slight decrease of 0.21 percent from 2024, these funds remain essential to our operations. The total was divided among the following departments:

- County Engineer (25%):** \$984,547.14
- County Sheriff (25%):** \$984,547.14
- Townships (20%):** \$787,637.72
- Municipalities (20%):** \$787,637.72
- Land Use and Economic Development (10%):** \$393,818.89

2025 Construction Projects

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 2025.

County road resurfacing totaled \$1,904,013.51 and rejuvenating sealer came in at \$269,744.35. County OPWC resurfacing totaled \$664,470.08. County CEO Guardrail Upgrade project totaled \$204,941.50. County CEO Sign Upgrade Program was \$62,602.90. Township resurfacing was \$537,831.85, township chip-sealing and fog sealing totaled \$545,559.97 (funded by sales tax and township funds). County pavement markings totaled \$83,233.49. County road chip sealing and fog sealing cost \$650,820.62 this year. Township Road Bridge 30-0.80 was replaced with new abutments and prestressed concrete beams at a cost of \$427,443.28. 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 2025, we have received \$ 3,956,771.80 from motor fuel tax. This is approximately \$1.5 million more than we received in 2018, which is just now reaching the projected increase of \$1.5 million after 7 years. Auto registration fees received in 2025 totaled \$ 1,786,138.56.

In December, I completed my year as the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) President. I thank the county engineers of Ohio, the CEO staff, residents of Logan County, and my family for supporting me through this great opportunity to represent CEO. We were able...

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...to work on several legislative issues during 2025.

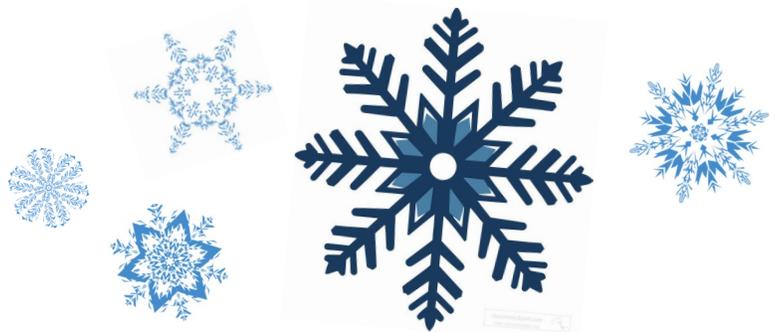
- Met with Broadband Ohio to discuss extensive fiber optic installations in public rights-of-way throughout Ohio and the challenges that we are experiencing.
- Met with the new Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation, ODOT.
- Worked with the legislature to get elected official pay adjustments beginning in their next term of office.
- Worked with the legislature to maintain the requirement for county engineers to be licensed professional engineers and professional surveyors to ensure that Ohio has the best qualified professionals serving as county engineer.
- Worked with the legislature to get the transportation budget approved.
- Helped with the statewide campaign to get the Ohio Public Works Commission Bond renewed by Ohio voters.
- Worked with ODOT to get approved funding for new bridge load ratings required by the Federal Highway Administration, FHWA.
- Worked with the legislature on proposed unmanned drone legislation.
- Worked with the legislature on proposed changes to the 811 “call before you dig” legislation.
- Worked with the CEAO Executive Director to update and improve the CEAO office, policies and procedures.

2025 was a challenging and exciting year.

Sincerely,



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



Various Bridge Updates

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

The safety and longevity of our infrastructure remains one of our top priorities and listed below are several bridge updates that we've been working on to help meet these goals.

These successes could not be possible without the hard work of our bridge inspectors— **Elliott Fullerton, Steve Tracey, and Mark Hilty** — and our survey technician **Ethan Bryant**, who has been working on scour appraisals and load ratings.

Annual Bridge Inspections

Our bridge inspectors started annual bridge inspections in mid-November and this year has been extra-challenging as we have several new items to inspect in order to be in compliance with an updated bridge inspection manual. A few of these new items include:

- Guardrail
- Bearings (the bearings sit between the abutment and superstructure)
- Expansion joints (the bridge joint separates the bridge deck from the roadway approach to allow for expansion and contraction of the superstructure)
- Backwalls (part of the substructure that sits on top of the abutment, between the superstructure and roadway approach).

Scour Appraisals

Over the past year, our office has completed scour appraisals for more than 200 bridges in order to meet updated federal and state inspection and inventory requirements.

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Simply put, these scour appraisals measure a bridge's susceptibility to being washed away or damaged by the waterway it crosses. If a bridge is found to be at risk, a scour plan of action is created to help better protect the bridge and everyone who travels across them.

Load Ratings

When a load rating is performed on a bridge, the safe carrying capacity of the bridge can be determined. To help us meet updated federal and state load rating bridge requirements, our office contracted with consultant Gannett Fleming in the amount of \$158,000 and consultant Burgess Niple in the amount of \$33,245 to provide load ratings for 65 of our bridges. Our office was awarded Local Bridge Program funds (administered through the County Engineers Association of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Transportation) that will cover approximately 80% of these consultant costs. In addition to the work these consultants performed, our office has performed load ratings on approximately 130 bridges.

Bridge CR 21B-0.05 Historic Rehabilitation Begins

The rehabilitation of the historic truss bridge over the Great Miami River (near Logansville) is officially underway. The truss was carefully disassembled and moved off-site this November, marking the first major step toward its September 2026 completion. This project includes:

- Replacing or repairing of deficient bridge members using modern hot-dip galvanizing and stainless-steel pins to prevent future rust. Replacement of pin connectors with stainless steel pins as appropriate and reassembling of these members. Repairing of existing stone abutments.
- Installing a new timber deck and upgraded railings to protect the historic truss from impact damage.
- Transforming the adjacent stone area into a paved parking lot and constructing a concrete access point to the Great Miami River.

The Ohio Bridge Corporation/U.S Bridge won the bid to perform the project with a bid amount of \$1,898,478.96. Approximately 95% of the construction costs will be covered via funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program.

E.P Ferris updated the plans for this project with said design services being covered by a pledge of \$50,000 from the County Engineers Association of Ohio and DLZ Ohio is performing the construction inspection services for this project.





Kudos Corner: Celebrating Successes & Welcoming New Faces



*By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist*

Work Anniversaries

We are proud to celebrate several key milestones this year. These employees have set an exemplary standard with their work ethic and loyalty. We appreciate the talent and hard work they continue to bring to the team.

- **20 Years:** A huge congratulations to **Steve Tracey!** Thank you for two decades of dedication and for being such a valuable asset to our office.
- **15 Years:** Congratulations to **Luke Jolliff** for reaching this impressive 15-year milestone.
- **5 Years:** Congratulations to **Misty Centers** and **Joe Rose** on five years of service!

Outstanding Attendance

Consistency is the backbone of our operations. We would like to recognize the following individuals for their incredible commitment throughout 2025:

- **Matthew Phelps:** Demonstrated perfect attendance by utilizing zero hours of sick leave in 2025.
- **Brandon Moon:** Maintained excellent attendance by utilizing less than 24 hours of sick leave throughout the year.

Employee of the Quarter

These individuals were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond their normal scope of work. Join us in celebrating our 2025 winners:

- **Q1:** Shirley Brunke
- **Q2:** Trent Helmlinger
- **Q4:** Jesse Strayer

Welcome to the Team!

We are excited to grow our workforce with several new additions. Please join us in welcoming our newest Technician Trainees:

- **Talon Stayer** (Joined in July)
- **Jacob Linger** and **Skyler Lamb** (Joined in October)

Professional Milestones: New CDL Licenses

Obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requires significant study and practice. This qualification opens new doors for our operations and individual career growth.

- **Class B CDL:** Congratulations to **Carson Copas, Steven Frost, Ethan Higgins, Ethan Rister, Talon Stayer, Jacob Linger** and **Skyler Lamb** for successfully completing on-site training and obtaining their licenses.
- **Class A CDL:** A special shout-out to **Andrew Rose**, who trained independently to obtain his Class A license.

Congratulations to everyone on your hard work and dedication!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Get To Know Our Team



Elliott Fullerton

Highway & Bridge Superintendent

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

19 years

WHAT CAREER HIGHLIGHT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Being part of the crew that build the first bridge on a public road system made from recycled material.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LOOKING TO GROW THEIR CAREER WITH THE LCEO?

Show up to work on time and show a willingness to learn skills and take pride in your work.

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

Common sense, taking pride in your work as the whole county sees the results—and self-discipline. It's easy to do the right thing when someone is watching, but a great employee does it regardless.

WHAT CAREER ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Stay in school and finish college.

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

Egypt would be cool to visit. It would be neat to see and visit the pyramids and Nile river.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Hunting and fishing.

COFFEE, TEA, OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY?

Coffee.

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

Pizza.

ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL?

Night owl.

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

Five years.

WHAT CAREER HIGHLIGHT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Getting Class A CDL during covid.

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

Show up and do your job.

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

Good work ethic and attendance.

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

I like you.

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

Pay better attention.

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

Back in time.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Quadding motorsports.

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

Cliff jumping.

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

Filet mignon.

ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL?

Neither, anymore.



Joe Rose
Head Mechanic

A Note of Appreciation

As the seasons shift, we want to recognize the teams that keep Logan County moving. A sincere thank you to our summer staff for your invaluable help with our warm-weather projects—we truly appreciate your hard work.

We also want to give a major shout-out to our snow plow drivers. We recognize the long hours, the missed sleep, and the immense responsibility you carry to keep our roads safe during every storm. Thank you all for your commitment to the Engineer's Office and our community!

Bridge Crew Update

*By Elliott Fullerton
Bridge Superintendent*

This fall, the Bridge Crew performed essential maintenance on several key structures throughout the county. This included the rehabilitation of two steel beam bridges: CR 87-1.50 in Stokes Township and CR 178-0.46 in Monroe Township. The crew removed pack rust and reinforced the structures by welding new steel into thin or compromised areas. To protect these investments, a Krown coating was applied to prevent future corrosion and salt damage.

Work also took place near East Liberty on CR 10-10.83, where a set of double boxes required cleaning (pictured to the right). The crew spent several days removing silt and debris that was slowing water flow. By utilizing our Vermeer mini skid steer, the crew moved debris to the end of the structure to be loaded out by the Hitachi excavator. The removed dirt was hauled back to the shop, where it will be repurposed for future improvements to county roadside ditches.

In Washington Township, the crew spent a week preserving CR 297. After a thorough cleaning of the concrete street, we applied approximately 400 gallons of a silane reactive penetrating sealer. To ensure a precise application, our head mechanic, Joe Rose, custom-built a specialized spray bar, tank, and pump system that fits directly into a pickup truck (pictured to the right). This innovation allows us to apply the sealer with maximum efficiency and even coverage. This treatment repels water and prevents chloride (salt) intrusion, effectively densifying the concrete and keeping moisture out. By protecting the surface today, we are significantly extending the life of the street and saving on long-term replacement costs.



Winter Visibility

With shorter days and longer nights, winter driving means spending more time in the dark. Salt spray from the roads can quickly coat your headlights, reducing their brightness by up to 50%. Make it a habit to wipe down your headlights and taillights every time you fill up with gas. Also, remember that high beams are an essential tool on rural county roads, but be sure to dim them the moment you see another driver's "glow" over a hill or around a curve.

Ditch Maintenance and Traffic Department Update

*By Steve Tracey
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent*

The Ditch Department stayed busy wrapping up a full season of road-side mowing (two top and two back passes) and maintenance ditch mowing (twice), while the boom mower addressed bridges, guardrails, and sight distance issues to keep our roads safe. Key infrastructure projects include:

- Investigated and repaired "suck holes" on the Faulkner/Wheeler and Ligget Ditches.
- Repaired and replaced 40 feet of 24-inch outlet main on the upper end of the Ligget Ditch.
- Currently center-dipping the Ligget Ditch to ensure better water flow and drainage.
- Worked with property owner Ryan Evers on grading the Elder Kline ditch due to it silting in and partnered with the Health Department on a major bank stabilization project.



A huge thank you to our three new hires—**Stephen Krock**, **Ethan Rister**, and **Drew Rose**. They stepped up immediately and were instrumental in keeping our operations moving this summer.

It was an equally busy season for the Sign Department. Routemarker 2 Mark Dearwester did an excellent job overseeing our centerline and edgeline striping programs. Mark also spearheaded our sign upgrade project and conducted a ball bank study to evaluate speed safety on curves. Other highlights include:

- The ditch crew teamed up with the sign department to paint railroad and school zones, along with multiple stop bars throughout the county.
- The sign department is currently maintaining over 7,000 signs, including work for various townships and villages.
- The sign department is already hard at work repairing mailbox damage caused by snow removal.

I want to thank the entire Ditch and Traffic team for their flexibility and hard work. We couldn't have hit these goals without everyone pitching in!

Map Room Update

*By Jonathan Parthemore
GIS Technician*

In 2025, the Map Room Staff checked legal descriptions on 2,534 real estate documents. There were 1,788 deeds, 621 Affidavits, 71 Certificates of Transfer, 37 easements, and 17 land contracts. Additionally, 4 Subdivision plats and 3 annexation plats were filed & recorded. New property splits totaled 297 for the year with 23 new survey descriptions recorded along with 30 new deeds combining properties into one Tax Parcel Number.

Surveyors submitted 274 new surveys that were reviewed, approved, indexed, scanned and filed by the Map Room personnel. In addition, 295 new house numbers were entered into the 911 system.

The records of the Map Room can be found on the Logan County Engineer's Office website at: <https://lceo.us/maproom>

Summer & Fall Highway Project Update

*By Mark Hilty
General Superintendent*

Our crews had a steady and productive construction season this year. What set this season apart was the way our departments stepped up to work as one unified team.

Almost daily, our road, bridge, and ditch crews teamed up, allowing our veteran operators to pass on their expertise to our newer employees. While we've talked about cross-training for a long time, this season we truly put it into practice. It's been essential for creating a more well-rounded workforce and the results speak for themselves.

Season Highlights:

- Successfully completed our Chip Seal and Fog Seal programs.
- Cracksealed, DuraPatched, and completed roadside berm cut-and-fill work ahead of the 2026 paving season.
- Replaced four rusted-out culverts ahead of the 2026 paving season.
- Milled bumps on Castle Hill.
- Improved sight distance at the intersection of County Road 10 and Township Road 179.
- Gradall drainage work and tile repairs.
- Chip and fog sealed the County Fairgrounds.

As we transition into tree-cutting season, it's great to see more of the team stepping up to run the bucket truck. We truly appreciate the hard work and flexibility everyone has shown this year!



Safety Update

*By Misty Centers
Personnel Specialist*

As we close out 2025, we are reporting one recordable injury from November involving an employee's back while lifting a plow edge. We are glad to report they returned to work quickly without restrictions, but this serves as a critical reminder that safety is paramount even in routine task .

When handling heavy equipment, please remember:

- Lift with your legs, not your back, and avoid "bend and twist" motions.
- If a part is heavy or awkward, ask for help or use mechanical assistance.
- Always utilize the correct gear for every job.

While we take every injury seriously, finishing the year with only one recordable injury is a testament to your daily caution. Let's carry this safety-first mindset into 2026 to ensure everyone goes home healthy every shift.

2025 Infrastructure Investment Report

By Skip Judd
Administrative Coordinator

They say history repeats itself, and 2025 was no different. Much of the field work for the projects listed below was completed during the late summer and early fall. While the 2025 County OPWC paving program is slated for completion in the spring of 2026, we have already made significant headway by successfully paving **CR 5** (from CR 25 to SR 540) and **CR 117** (from SR 292 to the Logan/Union County line).

The Logan County Engineer's Office administers many local, state, and federally funded projects each year. Below are the larger projects and the total investments managed by our office in 2025. These totals combine local, private, state, and federal funds. Notably, we successfully secured a total of \$938,041.06 in state funding to support these efforts.

Project Category	Fund Amount	Funding Source
County Highway Paving	\$1,904,013.51	County Sales Tax
County Highway Chip Seal	\$650,820.62	County Highway Funds
County Highway Fog Seal	\$87,496.69	County Highway Funds
County Highway Rejuvenating Sealer	\$269,744.35	County Sales Tax & State
County Highway Pavement Marking	\$83,233.49	County Highway Funds
County Guardrail Upgrade Program	\$204,941.50	County Sales Tax & State
County Sign Upgrade	\$62,602.90	County Highway Funds & State
County OPWC Paving (to date)	\$644,470.08	County Highway Funds & State
Township Road Paving	\$537,831.85	Twp. Sales Tax & Local
Township Road Chip Seal	\$95,573.79	Twp. Sales Tax & Local
Township Fog Seal	\$80,267.36	Local

Logan County Engineer's 2025 Annual Report

Every year, the County Engineer's Office prepares a comprehensive Annual Report for the County Commissioners, in accordance with Section 5543.02 of the Ohio Revised Code. This report serves as our roadmap, detailing how we serve Logan County and manage our infrastructure.

What's inside the report?

- Detailed breakdowns of revenues, expenses, and a sales tax balance sheet.
- Progress and future plans for road and bridge construction, resurfacing, and safety improvements.
- A report on the current condition of our road systems and essential equipment purchases made throughout the year.

The 2025 Annual Report will be available for public viewing and download on our website in April 2026.

How to find it:

1. Visit www.lceo.us
2. Click on "Additional Information"
3. Select "Logan County Engineer's Annual Report"

Keeping Logan County Roads Safe: 2025 Deer Collision Update

At the Logan County Engineer's Office, we don't just put up signs at random. We use data to track exactly where deer-related accidents happen so we can place warnings where they will actually save lives and prevent property damage. Based on our recent five-year study (2020–2024), here is what every Logan County driver needs to know.



When to Watch Out

Deer are active year-round, but three months stand out as the highest-risk times for collisions. We recommend extra caution during:

- **November (Peak Month):** Nearly 1 in every 5 deer accidents happens this month.
- **October:** Activity ramps up significantly.
- **January:** Winter visibility and movement keep the risk high.

High-Risk Areas

We have identified specific stretches of road where accidents are most frequent. We are currently updating our signage in these "Hot Zones":

- CR 12 (between CR 26 & SR 47)
- CR 18 (from CR 11 to CR 200)
- CR 153 (from SR 287 to TR 157)
- CR 5 (near TR 191)
- CR 13 (from SR 235 to TR 46 North)
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What We Are Doing to Help

Research shows that "passive" signs (standard yellow signs that are always there) eventually get ignored by drivers. To fix this, we are using Active Safety Measures:

- **Flashing Beacons:** During the "peak" months (Oct, Nov, Jan), we use flashing lights on our signs to catch your attention.
- **Strategic Relocation:** We are removing signs from areas where accidents have decreased and moving them to the "Hot Zones" listed above. This ensures that when you see a sign, it's there for a real, current reason.
- **Proven Success:** Since we started using these flashing beacons in 2020, we have seen crash rates drop significantly on several major county roads.

What You Can Do

- **Don't "Veer for Deer":** If a collision is inevitable, it is usually safer to brake firmly than to swerve into oncoming traffic or off the road.
- **Scan the Shoulders:** Use your high beams when there is no oncoming traffic to spot glowing eyes near the tree line.
- **Heed the Lights:** If you see a deer sign—especially one with a flashing light—slow down. Our data shows those are the exact spots where a deer is most likely to cross your path.