



# Portage County Engineer

**Michael A. Marozzi, P.E., P.S.**

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### A Message from the County Engineer ...

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To the Board of Portage County Commissioners and the residents of Portage County ... it is my privilege and responsibility, as is mandated by Section 5543.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, to provide you with our Department's Annual Report of the maintenance of County owned Roads, Bridges and Culverts.

The purpose of this report is to show all the people in Portage County where and how we spent their license plate fees and gas tax revenues. This report includes a partial listing of your County Highway and Engineering Department's accomplishments during the 2022 calendar year as well as our tentative plans for 2023. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens of Portage County as your County Engineer.

The last two years brought many challenges to our Nation and to our County from the pandemic. In 2022, we were able to resume a more normal schedule and complete many of our planned projects. At the same time, we spent a great deal of effort to keep our employees safe. I wish to commend and thank my employees for all their efforts and hard work.

### **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL**

#### **2022 WINTER SEASON**

Costs for snow and ice control totaled **\$135,899**. The cost breakdown includes **\$73,035** for materials, e.g. 1,500 tons of salt. Labor costs totaled **\$63,661** and consisted of 502 regular time man-hours and 773 overtime hours for a total of 1,275 hours. We had 2 partial callouts and 4 full overtime call outs.

Our department is responsible for snow and ice control on 370 miles of county roads which translates into 740 lane miles. Although we do not maintain a "bare roads" policy, our ultimate goal is to keep our County roads safe for the motoring public.

The Portage County Engineer and most of Portage County's 18 Townships, as well as many of the surrounding political subdivisions throughout the County, participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) **Winter Salt Contract**. On March 22, 2023, ODOT began accepting electronic forms and resolutions for the **2023-2024 Winter Salt Contract**. The deadline to submit your electronic form and signed salt-specific resolution/ordinance through the website will be Monday, May 1, 2023.

For those political subdivisions wishing to purchase their salt requirements through us for the 2023/2024 snow and ice control season, pricing will be available later this year. Should you wish to purchase through us, we do require a letter of authorization from your Township stating your approximate requirements for the season.

# Our Crews at Work!!!



After the snow stopped, our road crews were kept busy working on “routine” road maintenance projects. Spring means patching potholes left over after a winter of snow, salt and extremely low temperatures. Then it’s time to get the roadside mowers out in an effort to keep the high grass and weeds to a minimum. When summer rolled around, the following road maintenance tasks were completed:

- \* SINGLE SEALED 17.37 MILES OF ROAD
- \* INSTALLED 48 DRIVE PIPES
- \* REPLACED 40 CULVERTS
- \* CUT BERMS ON 28.81 MILES OF ROADWAY



## BERM CUTTING ON OLD FORGE

In April of 2022, our crew of 10 operated 4 tandem dump trucks, 3 pick up trucks, 1 tractor broom, 1 grader and 1 loader to cut 2.5 miles of berm on Old Forge Road. This job, with 47 hours of labor and equipment costs combined, totaled \$3,645.18



## DWP CROSSOVER PIPE ON JOHNNYCAKE ROAD

We replaced a double wall plastic crossover pipe on Johnnycake Road. This job took two days to complete with a crew of 7. Tandem dump trucks, an excavator and a bobcat were operated to complete the job. The 12” x 50’ crossover pipe was replaced, and erosion control measures put in place. Total labor, material and equipment totaled \$12,586.94.



## DWP CROSSOVER PIPE ON MOGADORE ROAD

On May 10, 2022, we replaced a 30”x52’ double wall plastic crossover pipe on Mogadore Road. A crew of 6 completed this project in 1 day using tandem dump trucks, an excavator, and a crew cab truck. Total labor, material & equipment totaled \$8,738.18.

## EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

As mentioned in 2021, COVID-19 caused major delays and backorders in the worldwide supply chain that we are still facing today. Most of the equipment received in 2022 were from funds encumbered in 2021.

Equipment received in 2022 totaled \$332,178 and were as follows:

### One (1) 2022 Western Star Tandem Axle Cab & Chassis

\*Cleveland Freightliner, Inc. of Parma, Ohio at a total cost of \$98,986

### Three (3) 2022 Ford F250 Regular Cab Pick-Up Trucks

\*Cronin Ford North, of Middletown, Ohio at a total cost of \$83,718, \$27,906 per truck

### One (1) Minuteman Snow & Ice Control Truck Equipment Package

\*Concord Road Equipment MFG, Inc. of Painesville, Ohio at a total cost of \$78,549.86

### One (1) 2022 Freightliner Single Axle Cab & Chassis

\*Cleveland Freightliner, Inc. of Parma, Ohio at a total cost of \$70,924

\*Purchased through the State cooperative purchasing group.



In 2022 we were able to purchase and receive one (1) new piece of equipment to assist with our road and maintenance operations:

### One (1) 2022 420XE Auto Backhoe Loader

\*Ohio Machinery Co., of Broadview Heights, Ohio at a total cost of \$129,688



## ORC Chapter 5577 Update



In September of 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into and passed by Resolution No. 21-0681 between the Portage County Board of Commissioners, the Portage County Sheriff and the Portage County Engineer. This Memorandum of Understanding, at the Sheriff's request, enforces ORC Chapter 5577. ORC Chapter 5577 sets forth prescribed weight, length, width and height limits for vehicles operated or moved upon the public highways, streets, bridges, and culverts within the State of Ohio. The Portage County Engineer's office is responsible for providing the Sheriff's office with the necessary equipment and personnel to enforce said limits on Portage County roads. This Memorandum of Understanding commenced on January 1, 2022, and shall continue unless terminated by either party.

With that said, time was spent working towards bringing this program to fruition. Out of the three pick-up trucks we received from our 2021 backorder, one was dedicated to the ORC Chapter 5577 program. Bids for furnishing Heavy Duty Portable Scales for said program were accepted on April 20, 2022. Loadometer Corporation of Timonium, Maryland was awarded the bid of \$5,195.00 per scale/ \$72,730.00 total bid for 14 scales. This program is expected to roll out in early 2023.

## ROAD RESURFACING

2022 was a big resurfacing year! We were able to resurface a total of 22.23 miles of Portage County roads. Three resurfacing contracts were awarded. The County Engineer's regular budget is mostly comprised of license plate fees and gas tax revenues. Our 405 resurfacing project was 100% locally funded. We had two 441 resurfacing projects this year, both of which were partially funded with a grant. One from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and one from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Check out the details below!

### **405 Resurfacing Project**

This project involved the improvement of 3.26 miles of various routes including: Industry Road (CH 47), from German Church Road to Unger Road in Atwater and Randolph Townships; Sunnybrook Road (CH 11), from Martin Road to Saxe Road in Brimfield and Suffield Townships; and Calvin Road (CH 124) from Porter Road to Alliance Road in Edinburg Townships. One (1) sealed bid for this project was received and opened on July 6, 2022. A construction contract in the amount of \$556,047.00 was awarded to Melway Paving, Inc. of Holmesville, Ohio. This bid came in under the engineer's estimate of \$571,080.00. The work included a single chip seal, surface treatment and compaction of aggregate berms. Center and edge line striping was then applied.

### **441 Resurfacing Project**

This project included the resurfacing of 7.96 miles of various routes and townships through Portage County:

- \* Tallmadge Road (CH 18), from Alliance Road to SR 225 in Palmyra Township
- \* Bartlett Road (CH 208), from Aurora City Limits to Diagonal Road in Shalersville and Mantua Townships
- \* Pioneer Trail (CH 254), from Peck Road to SR 82 in Mantua and Hiram Townships
- \* Mogadore Road (CH 81), from Sunnybrook to Howe Road in Brimfield Township

Four (4) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on July 20, 2022. A construction contract in the amount of \$1,803,950.50 was awarded to Ronyak Paving, Inc. of Burton, Ohio. This bid came in under the engineer's estimate of \$1,897,043.50. Of the above-mentioned routes, a grant from OPWC offset the costs of Tallmadge Road M-N and provided 46% of total costs up to grant maximum. All additional costs were made with local monies. The project improved various county routes by milling, partial and full depth repairs along with surface treatment, and compaction of aggregate berms. Center and edge line striping was then applied.

### **441 Resurfacing Project**

This project included the resurfacing of 11.01 miles of various routes and townships through Portage County:

- \* Tallmadge Road (CH 18), from SR 44 to Alliance Road in Rootstown and Edinburg Townships
- \* New Milford Road (CH 31), from Tallmadge to 5/44 bypass in Rootstown and Ravenna Townships

Seven (7) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on March 9, 2022. A construction contract in the amount of \$2,428,175.24 was awarded to Karvo Companies, Inc. of Stow, Ohio. This bid came in over the engineer's estimate of \$2,351,467.75 but within the allotted 10% overage. A grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation offset the costs and provided 80% of total costs up to grant maximum. All additional costs were made with local monies. The project improved New Milford and Tallmadge Road by milling, partial and full depth repairs along with surface treatment, and compaction of aggregate berms. Center and edge line striping was then applied.

## How do we select the roads to be resurfaced???

We make decisions on which roads we are going to resurface based on the level system. Our 370 miles of County Road are divided into three (3) levels. Level 1 roads have traffic counts above 1,600 vehicles a day. Level 2 roads have more than 800 vehicles a day and less than 1,600. Level 3 roads, our rural roads, have less than 800 vehicles a day. We currently have enough revenue to resurface our Level 1 and 2 roads on a 15-year cycle. We select which roads to resurface based on age of pavement, physical condition, and traffic count. We try to resurface the oldest pavement in the worst condition with the highest traffic count.





U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

## FEDERAL FUNDING PROJECT UPDATES

In addition to our 441 projects that were partially funded with a grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation, we received grants towards multiple new projects!

### *Here's what's in the works:*

- 1. PROJECT:** OLD FORGE ROUNDABOUT **LOCATION:** Intersection of Mogadore Road (CR 81) and Old Forge Road (CR 82) in Brimfield Township **FUNDING:** 90% Federally Funded **STAGE:** Professional Design Stage  
After careful review and rating, the proposal of **Environmental Design Group (EDG)** of Akron, Ohio was accepted for a not to exceed cost of \$240,108.00 for providing Professional Design Services, of which, ODOT will provide 90% of funding. Detailed design is set to begin Spring of 2023.
- 2. PROJECT:** REPLACEMENT OF SILICA SAND ROAD TRUSS BRIDGE **LOCATION:** Over Eagle Creek in Nelson Township **FUNDING:** 100% Federally Funded! **STAGE:** Professional Design Stage, Close to Construction Bid  
The Proposal of **Palmer Engineering** of Medina, Ohio was accepted for providing Professional Design Services for the not to exceed cost of \$43,907.00. We are looking to award this construction contract in Spring 2023.
- 3. PROJECT:** JONES ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT **LOCATION:** Structure over Kale Creek in Palmyra Township **FUNDING:** 100% Federally Funded! **STAGE:** Professional Design Stage  
The Proposal of **Engineering Associates, Inc.** of Wooster, Ohio was accepted for providing Professional Design Services for a not to exceed cost of \$47,648.00.
- 4. PROJECT:** STANLEY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT **LOCATION:** Structure over Mahoning Creek in Windham Township **FUNDING:** 100% Federally Funded! **STAGE:** Professional Design Stage  
Mead & Hunt of Columbus, Ohio is providing Design Services through the ODOT-funded CEOA Statewide General Engineering Services Contract.





## STATE FUNDING PROJECT UPDATES

### Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Round 37 Status

The following Portage County political subdivisions received favorable action by the District 7 Integrating Committee for Round 37 funding ...

City of Aurora – West Pioneer Trail Upgrade Project  
 City of Kent – WRF Digester Heat Exchanger  
 City of Kent – East Summit Street Resurfacing  
 City of Ravenna – Meridian and Murray Improvements  
 City of Streetsboro – Page Road Resurfacing  
 Village of Hiram – Constance Ave. Sanitary Pump Station  
 Village of Hiram – Wakefield Rd. Sanitary Pump Station Improvements

Village of Mantua – Franklin Street Roadway & Drainage Improvements \*\*  
 Brimfield Township – Cline Road Culvert Replacement  
 Charlestown Township – Knapp Road Resurfacing Project  
 Franklin Township – Hudson Road Phase V  
 Freedom Township – Asbury Culvert Replacement  
 Ravenna Township – Ravenna Township Paving Project  
 Shalersville Township – Cooley Road Sections A-B Resurfacing Project  
 Portage County Engineer – Tallmadge Road Sections O-P Resurfacing

Indicates Alternate Project - Will receive funding when and if enough turnback monies are accumulated in fund.

\*\* Indicates Small Government Eligible should LTIP/SCIP Funds be Depleted

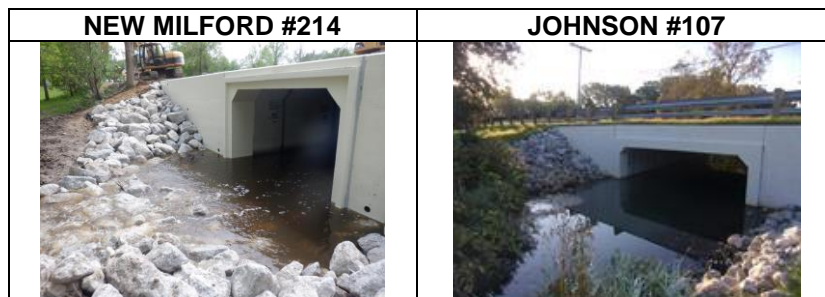
Round 37 grants are expected to be released in July. Just a reminder, per OPWC guidelines, project construction cannot begin until the grant agreement has been fully executed and returned to OPWC. OPWC no longer uses a Vendor Approval Form (formerly known as Request to Proceed).

Pre-application packets for OPWC Round 38 will be **e-mailed** on March 31 and are due back to our office no later than Friday, May 26, 2023. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

OPWC is now requesting that all disbursement requests be submitted online. Please visit their website at [www.pwc.state.oh.us](http://www.pwc.state.oh.us) to review the necessary protocols for submitting requests including all back up documentation needed.

### OPWC 2022 PROJECTS OF COMPLETION:

- As mentioned above in our 441 Resurfacing Projects, **Tallmadge Road Section M-N** was partially state funded.
- Hartville Road Resurfacing** finished in the Fall with Chagrin Valley Paving, Inc. of Chagrin Falls, Ohio completing the construction. This project resurfaced 2.5 miles of Hartville Road (CH 69, Sections G-H) in Randolph and Rootstown Townships.
- Small Bridge Replacement Project** finished in the Fall with Workman Industrial Services, Inc. of Kent, Ohio completing the construction in Franklin and Rootstown Townships. This project consisted of the replacement of two (2) bridges; 1. New Milford Road Bridge #214 over Reed Ditch 2. Johnson Road Bridge #107 Over Fish Creek



### OPWC 2022 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

**PROJECT:** NEWTON FALLS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT **LOCATION:** Ravenna Township **FUNDING:** 50% State Funded **STAGE:** Construction

The Marucci & Gaffney Excavating Company of Youngstown, Ohio was the low bidder to construct the replacement structure for a fee of \$674,786, of which, 50% will be paid with grant dollars. The structure is to be completed by May 26, 2023.

## Traffic Safety

Our Traffic Safety Department is responsible for center and edge line striping on the 370 miles of County Road the Portage County Engineer maintains. During 2022, our Traffic Safety crews center line striped a total of **207.3** miles and edge line striped a total of **199.1** miles of County roads with acrylic water base traffic paint. Our traffic paint requirements are bid annually with last year's paint bid being awarded to Ozark Materials, LLC, of Greenville, Alabama. Our cost for yellow paint was \$10.89 per gallon and our cost for white paint was \$10.69 per gallon.

In addition, our Traffic Safety crews are also responsible for pavement markings on all Portage County roads including 18 railroad pavement markings, 9 intersections, 9 school zones and 12 stop bar locations.

Other responsibilities of the Traffic Safety crew include repairing mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations, erecting signs for road closure detours and maintenance of all road and bridge signage on County roads and bridge signs on Township roads. The Traffic Safety crew inventoried and maintained 5,440 traffic signs throughout the County which consisted of 3,364 Warning and Guide Signs and 2,076 Regulatory Signs.



## 2022 SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

**Hickory Creek Phase 1** – Construction continues through 2023.

**Hickory Creek Phase 2** – Plans are in review.

**Germaine Reserve Phase 1** – Maintenance work continues on this phase with dedication on the roadway Fall of 2023.

**Germaine Reserve Phase 2** – Construction continued into 2023. This phase of the subdivision has been platted.

**Cranberry Creek Phase 1&2** – Maintenance and dedication to Brimfield Township early Spring of 2023.

**Cranberry Creek Phase 3** – Maintenance work continues on this phase with dedication on the roadway Summer of 2023.

**Cranberry Creek Phase 4** – Construction continues into 2023. This phase of the subdivision has been platted.

**Brimfield Commons** – Construction has commenced. Construction will continue into 2023.

**Maplecrest Industrial** – Construction has commenced. Construction will continue into 2023.

**Maplecrest Parkway** – Maintenance work continued on Phase 2.

## 2023 FUTURE RESURFACING PROJECT:

### **\*Tallmadge Road Section O-P (2.5 Miles) Palmyra Township**

Total cost for this project is estimated to be around \$890,000. A Grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation will cover 50% of this project up to grant maximum. We are expecting to receive this grant in Summer of 2023 and begin construction after the project is bid.

## TAX MAP DEPARTMENT



The Tax Map Office is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Portage County Administration Building. The Tax Map Department normally operates with three (3) full time employees but is currently running with two (2) full time employees with the full time position of Tax Map Draftsperson II open. It is the responsibility of the Tax Map Department to maintain all County parcel maps providing the County Auditor with an accurate tax base for each parcel. This includes checking new property splits, adjusting property lines and acreages as reflected from new survey plats and keeping the maps updated according to daily changes. Tax Map personnel also check each deed being recorded to make sure the legal descriptions being used are accurate and adequate. The Tax Map personnel put a large amount of information online ... please check out our website at <https://www.co.portage.oh.us/engineer/tax-map>. The Tax Map Department assists the general public, land surveyors, the title industry and legal professionals. In addition, Tax Map personnel assist in maintaining the County's LBRS [Location Based Response System]. The LBRS is a County/State initiative that assembles and distributes current information on all roads and addresses in the County. The information is accessed by many entities, such as EMS, and helps in saving lives. The LBRS also reduces taxpayer dollars by eliminating duplicate data collection and is vital in protecting the safety, health, welfare and quality of life for the residents of Portage County and the State of Ohio.

During 2022, the Tax Map Department ...

### REVIEWED 54 NEW PLATS

### REVIEWED 236 SURVEYS

The Tax Map Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Phone is 330-297-3598. Email [lfoelich@portageco.com](mailto:lfoelich@portageco.com).

## PORTAGE COUNTY ENGINEER BUDGET FACTS & FIGURES

Our department's largest revenue source is **Vehicle Registration Fees (License Plates)**. Revenue is only received from those who register vehicles in Portage County.

Our second largest revenue source is **Gasoline Tax**. On July 1, 2019, the State of Ohio gas tax increased from 28 cents per gallon to 38.5 cents per gallon. This gas tax is divided among counties, cities, townships and villages with all 88 counties within the State of Ohio receiving an equal share. For County Engineers, this equates to an estimated revenue increase of about \$1.5 million.

We **do not** receive any direct federal gas tax revenue, nor do we receive revenue from real estate taxes, sales taxes, income taxes or Portage County's General Fund.

### 2022 REVENUE

Vehicle Registration	\$ 4,429,214
Gasoline Tax	\$ 3,700,503
Permissive Tax	\$ 1,650,022
Contract Services	\$ 19,244
Sales & Services	\$ 274,028
Insurance Settlement	\$ 6,613
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 135,250

TOTAL 2022 REVENUE \$ 10,214,874

2021 CARRYOVER \$ 3,926,063

TOTAL 2022 AVAILABLE REVENUE \$ 14,140,937

### 2022 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 3,331,362
Benefits	\$ 1,472,351
Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,618,938
Equipment	\$ 434,027
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 80,077
Utilities	\$ 75,681
Loan Principal Payment	\$ 70,356
Road/Bridge Project Expenses	\$ 4,628,924
General Insurance	\$ 39,696
ORC C5577	\$ 125,973
Other	\$ 126,418
TOTAL 2022 EXPENDITURES	\$12,003,803

GRANT DOLLARS SAVE COUNTY DOLLARS ... Whenever possible, we apply for federal grant money (through the Ohio Department of Transportation ... ODOT or the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study ... AMATS) and state money (through the Ohio Public Works Commission ... OPWC) to bring tax dollars back to Portage County for local projects. By using the local match money to qualify for state and federal grants, we maximize the use of County dollars to complete many projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. Many of our construction projects bid during 2022 were paid with both local monies and grant monies. There was over \$2,517,904 directly disbursed during 2022 by either ODOT or OPWC - on behalf of Portage County and, specifically, the Portage County Engineer - for various grant funded construction projects.





## NEW POSITION WITH PAID TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!!

In November of 2022 we entered into a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with our Teamsters' Local Union No. 436. Said Agreement added the position of Highway Worker I, under a one-year probationary period with the opportunity to obtain a Class A CDL license within one year of hire. Due to the cost and investment made by the County in paying for the Class A CDL schooling, the Engineer requires a (5) year commitment from the employee after the one-year probationary period (assuming the Class A CDL is obtained by the employee). If the employee voluntarily quits or resigns within the (5) year period, the employee shall repay a proportional balance of the CDL cost back to the County Engineer. Details of repayment would be laid out in the employee's contract.

*Check our website for job postings!*



## VETERAN'S DAY

**"LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE"**

**From November 7 to November 11, we joined in the County wide effort in turning our Buildings green to honor all who served**



**We're on the Web!!!**

**[www.co.portage.oh.us](http://www.co.portage.oh.us)**

**Click on Elected Officials/Engineer**

*If you have any questions or comments about this report, please contact me, Mickey Marozzi, at  
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