To the Board of Portage County Commissioners and the residents of Portage County ... this is our Department’s Annual Report of the status of the County’s roads and bridges as is mandated by Ohio Revised Code. 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. The following is a partial listing of your County Highway and Engineering Department’s accomplishments during the 2018 calendar year. I am very proud of the work we have done and the accomplishments of all of our employees. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens of Portage County as your County Engineer.

How do we decide which roads get resurfaced???

It seems that the only road most people seem to be concerned about is the one in front of their own house. However, our department is responsible for maintaining about 370 miles of road. Level 1 roads are resurfaced on a rotational basis based on three factors ... traffic count, condition and age of the pavement. Roads are selected based on the oldest pavement with the highest traffic count and worst condition.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

2018/2019 WINTER SEASON

Our total snow and ice control cost for the 2018/2019 winter season was $651,701. This reflects a $180,841 increase versus the 2017/2018 winter season. The cost breakdown includes $365,403 for materials which includes 888 tons of grit and 7,000 tons of rock salt. Labor costs totaled $286,298 and consisted of 3,501 regular time man-hours and 3,563 overtime hours for a total of 7,064 hours. We had 18 partial callouts and 31 full overtime call outs.

As in the past, we bartered with ODOT to get salt brine from them to conduct our pre-treatment program. We furnished ODOT with one (1) ton of salt for each 1,000 gallons of brine. If the weather was dry before an expected snowstorm, brine was applied, as needed, to bridge decks and Level 1 roads. Brine works well with rock salt, costs less and is better for the environment.

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.

For those political subdivisions wishing to purchase their salt requirements through us for the 2019/2020 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.
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:

- **Crack Sealed 15.86 Miles of Road**
- **Chip and Sealed a total of 41.73 Miles of Road**
- **Installed 38 Drive Pipes**
- **Replaced 29 Culverts**
- **Berms Have Been Cut on 13.78 Miles of Roadway**
- **Installed 20 New Catch Basins at Various Locations**

The Traffic Safety Department is responsible for center and edge line striping on the 370 miles of County road the Portage County Engineer maintains. During 2018, our Traffic Safety Department center line striped a total of 329 miles and edge line striped a total of 148.6 miles of County road. In addition, 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.

The **Mantua Center Bridge** (MAN 159 TH 247C), over Black Brook in **Mantua Township**, was closed in 2017 due to load capacity concerns. Portage County Engineer crews completed a full superstructure replacement. Work commenced on the project in early September and was completed early October. Total cost to replace the structure was $74,391.

A total of 9.3 miles of road was resurfaced during 2018. OPWC grants offset the cost of several road resurfacing projects and will be mentioned under the OPWC section of this report. The following resurfacing projects were paid 100% with local funds out of the County Engineer’s regular budget:

A 3.3 stretch of **Waterloo Road**, from the intersection of US Route 224 west to the intersection of US Route 224 east in **Randolph**. Six (6) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on June 13, 2018. A construction contract in the amount of $266,297 was awarded to The Shelly Company of Twinsburg, Ohio. All bids received came in under the engineer’s estimate. The project included the resurfacing of the road with asphalt. In addition, the road berms were graded and treated with recycled asphalt. Center and edge line striping was then applied.

About a ½ mile stretch of **Prospect Street** in **Ravenna Township** (in the area of the underpass and the intersection with Summit Road). A construction contract in the amount of $66,159 was awarded to Karvo Companies, Inc. of Stow, Ohio.

A very small section (.12 mile) of **Parkman Road** in **Nelson Township** (from Center Road to the Circle). Barbicas Paving, LLC of Akron, Ohio was the contractor and total cost was $31,511.
Rock Spring Road Slip Repair

A section of Rock Spring Road (CH 52) in Charlestown Township was closed for several days last July for a slip repair. Location of the repair was on the north side of the bridge that crosses the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir at West Branch State Park. Geostabilization International, LLC of Grand Junction, Colorado stabilized the roadway platform at a cost of $99,525 which was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget. Since Geostabilization International, LLC holds a contract with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (Contract No. 800513 – Index No. STS926), we were able to enter into an agreement with them without having to go through the bidding process.

Installation of Soil Nails to Stabilize the Roadway Platform

Liberty Street Bridge Replacement

Bids were opened on April 5, 2017 for the Liberty Street Bridge Replacement located just south of Center Street and crossing Camp Creek in the Village of Garrettsville. Marucci and Gaffney of Youngstown, Ohio was awarded the contract in the amount of $872,000. Due to utility delays impacting the project schedule, the project didn’t actually commence until early 2018 and was substantially complete by May 30, 2018.

Work included replacement of the single span bridge, including new abutments, galvanized steel beams, replacement of the existing waterline under the bridge and a new sidewalk and approach work to meet the existing roadway. We obtained federal Local Bridge Replacement (LBR) funds to help offset the cost of the project by 95%. The remaining 5% was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.

Tallmadge Road Corridor

We are currently in the final design phase for the Tallmadge Road Corridor Project in Brimfield Township. Plans are to obtain right of way acquisitions this summer.

The Tallmadge Road Corridor is one of the busiest stretches of roadway in the County with approximately 17,000 cars traveling it per day. The estimated cost for this improvement is $8.9 million. ODOT has agreed to pay $1.5 million and our office has already secured federal funding for most of the construction cost. A tentative time schedule calls for construction to get under way in spring 2021 and be completed in fall 2022.
NO PASSING ZONE/SOFTWARE UPGRADE & TRAFFIC STUDY
The County Engineer’s Association of Ohio made available a federal grant to fund 90% of the cost of a No Passing Zone Study/Software Upgrade and Traffic Study. MasterMind, LLC of Delaware, Ohio was the consultant selected to perform the No Passing Zone Study on all 370 miles of Portage County Roads. GPD Group of Akron, Ohio performed Traffic Safety Studies on the following three (3) Portage County Intersections in Brimfield Township: Mogadore Road and Portage Boulevard; Howe Road and Mogadore Road and Howe Road and Crystal Parkway.

Total cost for both studies was $67,920 (MasterMind - $31,920.00 … GPD - $36,000) of which 90% was paid with federal funds. The remaining 10% was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.

SHV / EV BRIDGE LOAD RATINGS
The County Engineer’s Association of Ohio made available a federal grant to fund 50% of the cost to perform Emergency Vehicle (EV) and Special Hauling Vehicle (SHV) bridge load ratings on five (5) Portage County bridges. Pennoni Associates, Inc. of Akron, Ohio provided the services for both the EV and SHV ratings. Bridges that were load rated included: Crackle Road (over Aurora Branch of Chagrin River in the City of Aurora); Judson Road (over Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad in Franklin Township); Newton Falls Road (over West Branch of Mahoning River in Paris Township); Old Forge Road (over Breakneck Creek in Rootstown Township) and Silica Sand Road (over Eagle Creek in Nelson Township).

Total cost was $13,179 of which 50% was paid with federal funds and the remaining 50% was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.

Yale Road/Limeridge Road Culvert Replacements
The Yale Road Culvert, between State Route 225 and McClintocksburg Road in Deerfield and Palmyra Townships, and the Limeridge Road Culvert, between Streeter Road and State Route 303 in Freedom Township were replaced during 2018. The work included the removal of the existing culverts which were replaced with concrete elliptical pipes. Wing walls were poured in place and new guardrail was installed at both locations. Fourteen (14) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on March 7, 2018. Grade Line, Inc. of Chardon, Ohio was awarded the contract, in the amount of $181,281.50. A grant through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) covered 60% of the cost of this improvement with the 40% balance being paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.

Chamberlain Road Resurfacing Project
The resurfacing of a 2.7 mile stretch of Chamberlain Road, from State Route 82 north to the Geauga County line in Mantua Township, was completed during 2018. Seven (7) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on July 11, 2018. A construction contract, in the amount of $394,307.00, was awarded to The Shelly Company of Twinsburg, Ohio. All bids received came in under the engineer’s estimate which indicated a good bidding climate for this type of work in our area. The project included the resurfacing of the road with asphalt. In addition, the road berms were graded and treated with recycled asphalt. Center and edge line striping was then applied. A grant, through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), covered 50% of the cost of this improvement. The remaining 50% local share was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.
Lakewood Road/Menough Road Resurfacing Project
A grant through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) covered 50% of the cost to resurface a total of 2.8 miles of roadway on Lakewood and Menough Roads. The remaining 50% local share was paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget. Lakewood Road was resurfaced from Sandy Lake Road to Menough Road in Ravenna and Rootstown Townships and Menough Road was resurfaced from Lakewood Road to State Route 59 in Ravenna Township. Not covered under the OPWC grant but included as part of the bid was the resurfacing of a small section of Prospect Street in Ravenna Township. Seven (7) sealed bids for this project were received and opened on July 11, 2018. A construction contract, in the amount of $534,374.14, was awarded to Karvo Companies of Stow, Ohio. Of the awarded amount, $66,948.90 was for the Prospect Street portion of the project. All bids received came in under the engineer’s estimate. The project included the resurfacing of the road with asphalt. In addition, the road berms were graded and treated with recycled asphalt. Center and edge line striping was then applied.

Parkman Road Culvert Replacement
Portage County Engineer crews replaced a small culvert on Parkman Road Culvert, between Silica Sand Road and Hopkins Road, in Windham Township. Work consisted of removing a 36” corrugated metal pipe and replacing it with a 36” triple double walled plastic pipe. Costs for labor, equipment and materials totaled $15,654 and 60% of that amount was reimbursed to our department through the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Round 33 Status
The following Portage County political subdivisions received favorable action by the District 7 Integrating Committee for Round 33 funding ...

- City of Kent – Miller/Harvey/Steele Storm Water Replacement
- City of Kent – Mogadore Road Resurfacing
- City of Ravenna – Hazen Avenue Water Line
- City of Streetsboro – Repair and Resurface of Industrial Parkway
- Village of Hiram – Hiram Water Tower (Small Government)
- Village of Mantua – Reservoir Rehabilitation Improvement Project
- Village of Windham – Windham 2019 Resurfacing
- Brimfield Township – Lynn Road Resurfacing
- Deerfield Township – Sebring/Johnson Road Resurfacing
- Freedom Township – Asbury Road Resurfacing
- Rootstown Township – Harvest Hills Development

In addition, the Portage County Engineer’s application for the Notman Road Bridge Replacement (CH 68), over Willow Creek in Deerfield Township, as well as their application for the 2019 Resurfacing Program received favorable action by the District 7 Integrating Committee.

The City of Streetsboro’s application for Arrowhead Trails Watermain Replacement was recommended as an alternate project that will receive funding when and if enough turnback monies are accumulated in the fund.

Grants for Round 33 funding are expected to be released by OPWC on July 1, 2019. 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). To not delay payments, you will be responsible for ensuring that chosen suppliers (vendors) are in the state payment system before submitting a Disbursement Request. Updated monthly, this list shows suppliers that are in the system. If your supplier is not in the system, you will need to direct them to the State of Ohio’s Enterprise Identity Management System to access the Ohio Supplier Portal to create an account.

Pre-application packets for Round 34 funding were e-mailed on March 28, 2019 and are due back to our office by Friday, May 31, 2019.

2018 Subdivision Activity

- Maplecrest Parkway Subdivision – Brimfield Township – A commercial/industrial development in Brimfield Township began construction in 2018 with the public road scheduled for completion in 2019. Tallmadge Road (CH 18) is being widened in conjunction with this project to provide better access to the subdivision.

- Wintergreen Point – Rootstown Township – Completed the final phases in 2018. Final acceptance will be in 2019.

A total of six (6) new subdivisions are in the planning, design and review stages with construction scheduled to begin in 2019.
During 2018, our Department spent a total of $415,021 for the purchase of the following equipment to assist with our road maintenance operations:

**One (1) Front Mounted Road Broom**  
Purchased from Southeastern Equipment Company, Inc. at a total cost of $62,240

**One (1) 2018 2500 Tradesman Regular Cab 4 X 2 Truck**  
Purchased from Haasz Automall, LLC of Ravenna, Ohio at a total cost of $23,737

**One (1) 2018 International Single Axle Cab and Chassis**  
Purchased from Rush Truck Centers of Cincinnati, Ohio at a total cost of $74,016

**One (1) 2019 Freightliner Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis**  
Purchased from Valley Freightliner, Inc. of Parma, Ohio at a total cost of $83,898

**One (1) Kobelco SK85CS-3E Excavator**  
Purchased from Southeastern Equipment Company of North Canton, Ohio at a total cost of $102,367

**One (1) Minuteman Snow and Ice Control Equipment Package**  
Purchased from Concord Road Equipment Manufacturing, Inc. of Painesville, Ohio at a cost of $68,763  
*(Installed on 2017 Mack Tandem Axle Truck purchased from R & R Truck Sales, Inc.)*

*Purchased through the state cooperative purchasing group ([www.procure.ohio.gov](http://www.procure.ohio.gov)).

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**TAX MAP DEPARTMENT**

The Tax Map Office is located on the 3rd floor of the Portage County Administration Building and has three (3) full time employees. It is the responsibility of the Tax Map Department to maintain all of the 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 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 2018, the Tax Map Department ...

- REVIEWED 101 NEW PLATS
- REVIEWED 200 SURVEYS

The Tax Map Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
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**. During 2018, counties statewide receive approximately 4.4 cents per gallon of the state’s 28-cent tax, with all 88 counties receiving an equal share. We do not receive any direct federal gas tax revenue.

The County Engineer does not receive real estate property tax as a part of its revenue.

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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. As a result of the grants we received, over $1.6 million was directly disbursed during 2018 by either ODOT or OPWC - on behalf of Portage County and, specifically, the Portage County Engineer – for our various construction projects.

It’s that time of year again … orange cones and orange barrels!!!

For the last several months, we’ve been preparing for our 2019 Summer Road Work Program which will include the resurfacing of about 10.8 miles of Level 1 roads as follows: **Cook Road** in *Rootstown Township*, from Tallmadge Road to New Milford Road; **Diagonal Road** in *Franklin Township*, from Ravenna Road to the Streetsboro Corporation Limit; **Hayes Road** in *Ravenna Township*, from State Route 5/44 Bypass to State Route 14; **Infirmary Road** in *Shalersville and Ravenna Townships*, from State Route 14 to State Route 303; **Mogadore Road** in *Brimfield Township*, from Howe Road to Route 261; **Overlook Road** in *Franklin Township*, from Diagonal Road to State Route 43.

In addition, the Notman Road Bridge (CH 68), over Willow Creek in *Deerfield Township*, is scheduled for replacement this summer.

Total cost for the 2019 Summer Road Work Program is estimated to be around $2.4 million. We were successful in obtaining grants to help offset the cost of the Notman Road Bridge Replacement as well as the resurfacing of Cook, Infirmary and Mogadore Roads. The cost of the remaining improvements, as well as all local shares, will be paid out of the County Engineer’s regular budget.
The Engineer’s Office continues to evaluate bridges within our jurisdiction to assure that each structure can carry all legal load configurations traveling on our public roads. Recently the FHWA and ODOT have issued directives that additional classes of vehicles will need to be used to assess the structural capacity of our bridges. This is to make sure that bridges can safely carry the heavier construction vehicles and fire trucks being seen more commonly on the roadways. Over the next few years, evaluation of these heavier vehicles is anticipated to require additional load postings throughout the state, including Portage County. This office will communicate any new load limits on bridges to residents and local officials through news releases and the Portage County website.

**Bridge Load Rating**

SU6 – up to 34.75 tons

SU7 – up to 38.75 tons

EV2 – up to 28.75 tons

EV3 – up to 43 tons

Annual Inventory Reminder ... As per Ohio Revised Code 505.04, all Boards of Township Trustees shall make an inventory on the second Monday of January, each year, of all the materials, machinery, tools, and other Township supplies in its possession. The inventory shall be a public record and shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be filed with the Fiscal Officer of the Board and one copy with the County Engineer. Our department received 2018 inventories from 3 of our 18 Townships!!!

We're on the Web!!

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 (330) 296-6411 or e-mail me at mmarozzi@portageco.com.

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