

**Christopher O. Long, PE, PS**  
 HANCOCK COUNTY ENGINEER

**2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

The biggest story here this year is that salt prices went back down from \$105.20 a ton to \$52.05 a ton. There was also a break in here at the County Garage. The thief got away with a pickup and several mechanics tools. Luckily all was recovered, but we did install a security system. Being the County Engineer there is a lot more to deal with than just roads and bridges. I continue to be committed to replacing bridges and repairing roads with the limited funding that we operate with. We have hired one (1) individual to be a laborer. But, we have lost three (3) individuals to different jobs. The new individual is working on a variety of crews, at first, to see where he will work out best. Good people make good things happen. Our work force is committed to making our highway system as safe as possible and I thank them for that! We urge you to slow down and operate your vehicle carefully!

**SOURCES OF REVENUE – 2015**

License Fees	\$ 2,119,110
Permissive License Fee	178,373
Gasoline Tax	2,356,713
Fines (Municipal Court)	85,884
Reimbursements	438,570
Interest	1,939
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,180,589</b>

- License fees are based on the number of vehicles registered in the County. (The fee for a passenger car is \$20, fees for trucks are higher.)

- The County also collects a \$5 permissive license fee for vehicles registered in unincorporated areas.
- \$.03/gallon of the Ohio Gasoline Tax is evenly distributed among all 88 Ohio Counties.
- A portion of traffic fines collected in Findlay and Fostoria Municipal Courts.
- The County is reimbursed for materials and services provided to other agencies.

**EXPENSES - 2015**

Employee Salaries	\$ 1,513,110
Fringe Benefits	541,465
Office & Grounds	205,476
Debt Service	146,000
Contracts:	
Pavement Striping	79,106
Bridge Contracts	40,500
Paving Contracts	865,939
Consultants	68,421
Road Materials	328,164
Road Salt	141,727
Bridge Materials	48,946
Culvert Materials	27,205
Sign Materials	39,966
Fuel	344,238
Equip. Maintenance	171,945
New Equipment	193,304
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,755,512</b>

RESPONSIBILITIES

363 Miles of Highway

1800 Acres of Right of Way

375 Bridges – The County Engineer is responsible for all bridges in the County except those on the State Highway system. Spans range from 10’ to 280’. 25 structures are over 100’ in length.

245 Culverts – 36” to 120” diameter

740 Culverts – 8” to 33” diameter

113 Permanent Maintenance ditches

186 miles of open channels

11 miles of subsurface tile

11,000+ Traffic signs on County and Township roads and Village streets. Townships and Villages contract with the Engineer for maintenance of signs on their systems.

STATUS OF ROADS

The table below identifies the rating of County and Township road systems as of December 2015:

	Miles of Highway	
	COUNTY	TOWNSHIP
Excellent	81	165
Good	91	269
Fair	126	169
Poor	63	32

The following table identifies the miles of resurfacing performed on each system during the past 5 years. The continuing commitment of the Township Trustees is obvious:

	COUNTY	TOWNSHIP
2015	14.8	20.2
2014	14.9	18.4
2013	11.2	15.8
2012	17.9	10.1
2011	8.2	15.4

2015 ROAD WORK

The following roads were resurfaced under contract with the Shelly Company for a total cost of \$356,289.01. A grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission paid for \$178,144.50:

CR54 – CR37 to CR12

CR183–CR304 to TR150

The following roads were resurfaced under contract with Bluffton Asphalt for a total cost of \$875,566.20. A grant from the Federal Highway Administration paid for \$700,452.96 of the final cost.

CR 12 – SR 103 to CR 37

CR 180 – SR 15 to SR 37

CR 698 – CR 304 to SR 103

STATUS OF BRIDGES

Every bridge in Hancock County is inspected at least once a year and a report of each bridge’s condition is submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Listed below is a summary of the condition of bridges in the County:

Excellent	136	Poor	6
Good	191	Closed	1
Fair	41		

6 bridges have reached a condition where they should be replaced as soon as funding allows. 34 bridges are posted for reduced weight limits, less than a 40 ton load.

2015 BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Bridge 167-0.66 (TR 167 over Stahl Ditch) had existing box beams replaced with new box beams. The work was designed and constructed by County personnel.

MISCELLANEOUS

The equipment purchases in 2015 were a pickup for the mechanics for equipment maintenance (\$19,788.00). We purchased a 2015 F-350 4x4 Supercab pickup for use by our tile crew. A 2015 Ford F-250 4x4 Supercab pickup was purchased for use by our superintendent for \$26,263.00. A 2015 Caterpillar mini-excavator was purchased for \$85,761.00. This piece of machinery will be used in places that the full sized excavator is too large to get into. We also purchased a 12 ton

tandem dual equipment trailer to haul the mini-excavator for \$13,349.

FINAL COMMENTS

Our work force makes a huge difference to the public that we serve and for that, I thank them. Many nights when our workforce is out plowing snow, most of the public is still sleeping. It may be fewer in numbers than it was before, but our work force is stepping up and keeping things moving forward! I would like to thank the City of Findlay for a great working relationship. I know that they have been there for us in times of need, and for that I am thankful.

Ohio has a long term structural deficiency in the manner that we fund transportation. The past standard method of utilizing gas tax and license fees is not likely, in the long term, to sustain the system of roads and bridges that we currently have; nor will it fund future development beyond the existing transportation system. Past revenue and projected future revenue growth in the current method is woefully inadequate in the long term to repair, maintain and sustain roadway infrastructure assets.