

KNOX COUNTY ENGINEER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Knox County Engineer compiles this report for the Knox County Board of Commissioners, as required by section 5543.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

This report addresses the current condition of county roads, all bridges on county and township roads, and culverts on county roads. Also included in this report are the activities of the Knox County Tax Map Office. Another requirement of this document is to “estimate the probable amount of funds required to maintain and repair or to construct any new roads, bridges or culverts required within the county.”

There are several factors that come into play when looking at funding for roadway projects and each project presents its own special circumstances. In the past, we have diligently pursued grant money for projects and have been very successful in securing alternative funding. Total grant dollars received by the Knox County Engineer over the past ten years for road and bridge projects is approximately \$22 million. Without alternative funding sources it would be impossible to complete the needed roadway maintenance projects. For instance, in 2025, Ohio voters approved to extend the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). Voter support of this funding source was a major accomplishment and provides funding for county, city, village and township infrastructure projects across all of Ohio.

With responsibility for maintaining 400 centerline miles of roadway, we need to resurface or repair approximately 40 miles annually to sustain the long-term condition of the transportation infrastructure. In 2025, we took money out of our reserve funds to meet this goal of 40 miles, although we will not be able to do the same in 2026. We are actively falling behind on resurfacing each year due to limited available funds. Grants for resurfacing projects are much more competitive and depending on the funding source, can only be used on certain types of roadways.

Bridge conditions across the county are improving and we continue to focus on replacing the poor and critical bridges. We have two (2) critical bridges that are funded for replacement over the next two years and twenty-six (26) poor bridges needing funding. The remaining inventory is in good and fair condition. The total number of bridges in Knox County is 321, and the average cost to replace one bridge is approximately \$1 million.

The goal of the Knox County Engineer and Highway Department is to provide a safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation system that supports the local economy, schools, public and emergency services and the daily lives of Knox County residents. In addition, the Tax Map Office works diligently to maintain accurate property records and protect the property rights of the landowners throughout the county.

Thank you for your support in what we do and the people that make it happen.

Sincerely,



Cameron Keaton, P.E., P.S.

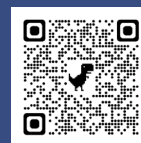


Cameron Keaton, P.E., P.S.



Knox County Engineer & Highway Department

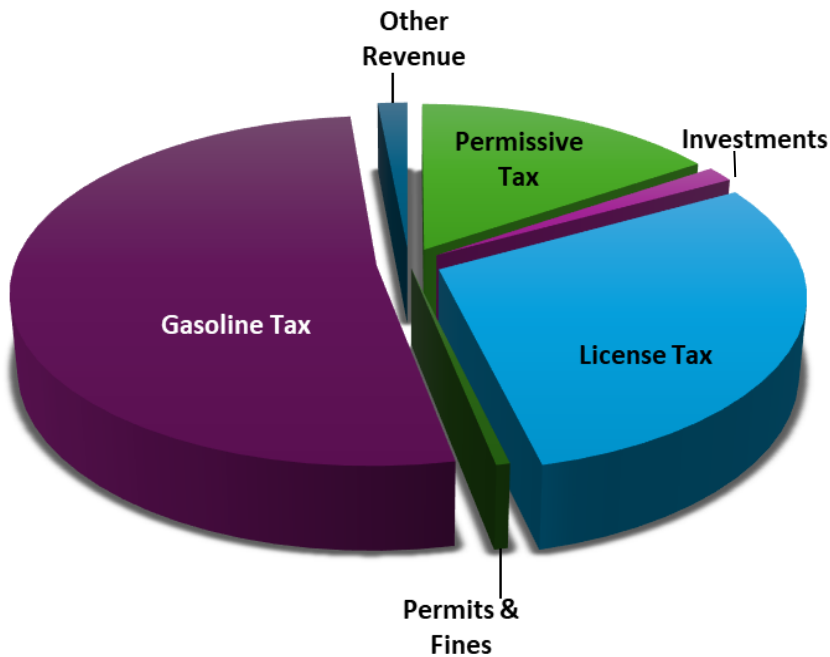
422 Columbus Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
(740) 397-1590
www.co.knox.oh.us/engineer/



Total Area:	530 sq. mi.
Population:	62,721
Length County Roads:	399.61 mi.
Culverts:	2,462
Bridges:	321

Fiscal Year Financial Snapshot

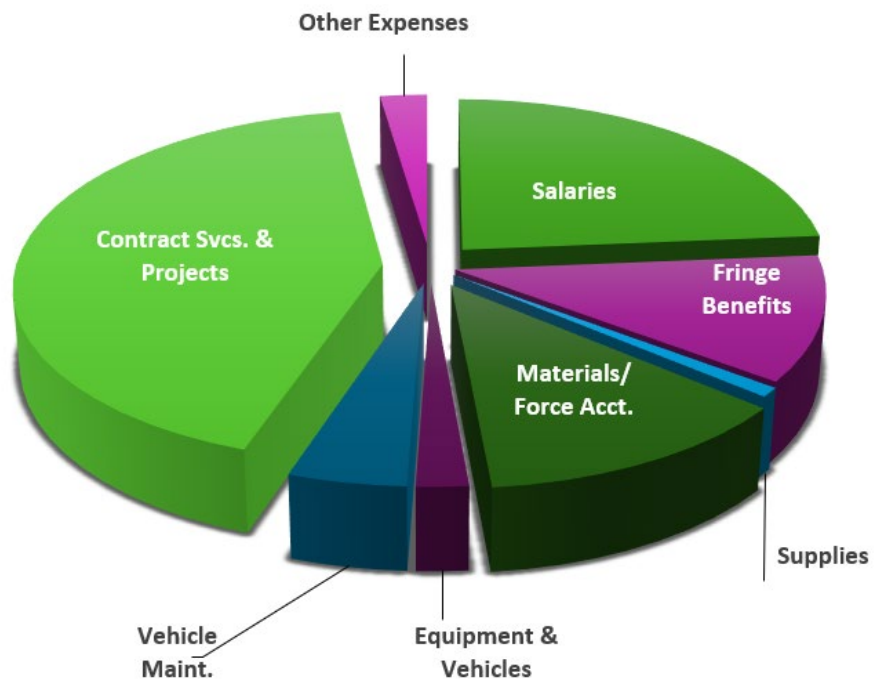
REVENUE



Permissive Tax	\$1,195,212
Investments	\$110,345
License Tax	\$2,237,091
Permits & Fines	\$41,452
Gasoline Tax	\$3,956,772
Other Revenue	\$116,820
Total Revenue	\$7,657,692

EXPENSES

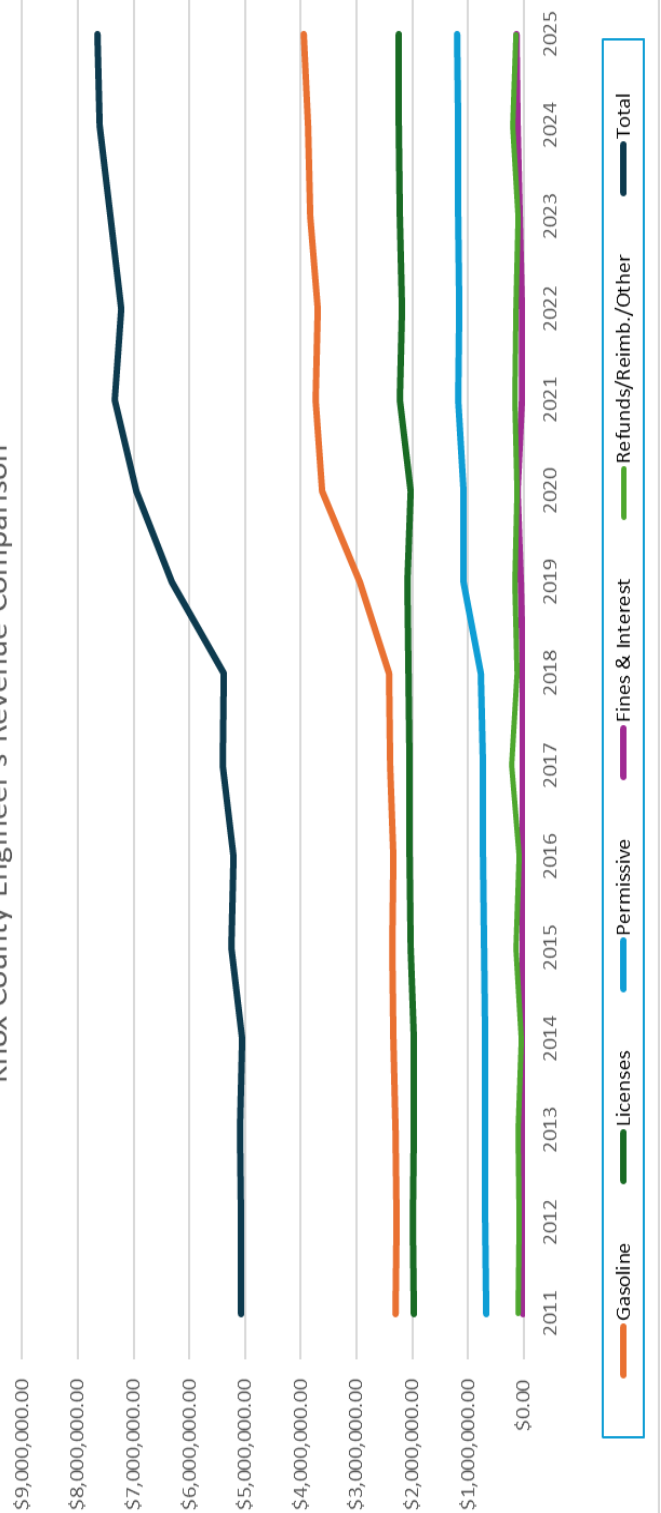
Contract Svcs./Projects	\$3,528,794
Salaries	\$1,966,100
Materials/ Force Acct.	\$1,040,958
Fringe Benefits	\$956,220
Vehicle Maint. & Fuel	\$379,567
Equipment & Vehicles	\$167,616
Supplies/Building	\$70,857
Other Expenses	\$195,051
Total Expenses	\$8,305,163



Revenue Trends 2011 - 2025

Year	Gasoline	Licenses	Permissive	Fines & Interest	Refunds/Reimb./Other	Total
2011	\$2,310,206.90	\$1,966,498.64	\$680,841.33	\$8,953.34	\$108,490.49	\$5,074,990.70
2012	\$2,290,681.36	\$1,989,453.76	\$689,888.82	\$7,636.86	\$86,971.92	\$5,064,632.72
2013	\$2,299,886.19	\$1,980,739.95	\$693,164.91	\$9,077.66	\$100,378.10	\$5,083,246.81
2014	\$2,334,893.50	\$1,970,488.72	\$693,948.92	\$11,233.38	\$47,098.72	\$5,057,663.24
2015	\$2,356,712.91	\$2,021,281.29	\$712,861.93	\$9,525.01	\$146,285.54	\$5,246,666.68
2016	\$2,338,615.75	\$2,053,057.61	\$724,804.13	\$10,300.28	\$77,536.97	\$5,204,314.74
2017	\$2,389,284.77	\$2,046,671.69	\$737,877.74	\$14,030.27	\$210,696.88	\$5,398,561.35
2018	\$2,417,403.95	\$2,069,367.51	\$761,552.57	\$18,446.34	\$116,933.45	\$5,383,703.82
2019	\$2,939,200.28	\$2,082,079.72	\$1,077,412.27	\$60,696.19	\$151,520.91	\$6,310,909.37
2020	\$3,614,207.26	\$2,024,382.21	\$1,087,437.43	\$112,899.55	\$113,251.65	\$6,952,178.10
2021	\$3,739,694.30	\$2,220,423.99	\$1,182,304.68	\$33,520.29	\$158,788.71	\$7,334,731.97
2022	\$3,700,502.54	\$2,192,121.82	\$1,161,675.18	\$38,734.78	\$134,186.12	\$7,227,220.44
2023	\$3,827,153.05	\$2,232,495.33	\$1,176,094.63	\$73,693.68	\$108,350.02	\$7,417,786.71
2024	\$3,871,744.51	\$2,233,502.79	\$1,174,338.29	\$119,934.75	\$201,306.13	\$7,600,826.47
2025	\$3,956,771.80	\$2,237,090.98	\$1,195,212.16	\$131,392.17	\$137,224.88	\$7,657,691.99

Knox County Engineer's Revenue Comparison



Road Projects

Annual Resurfacing Program

The annual resurfacing program covered 46.01 miles of county highways at a cost of \$2,296,450, equating to \$49,663 per mile. The contract was awarded to *Small's Asphalt Paving, Inc.* and included the following roads:

<u>Asphalt Level, Chip Seal & Berm</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Chip Seal</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Big Run Road (CR54)	2.11	Butler Road (CR65)	4.31
Murray Road (CR64)	2.17	Pipesville Road (CR35)	4.29
McLarnan (CR32)	4.57	Wally Road (CR78)	4.19
Ridge Road (CR47)	3.78	Sycamore Road (CR27)	8.22
Blue Road (CR50)	1.93		
Tucker Road (CR1)	1.53		
Ravin Road (CR75)	1.05		
Mickley Road (CR88)	2.10		
Flat Run Road (CR40)	5.76		



Annual Roadside Mowing Program

The Knox County Engineer subcontracted the 2025 roadside mowing duties to *Running G Farms LLC*, from Rio Grande, Ohio. Four Hundred miles of roadway was mowed on three separate occasions (Ohio Revised Code 5579.04). The cost of mowing was \$82 per mile (\$97,930 annually).

Asphalt Patching and Repairs

Knox County Highway crews patch and repair county roadways year-round. In the winter months, cold mix asphalt is used prior to the seasonal readiness of the hot mix materials. Patching material costs were as follows:

Hot mix asphalt	\$ 444,973
Cold mix asphalt	\$ 34,580
Total	\$ 479,553

Road Projects

(continued)

Danville-Amity Road Phase II Safety Improvements (CR14)

The contracted cost of this project was \$3,082,502; being fully funded at 80% through CEAO Safety Funds and 20% Local Funds. The contract was awarded to *Law General Contracting, Inc.*, St. Louisville, Ohio. It was an extensive project consisting of 3.14 miles of roadway widening, right of way work, road resurfacing and safety features (guardrail, striping, and rumble strips). Construction began in the spring of 2025 and was completed in the fall of 2025.



Mishey Road Resurfacing (CR55)

With the assistance of funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), the entire length of Mishey Road was resurfaced (6.43 miles). For a total cost of \$ 831,423, an asphalt level course and chip seal was applied, along with edge berming. The project was awarded to *Small's Asphalt Paving, Inc.* and completed in September 2025.

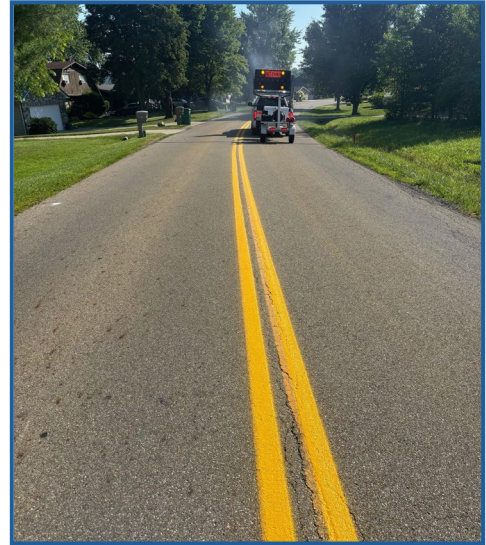


Road Projects

(continued)

Pavement Markings

Griffin Pavement Striping, LLC., was awarded a contract to paint various pavement markings on a variety of county roads. This included over 30 miles of centerline striping, stop bars and other safety markings (school zone, pedestrian crossings, bike lane, etc.). The project was funded by CEAO Highway Safety Improvement Program at a total cost of \$80,990.



Danville-Amity Road Tree Removal (CR14)

In February 2025, extensive tree removal was performed by the Knox County Highway Department with assistance from *Hysong Tree Service*; over 400 trees were removed. The work was done in anticipation of the scheduled Danville-Amity Road Phase II Safety Improvement Project.



Winter Season Operations Report

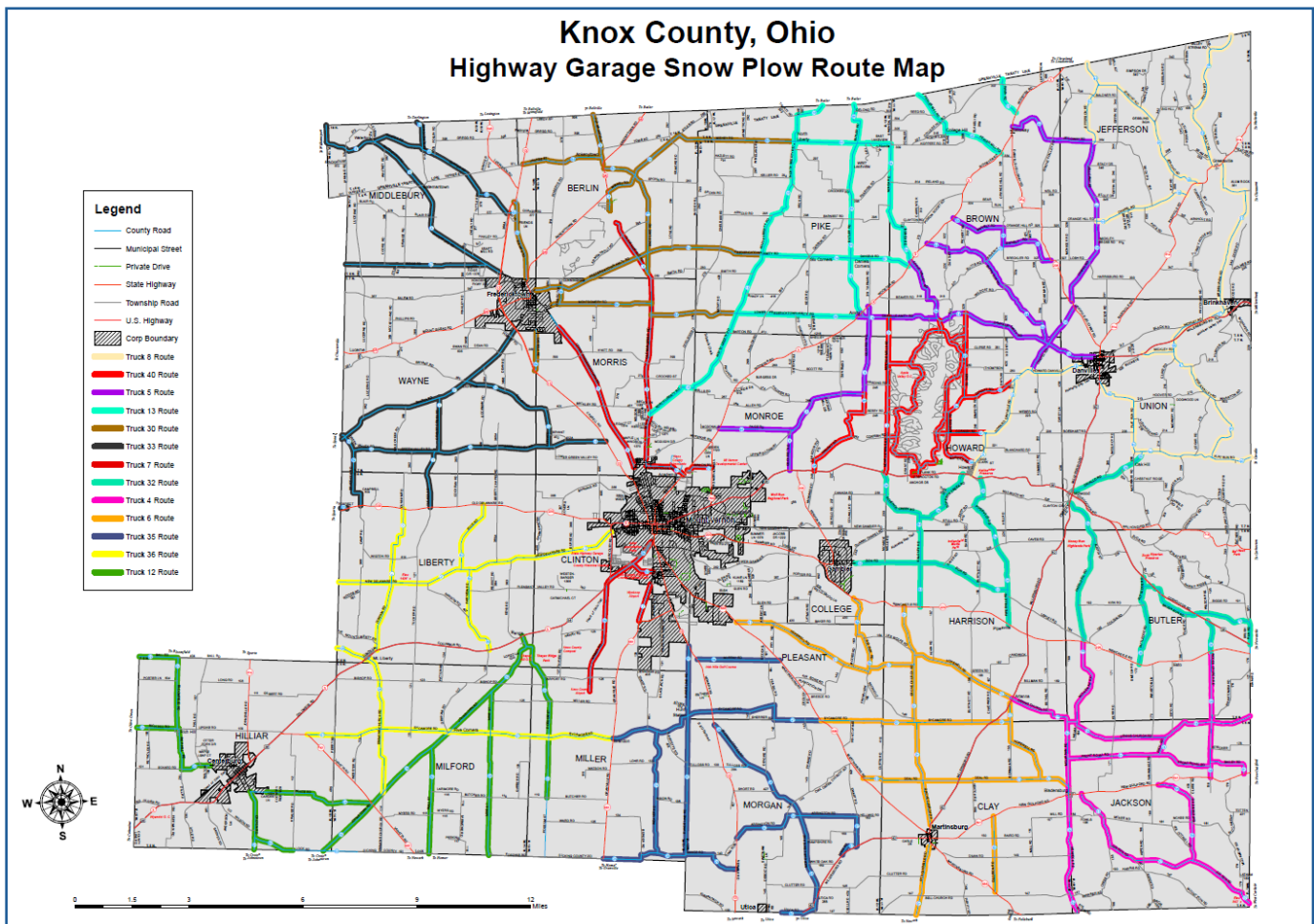
Battling winter road conditions in Ohio is always challenging. Knox County maintains 13 designated snowplow routes, with each being approximately 30 centerline miles in length. On average, when a truck is actively plowing and spreading materials, it takes roughly 3-4 hours to complete an entire route, including treatment of all driving lanes and intersections. Treatment measures are dependent upon precipitation, road conditions, and temperatures.

The Knox County Engineer participated in the ODOT Rock Salt Winter Competitive Bid for the 2024-2025 season, purchasing all salt product from *Cargill, Inc.* The contract price for salt was \$58.97 per ton, reflecting a \$0.30 decrease from the previous season.

Materials applied: salted grits (9's), straight salt, or a 70/30 (9's/salt) mixture

Total Tons of Materials used: 4,800

The 2025-2026 state bid for salt was awarded to *Cargill, Inc.*, with a unit price of \$67.02 per ton. This reflects an increase of \$8.05 per ton, or 13.65 percent, compared to the prior year.



Bridge Projects

Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement (TR362)

Contractor: McConnell Contracting Inc.

Bridge Type: Single span composite prestressed box beams with concrete deck and cast-in-place semi-integral abutments on piles.

Cost: \$ 921,992

Funding: Local Bridge Replacement funds 95%, Local Funds 5%



Hazel Dell Road Box Culvert Installation (CR32)

An emergency bridge replacement was required on Hazel Dell Road (CR32). The Knox County Highway Department removed the existing structure and installed a 14'x6' box culvert for a cost of \$59,737.



Bridge Projects

(continued)

Historical Bridge Conditions

2025	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical	Total
	169 52.6%	124 38.6%	26 8.0%	2 0.6%	321
2024	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical	Total
	171 53.0%	124 38.4%	26 8.0%	2 0.6%	323
2023	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical	Total
	166 51.2%	122 37.7%	34 10.5%	2 0.6%	324
2022	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical	Total
	164 50.6%	119 36.8%	39 12.0%	2 0.6%	324
2021	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical	Total
	162 49.7%	118 36.2%	44 13.5%	2 0.6%	326

Tax Map Report

The Knox County Tax Map Office is under the direction of the Knox County Engineer. The Tax Map Office is responsible for legal descriptions of properties, the county GIS database, boundary survey verification, parcel ownership information, custom mapping, and the assignment of property addresses.

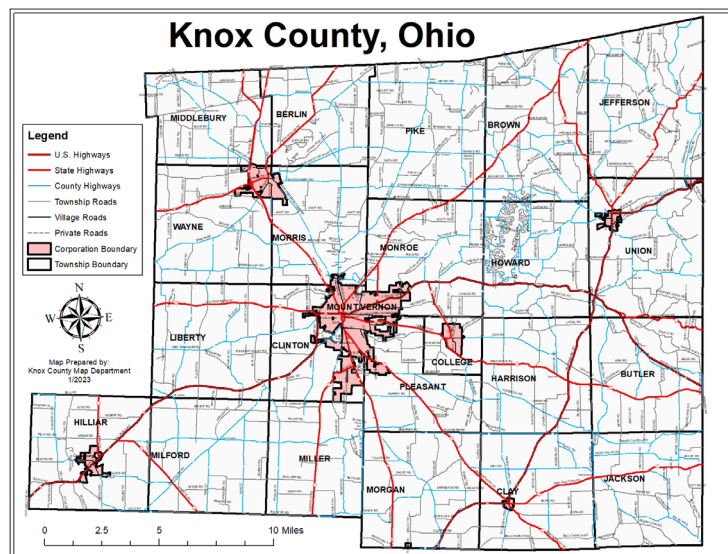
Knox County road maps were reprinted in early 2025 to reflect updates, corrections, and changes to the roadway system.

Map Sales: \$ 1,003

Deed Transfers: 3,648

Address Assignments: 262

Boundary Surveys: 279



Equipment Purchases

2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500

2025 GMC Sierra 2500

Fleet Vehicles

Purchased: March 2025

Price: \$49,905/each



2024 Ford F550

Mechanic Service Truck

Purchased: December 2025

Price: \$184,755

2023 KM International

4 Ton Asphalt Hotbox

Purchased: January 2025

Price: \$44,325



2026 Upcoming Projects

Howard-Danville Road Bridge Replacement (CR9) PID 117987 - \$1,147,242. LBR Funds 95%, Local Funds 5%. Construction to begin in the spring of 2026. Completion Date July 2026.

Danville Amity Road (CR14) Phase III - \$350,538. Ohio Public Works Commission 74% and Local Funds 26%. Construction to begin in the spring of 2026. Completion Date October 2026.

Annual Resurfacing - 100% Local funds. Construction to be completed by fall 2026.

Asphalt Level & Chip, Seal & Berm (total 10.55 miles)

Dunham Road (CR1) - \$273,275

Montgomery Road (CR66) - \$225,834

Connector Road (CR99) - \$39,225

Utica Road (CR28B) - \$23,532

Vincent Road (CR46) - \$210,595

Chip & Seal (total 1.72 miles)

Magers Road (CR94) - \$11,615

Prospect Road (CR85) - \$8,133

Brinkhaven Road (CR78) - \$37,839

Total Annual Resurfacing: \$ 830,048

Box Culvert Projects – 100% Local funds. Construction to be completed by fall 2026.

Tulloss Road (CR28A) - \$66,500 Morgan Township

Simmons Church Road (CR25) - \$68,128 Milford Township

Burnett Road (TR156) - \$47,622 Harrison Township

Airport Road (TR126) - \$50,945 Miller Township

Eckart Road (TR101) - \$49,928 Hilliar Township

Sharp Road (TR130) - \$30,021 Miller Township

Total Box Culverts: \$ 313,144

Total of all 2026 Projects: \$ 2,640,972