



As County Engineer I feel it is important to maintain a safe, quality roadway system for the people of Holmes County and the many visitors that are attracted to our beautiful community. I feel it is equally important to be accountable and to explain to everyone how their tax dollars are being spent. I hope this brochure helps to explain the often confusing and misunderstood funding of government services, at least as it pertains to the maintenance of your county road and bridge systems. Thank you for taking the time to read this information and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Your County Engineer,

Christopher Young, P.E., P.S.

Interesting County Engineer Facts

- There are 250 miles of *county roads* in Holmes County that the Engineer is responsible to maintain.
- The County Engineer is responsible for the maintenance of 271 county and township bridges.
- No general fund money, sales tax money or property tax money is used for road and bridge maintenance.
- Did you know that the County Engineer is an elected official?
- According to State Law a County Engineer must be both a licensed engineer and a licensed land surveyor.
- The County Engineer operates and maintains his own budget, independent of the County Commissioners.

HOLMES COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.
ENGINEER'S OFFICE

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Holmes County Highway Dept. Engineer's Office

INFORMATION ON FUNDING AND SPENDING



Holmes County Highway Garage

Where the Money Comes From

A common misconception is that the County Engineer receives funds from property taxes, county sales tax or the county general fund. No general fund money, sales tax money or property tax money is used for road and bridge maintenance.

County road and bridge projects are financed from the County's share of income from fuel taxes, motor vehicle registration fees, state and federal grants, and donations.

Fuel Taxes

Gasoline taxes are a major source of funding. Although motorists pay 46.4 cents in taxes for each gallon of gasoline purchased, the County Engineers receive only 2.2 cents of the gas tax with the majority of the tax going to the state and federal governments.

It is important to note: When gas prices increase, our income does not increase.

Motor Vehicle Registration Fees

Motor vehicle registration fees are another major source of funding for the County Engineer. Holmes County's share of these fees are based on the number of vehicles registered in the county. In 2006, Holmes County registered 35,768 vehicles.

The County Engineer's share is approximately 70 percent of the fees collected. The remaining 30 percent is distributed to other agencies.

As of October 2003, the base rate for a non-commercial vehicle is \$31.00. For Commercial vehicles, the costs are based upon vehicle weight.

Recently, the state legislature allowed local government to levy an additional motor vehicle registration fees in increments of \$5.00, up to a total of \$20.00.

Holmes County has levied an additional \$5.00 fee out of the possible \$20.00.

Federal and State Grants

Matching Federal grants and State Issue 2 funds are secondary sources of funding that have helped the County Engineer stretch local funds without increases in the gasoline tax or license fees. However, these funds must be applied for and have certain requirements attached to them.

Donations

In 2004, the state legislature allowed for the donation of money by groups and individuals to the County Engineer's road and bridge funds.

As a result of this legislature, the Holmes County Amish community developed a special fund to collect donations for upkeep of State, County, and Township roads. In 2006 this fund donated \$75,608.00 to the County Engineer for road and bridge improvements.

Where the Money is Spent

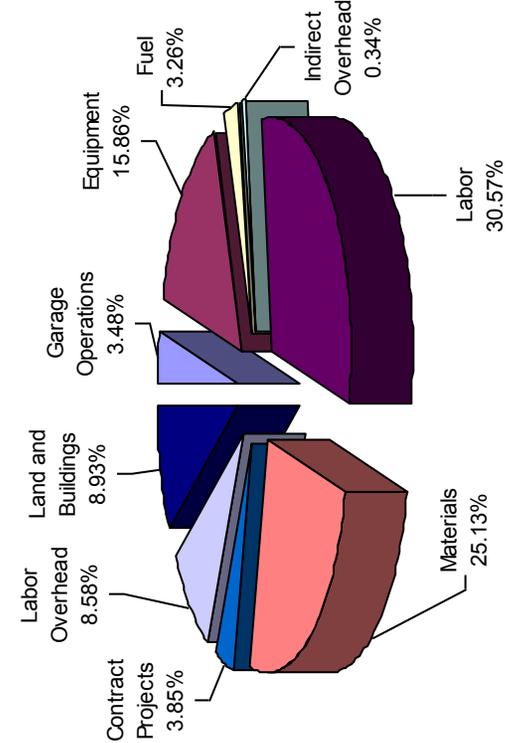
The Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Ohio Revised Code, and the Ohio Administrative Code dictates where the County Engineer may spend the money.

The Holmes County Engineer is responsible for the maintenance, repair, widening, resurfacing, and (re)construction of 250 miles of roadways and 271 bridges in the County Highway System.

A majority of the maintenance duties include paving, sealing, striping, signage, mowing, brush cutting, ditching, bridge and culvert replacements, safety projects and snow removal.

The County Engineer is fully responsible for the bridges on both the county and township highway systems. He performs the annual inspection and evaluation of the condition and load carrying capacity of each bridge.

Actual Expenses of Engineer's Office by Category



Actual Revenue of Engineer's Office by Category

