

Ottawa County Engineer's Office

2025 Annual Report



Board of Ottawa County Commissioners:

As I present the 2025 Annual Report, I reflect on a year defined by transition and intense learning. While I officially assumed this role in the final days of 2024, this past year represented my first full tenure navigating the complexities of our county's infrastructure.

I will be the first to admit that the learning curve of this position is steep. Given the sheer scope of our operations, the transition could have easily become overwhelming. However, the extensive knowledge and institutional memory held by the staff at the Ottawa County Engineer's Office and Highway Garage provided the steady hand I needed. Their deep understanding of our daily workings ensured that our commitment to public safety and efficient project management remained uninterrupted.

Throughout 2025, we have worked to build upon the strong foundation of fiscal responsibility and dedication to community well-being established by my predecessors. This report details our progress in:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Highlighting key projects and future planning initiatives.
- **Fiscal Stewardship:** Maintaining our commitment to economical project management and debt-free status.
- **Staff Excellence:** Recognizing the professionalism and genuine care our team brings to every task, large or small.

I am profoundly honored to lead this office. While I continue to grow in this role, I am confident in our future because of the exceptional staff working alongside me. Their tireless efforts are a testament to the high standard of service the residents of Ottawa County deserve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Toris, Jr., P.E., P.S.
Ottawa County Engineer

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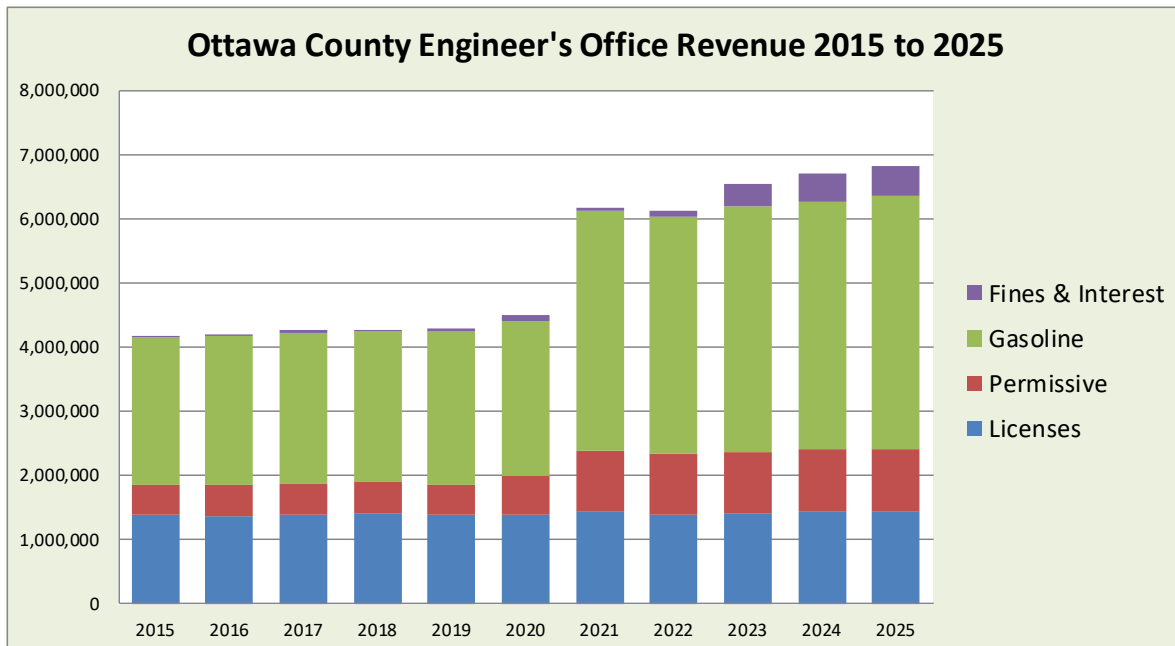
Revenue

The main sources of revenue for the Engineer's Office are Fuel Taxes, License Registration Fees, Permissive Fees, fines and interest. The most recent increases were the enactment two Five-Dollar Permissive License Fees (2017 & 2018) and the other was an increase in gas taxes in 2020.

Fuel, Permissive and License revenues have remained fairly consistent since the last increases. However, inflation is impacting costs. We continue to plan and strategize resources in order to provide quality projects.

The following chart provides a graphical view of our revenue sources and amounts while the spreadsheet at the bottom provides actual numbers.

We had another large construction year in 2025. We contracted \$6.2M in road, bridge and drainage projects in 2025 (\$3.71M in county projects, \$2.5 million for townships and there were no drainage projects). Of this, \$830 Thousand was funded with grants, public/private partnerships, or interest free loans. The staff of the Engineer's Office continues to put together successful OPWC grant applications and bring additional funds to the infrastructure in Ottawa County.



Year	Licenses	Permissive	Gasoline	Fines & Interest	Total
2015	\$ 1,373,952.16	\$ 467,953.82	\$ 2,299,886.19	\$ 30,702.91	\$ 4,172,495.08
2016	\$ 1,367,905.27	\$ 471,200.21	\$ 2,334,893.50	\$ 31,062.38	\$ 4,205,061.36
2017	\$ 1,383,645.85	\$ 478,226.71	\$ 2,356,712.91	\$ 34,583.90	\$ 4,253,169.37
2018	\$ 1,405,039.17	\$ 486,961.83	\$ 2,338,615.75	\$ 41,603.63	\$ 4,272,220.38
2019	\$ 1,377,170.53	\$ 475,869.94	\$ 2,389,284.77	\$ 45,613.01	\$ 4,287,938.25
2020	\$ 1,374,392.07	\$ 618,474.07	\$ 2,417,403.95	\$ 74,327.57	\$ 4,484,597.66
2021	\$ 1,435,168.79	\$ 954,673.69	\$ 3,739,694.30	\$ 45,342.05	\$ 6,174,878.83
2022	\$ 1,394,933.09	\$ 931,566.55	\$ 3,700,502.54	\$ 84,788.15	\$ 6,111,790.33
2023	\$ 1,411,893.78	\$ 953,225.75	\$ 3,827,153.05	\$ 350,484.42	\$ 6,542,757.00
2024	\$ 1,431,862.35	\$ 962,597.76	\$ 3,871,744.51	\$ 440,515.58	\$ 6,706,720.20
2025	\$ 1,426,516.31	\$ 969,937.80	\$ 3,956,771.80	\$ 457,380.50	\$ 6,810,606.41

Road Resurfacing / Preservation Programs

Ottawa County typically bids their road programs by surface treatment type. We join with townships in the bidding process in an effort to secure better pricing than may be received through separate bids. The Ottawa County Engineer's staff also coordinates and handles all contractor relations, on-site inspections and grant documentation. These efforts provide the townships with professional oversight, inspection, and record keeping as well as an opportunity to secure funding that otherwise may not be available to them.

Ottawa County completed pavement rehabilitation projects this year that serve two major routes on our County Highway system. Langram Road, located on South Bass Island, was resurfaced in it's entirety, funded in part with \$275,000 secured in Round 39 of OPWC applications. Church Road, located in Danbury Township was also resurfaced from State Route 163 to Bay Shore Rd and included ditch enclosures to enhance roadside safety. Below are tables summarizing County and Township Road work in 2024.

County Road Repair/Widening/Resurfacing

Road No.	Road Name	Length / Miles	Cost
137	Church Road	1.65	\$ 987,027
163	Langram Road	1.54	\$ 1,020,737
135	Bayshore Road - Durapatching	-	\$ 18,750
Various	Reclamite Asphalt Rejuvenation	-	\$ 62,305
		3.19	\$ 2,088,819

The County Highway Department contributes to the county road surface treatment program with their Tar & Chip and Fog Seal programs. Efforts are also made to preserve existing pavements through a berm program, hot mix repair and wedge course program, as well as crack seal and patching. The following tables provide information on the work performed in 2025.

Miscellaneous Programs

Work Type	Cost
Berm	\$ 118,267
Crack Seal	\$ 52,912
Cold Patch	\$ 38,890
Total:	\$ 210,069

Tar, Chip & Fog Seal Program

Road No.	Road Name	Length / Miles	Cost
62	Toussaint North Road	4.54	\$ 148,568
171	Camp Perry Eastern Rd	1.27	\$ 45,450
	Total:	5.81	\$ 194,018

Road Resurfacing / Preservation Programs

Township Road Resurfacing and Preservation

Asphalt Concrete Resurfacing (Hot Mix)		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Catawba Island	0.31	\$ 75,724
Danbury	0.68	\$ 127,944
Erie	1.49	\$ 330,378
Harris	1.00	\$ 143,319
Portage	0.33	\$ 98,429
Subtotal:	3.81	\$ 775,794

Bituminous Surface Treatment (Cold Mix)		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Allen	1.00	\$ 147,434
Benton	0.45	\$ 65,401
Clay	0.84	\$ 131,575
Subtotal:	2.29	\$ 344,410

Township Road Repair/Widening/Resurfacing

Road No.	Road Name	Length / Miles	Cost
7	Martin-Williston Road	1.13	\$ 333,664

Tar, Chip & Fog Seal		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Allen	3.46	\$ 148,241
Bay	1.91	\$ 70,444
Benton	2.04	\$ 60,984
Carroll	3.04	\$ 98,573
Salem	2.39	\$ 119,742
Subtotal:	12.84	\$ 497,984
Township Road Resurfacing and Preservation Grand Total:		\$1,951,852

Highway Department Programs

In addition to road repairs and bridge maintenance, the Highway Department also performs drainage work, snow and ice control, sign maintenance, storm damage clean up and weed and brush removal. The following depicts costs associated with these efforts.

Snow and Ice Control 24-25	\$	386,718	Building Maintenance	\$	44,532
Mowing Highway ROW	\$	279,714	Junk/Brush/Guardrail/Barr.	\$	120,713
Fleet Maintenance	\$	321,485	Storm Work/High Water	\$	21,282
Sign Maintenance	\$	102,189	Training (includes CDL)	\$	24,998

Miscellaneous Drainage Improvement & Maintenance Programs

Work Type	Location	Cost
Nissen Road – ditch improvements	State Route #163 to Whitney Road	\$ 43,667
Langram Road – Replace Crossover & Side Drain Improvements	Southwest of the Airport	\$ 26,480
Oak Harbor Southeast – side drain	Between State Route 19 and Woodrick Road	\$ 21,261
Elliston Trowbridge Road - crossover	Between Hausencomb and Trowbridge Roads	\$ 20,198
Other Drainage Improvements	Various Locations	\$ 98,516
Total:		\$ 259,910

Roadway Capital Improvement – 5 Year Plan

Ottawa County’s 5-year Roadway Capital Improvement Program is highlighted below. An annual target budget of \$1,500,000 of local funds per fiscal year is currently being allocated to this effort. Additional financial support will be pursued through grant programs to close the gap in funding for the proposed programs.

The following list is the work anticipated to be undertaken in the following years:

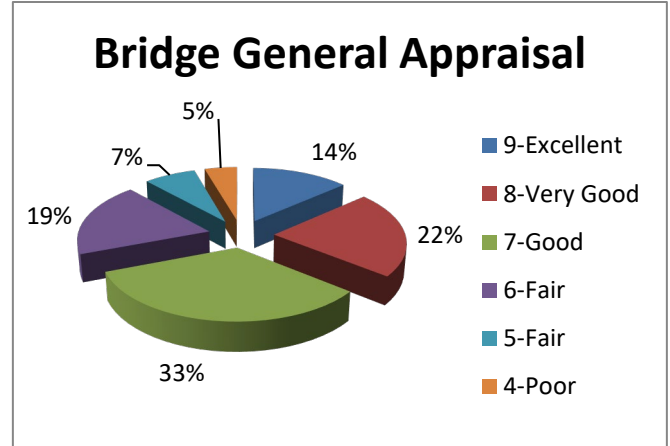
County Road Capital Improvement Program Projection (5-year)

2026	Bolander Road Rehabilitation (Moline-Martin to Trowbridge)	\$ 345,000
	Moline-Martin Road Rehabilitation (Nissen to Elliston-Trowbridge)	\$ 255,000
	Moline-Martin Road Ditch Enclosure (Shessler Ditch)	\$ 300,000
	Elmore Eastern Road Improvement (S.R. 590 to Wolf Creek)	\$ 375,000
2027	West Catawba Road Rehabilitation (S.R. 53 to Sand)	\$ 925,000
	Moline-Martin Road Improvement (S.R. 51 to Genoa-Clay Center)	\$ 800,000
	Cape Seal Program (Various County Roads)	\$ 625,000
2028	Genoa Clay Center Road Rehabilitation (County Line to Genoa)	\$ 180,000
	Toussaint East Road Rehabilitation (Benton-Carroll to S.R. 19)	\$ 650,000
	Boysen Road and Paulsen Road Resurfacing (Mud Creek to SR-53)	\$ 500,000
	Camp Perry Western Road Resurfacing (Toussaint South to S.R. 2)	\$ 475,000
2029	Bayshore Road Rehabilitation (Port Clinton Eastern to SR-163)	\$ 2.3 mil
	Genoa-Clay Center Road Resurfacing (SR-51 to SR-579)	\$ 900,000
	Lockwood Road Resurfacing (Fulton to Plasterbed)	\$ 600,000
2030	Wildacre Road Resurfacing (SR-579 to Lucas County Line)	\$ 700,000
	Portage River South Road Cape Seal (Sandusky County Line to Elmore Corp Limit)	\$ 275,000
	Toussaint East Road Cape Seal (SR-19 to SR-2)	\$ 250,000
	Locust Point Road Rehabilitation (SR-2 to Locust Point)	\$ 400,000
	Elmore Eastern Road Resurfacing (Elmore Corp Limit to Schultz-Portage)	\$ 150,000

Total Projected Cost \$ 11,035,000

Bridge Report

Ottawa County currently maintains 111 bridges. The chart at the right shows the current general condition of bridges in the county. At this time 5 bridges rate “poor”, 29 bridges rate “fair”, and 77 bridges rate “good” or better. 12 bridges are currently posted with a load limit. A list of posted bridges is available on the county website. 1 bridge on Ottawa County’s inventory is closed at this time. Trowbridge Road over Turtle Creek was recently closed. This bridge will require further evaluation moving forward to determine operational status prior to planned replacement.



BRIDGE INSPECTION

Annual condition evaluation inspection of all bridges maintained by Ottawa County has been completed for 2025. Inspection information has been reported to ODOT. We have reported the results of our inspection of the joint county road bridges to both Sandusky and Wood Counties. There are a total of 6 joint county bridges which Ottawa County has the responsibility to inspect and maintain. Additionally, we have developed and distributed a summary list of bridge conditions to all Townships which have bridges on the County Road system. Inspection records are available for review at the Engineer’s Office.

In March 2022, FHWA released a revised version of the Standards for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI). The revisions to the bridge inventory system are substantial and will require a full re-inventory of all bridges on the public system. A significant amount of work will go into the revamp of the National Bridge Inventory and therefore compliance associated with the new standards has been set at December 31, 2026. Ottawa County, along with all other public agencies that maintain bridges on the public road system, will be required to comply with these standards. At this time, the bulk of the work required to develop the new Ottawa County bridge inventory has been completed. Further work will be required to conform to the new standards as the FHWA finalizes the requirements.

BRIDGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In 2025, several bridge maintenance items were completed. County Highway Maintenance crews performed miscellaneous maintenance items including cleaning of all bridge decks and external support members, berm maintenance and washout repairs, creek scour repairs at bridge supports, debris and log jam removal, joint and crack sealing of bridge decks, and chip sealing of several bridge decks. This work was completed for a total cost of \$64,457.55 including materials, equipment, and labor.

Ottawa County completed two bridge capital improvement projects in 2025:

Rocky Ridge Road over Toussaint Creek Replacement

The deficient two span concrete beam bridge was replaced with a new three span prestressed concrete box beam bridge. New bridge railing and approach guardrail was installed. The project cost was \$933,718.75 and was funded with 100% County Road & Bridge funds.



Bridge Report Continued

Rymers Road over Lacarpe Creek Rehabilitation

The deficient single span prestressed concrete box beams were replaced in-kind with new prestressed concrete box beams. The existing abutments were rehabilitated and new bridge railing and approach guardrail was installed. The project cost was \$171,106.75 and was funded 100% with County Road & Bridge Funds.



BRIDGE LOAD RATING

In 2025, one bridge posting was rescinded and one bridge was closed (previously load posted). No additional bridge postings have been established.

The existing bridge on Rocky Ridge Road (TR-75) over Toussaint Creek was replaced and the load posting associated with the old bridge was rescinded.

BRIDGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Ottawa County is planning to perform a significant number of bridge renewal projects over the next several years. An annual budget of at least \$1,000,000 of local funds per fiscal year will be allocated to this effort. Additional funding will be utilized through grant programs available to the county to close the gap in funding for the proposed program.

The following list is the work anticipated to be undertaken in the following years:

Bridge Capital Improvement Program (5-year)		Estimated Construction \$
2026	Fostoria Road over Crane Creek Rehabilitation (Joint County - Wood)	\$380,000
2027	Genoa-Clay Center Road over N. Branch Turtle Creek Replacement Trowbridge Road over Turtle Creek Replacement	\$250,000 \$650,000
2028	Locust Point Road over Turtle Creek Rehabilitation Wildacre Road over Crane Creek Replacement Elliston-Trowbridge Road over Turtle Creek Rehabilitation	\$650,000 \$750,000 \$400,000
2029	Schultz Portage Road over Sugar Creek Rehabilitation Main Street (Genoa-Clay Center Road) over Packer Creek Replacement	\$475,000 \$800,000
2030	Graytown Road over LaCarpe Creek Replacement Four Mile House Road Over Wolf Creek Replacement	\$225,000 <u>\$650,000</u>
Total Projected Cost		\$5,230,000

Ditch Maintenance

There were many changes in the County Drainage program in 2026. This included the addition of a new Drainage Engineer, Ruben Castillo, III, PE, CPESC. He has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience and we look forward to his impact on the County Ditch Maintenance Program.

Petitions were a concentration in 2025 with the Mehlow Ditch Petition passing in December. Construction of this improvement began in February of 2026. OCE and SWCD continue to work on the Turnow and Salem-Carroll Ditch petitions.

The Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District remains a key partner in the ditch maintenance program. They assisted with the coordination and oversight of efforts to maintain several ditches (or portions of ditches) currently in the county maintenance program. Their duties included the annual inspection of each ditch, management of construction projects, planning for future projects, and assisting with the 6-Year review process. During 2025 their efforts included the coordination of the repair and replacement of pumps and electric service at Winter's Ditch and repairs for Locust Point.

Efforts to update the permanent assessment base and drainage areas of ditches (6-Year Review) on the maintenance program continued in 2025. Information for Lickert Harder (Banky), Eppling and Woodrick Ditches were all successfully updated.

The County Highway Department continues their exceptional efforts with the mowing of maintenance ditches and provided assistance with some minor repair projects.

Maintenance Ditch Programs

2025 Maintenance Ditch Costs

Beginning Balance	\$ 123,270
2025 Expenditures	\$ 171,942
2025 Income	\$ 323,967
Ending balance	\$ 275,295

Ditch Statistics

Ottawa County oversees 89 ditches -
 (84 single county, 5 joint county)
 Open Ditches = 120.4 miles
 Closed Ditches = 3.0 miles

Final cost for those completed in 2025:

LaCarpe Creek (Kaiser)	\$ 69,700
Eppling	\$ 8,252
Winter's Ditch	\$ 610
Schultz	\$ 560

Additional Maintenance Costs in 2025:

Annual Inspections, 6-Year Review, Pump maintenance, and administration	\$ 133,663
Mowing and Spraying	\$ 38,429
Minor Construction Projects	\$ 3,328

Proposed for 2026

Construction Projects

Schmardebeck Ditch

Permanent Base Reviews

- Lenz
- Opfer Lenz Valasek
- Smith
- Lick
- and others as time allows

Survey Division

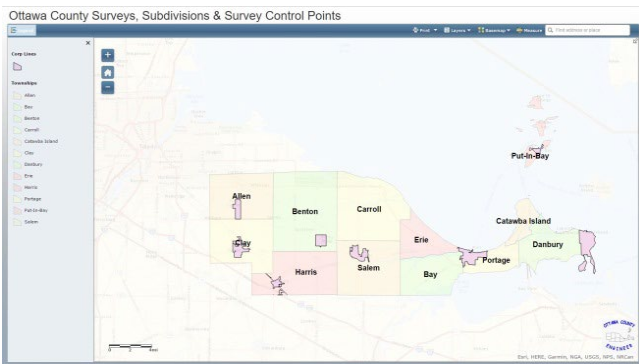


2025, a year to settle in, reorganize and prioritize. With the change in County Engineer and the loss of our bridge engineer, both to new career opportunities, we needed to reevaluate our priorities, determine what projects we could do with current staff and which ones should be considered for contract work. There were numerous small projects that we surveyed and set up for design. Many were in response to requests from townships, others for roadside drainage improvements and paving contracts. As usual, the continuous requests for legal description reviews, utility locates and permits are demanding and require us to work together to get items completed.

With the above referenced time to reorganize and prioritize, we were able to start laying out and researching projects planned for the immediate future, at least for 2026. Once the weather breaks in the spring, we will be able to hit the ground running and get back to addressing the concerns and needs of the Townships, our constituents and for our future projects.

We spent significant time in 2025 evaluating, interviewing and selecting vendors to assist our GIS conglomerate with the process of migrating to a cloud based storage and web hosting system. ROK Technologies was selected and awarded the contract. This migration will provide more storage space and faster runtimes for the web maps, as well as 24/7 monitoring and service which will help limit or avoid downtime since everything will be virtual. We will be working with ROK to complete the migration and be up and running in the new environment by the end of April 2026.

Our staff continuously works to update our GIS map and develop new feature class layers that will assist our personnel, other county entities, townships and constituents of Ottawa County. Our in-house GIS map has been a hit as we are able to provide up to date information. Many surveyors have expressed their appreciation of having this information so readily available to them. We are finding it is beneficial to County Offices and the private sector as well.



Ottawa County Engineer GIS Web Map

This interactive map allows the user to search for section corner / benchmark records, property surveys and subdivision plats. This GIS Data Map is available 24/7 on our website!

Visit our website at:
<http://www.co.ottawa.oh.us/index.php/county-engineer/>

The survey personnel are responsible for fieldwork and a significant amount of office assignments. The following provides additional information on these duties.

Subdivision Reviews	6 proposed subdivisions
Administrative Approvals	47 (42 small & 5 large)
Legal Description Reviews	896 (increased by 140 from 2024)
Requests & Investigations	74 (handled by all staff)
Township Requests	40 (handled by all staff)
E-File Reviews	1,259 (increased by 83 from 2024)

Utility Coordination and Permits

Permits for fiber installations again required a significant investment of staff time in 2025. Due to the continued high volume of requests, multiple office team members have stepped forward to assist Mike Brough with permit reviews and administrative coordination as he strives to keep pace with these efforts and field inspections.

In 2025, the number of fiber permits issued (65) remained comparable to 2024 (62). However, the geographic coverage area expanded, resulting in increased county time dedicated to administration and inspection. Permit fee revenues rose by approximately 40 percent over the previous year.

Amplex continued to make steady progress installing infrastructure, securing 48 permits in 2025 and an additional five permits so far in 2026. Frontier began 2024 with strong activity, slowed somewhat during 2025, and has accelerated installations again in 2026, submitting 29 permit applications year to date. Based on current trends, fiber installation activity is expected to remain robust over the next two to three years.

Columbia Gas was also active, obtaining 33 new permits, the majority of which were associated with service line installations for new residential construction. The Village of Oak Harbor has continued the replacement of their waterline front the fairgrounds east to the Port Clinton City limits. While most of the work has occurred along State Route 163, some local roadways have also been affected. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Overall, the increase in permit activity reflects continued growth and investment in infrastructure. These expanded utility services will provide long-term benefits to residents. At the same time, as installation efforts continue, staff resources will remain stretched to effectively manage the pace of development.

2,199	Locate Tickets (OUPS)	55	Moving Permits
109	Road Crossing Permits (12 non-utility)	65	Cable/Fiber Permits
5	Right-of-Way Permits	7	Electric Company Permits
7	Storm Sewer Tap Permits	33	Gas Company Permits
4	Curtain Drain Outlet Permits	72	Driveway Permits (5 existing)

STAFF

Jeff Allen, Engineer Aide/Construct Inspect
 Ben Brady, Highway Worker
 Daniel Brough, Crew Leader
 Dean Brough, Highway Clerk
 Mike Brough, Utility Coordinator/Engineering Technician
 Ruben Castillo, PE, CPESC Deputy Drainage Engineer
 Wes Dobbelare, Assistant Superintendent
 Joe Dusseau, Highway Worker
 Travis Focht, Highway Worker
 Kendra German, Accounting Clerk/Receptionist

Dennis Huston, Highway Worker
 Craig Miller, PE, Chief Deputy
 Daniel Miller, Highway
 Tina Molnar, Administrator
 Eric Petersen, Superintendent
 John Pierson, Highway Worker
 Vincent Szabo, PE, SI, Deputy
 Kacey Wilburn, Assistant Right-of-Way Coord.
 David Williams, Mechanic
 Mike Wittman, PS, Chief Surveyor/GIS