



ALLEN COUNTY ENGINEER

Timothy J. Piper, P.E., P.S.

2006 - 2007 Annual Report

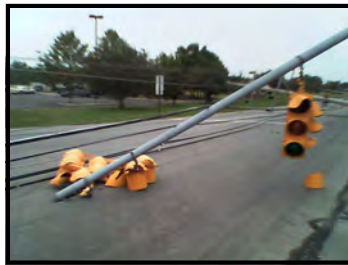


2006 Was A Productive and Eventful Year

Eastown Road-Phase I Project Completed in April:

Last year we completed the \$5.2 million Eastown Road – Phase I Project. It is the largest single project cost-wise that our office has ever undertaken. Working with the contractor, the Shelly Company, we were able to keep the project under budget and on schedule. The project, done in stages to facilitate ingress and egress to businesses and residents, was completed to the point that we could open it to traffic on December 15, 2005. Then, in the Spring of 2006 we completed the paving of the last segment, which completed the project.

June Windstorm Cleanup Goes Smoothly: In June of 2006 Allen County experienced a freak windstorm that caused many trees and limbs to block our roads and major power outages. Our crews went to work clearing roads of debris and enabling power crews to get to downed power lines. Shawnee Road from Ft. Amanda Road to Zurmehly Road was completely blocked when over 35 power poles were blown over onto the roadway. The county's traffic signals and poles at Shawnee and Zurmehly were completely bent over onto the pavement due to downed power lines. We were able to remove the damaged poles and signals and install temporary stop signs until we obtained and install new poles and signals.



Thayer Road-Phase I: When Procter and Gamble decided to build a transfer center for their products on Reservoir Road about a mile from their current plant, the county commissioners and I started meeting with Procter and Gamble officials and representatives of the Governor's Economic Development office. We had to determine how to improve Thayer Road, the main route for outbound trucks from the transfer center. Working together, we were able to obtain \$2 million in Ohio Department of Development funds, which will pay for 100% of the project. This includes payment for consulting fees, road right-of-way purchases and the reconstruction of the roadway. No local funds will be used for this project from my budget or the commissioner's budget. The project is being built in two phases. The first phase from Reservoir Road to the railroad is now opened to traffic and will have a final hot mix course laid this Spring and will then be completed. Phase II will be built this year.

Truck Accident at Eastown and Allentown in November:

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006, an accident occurred that affected many lives in Allen County. An SUV driven by a local resident collided with a gasoline tanker truck at the intersection of Eastown Road and Allentown Road. The accident caused the gasoline to leak out of the truck and catch fire, causing major damage to the infrastructure of the roadway. Our office worked quickly to secure

\$186,000 in an emergency grant from the Ohio Public Works Department for the repair of the intersection. We worked closely with the commissioners and the Ohio Department of Transportation to hire a contractor to repair the intersection. The intersection was partially opened within 3 weeks and entirely opened by January 4, 2007.



2007 To Be A Busy Year

Metcalf Street Truss to Be Rehabilitated in 2007: The rehabilitation of the Metcalf Street Truss bridge will begin in May of this year. The bridge, which is the longest bridge in Allen County, is to have all rust removed and to be repainted. We have secured federal funds to pay for 95% of the \$2.5 million project.

Major Ditch Projects to Begin in 2007: There are several major petitioned ditch projects that have been approved by the county commissioners that will be cleaned this year. Pike Run Ditch #1150 and Flat Fork Creek #1224 are two of the larger projects that will be cleaned as well as several smaller ditch projects.

Thayer Road Phase II Project: Phase II of the Thayer Road reconstruction project between the railroad and S.R. 81 will begin this fall and be completed by Spring of 2008. Our office will oversee the project and perform inspection of the work for county standards.

Eastown Road-Phases II and III Projects: Construction of Phase II of Eastown Road between Allentown Road

and S.R. 309 will begin in the Spring of 2008. Our office is completing the purchase of right of way and the moving of utilities this year. Construction of Phase III between Elm Street and S. R. 117 will begin in the Spring of 2009. On phases II & III of Eastown we will utilize



in-house staff to do project management and inspection, which will save the taxpayers of Allen County over \$800,000, since we will no longer need to outsource this work. Our office made a request to the County Engineer's Association of Ohio (CEAO) for additional federal funds for both phases, since CEOA administers and disburses those funds. We were able to obtain \$2.8 million additional federal funds for Eastown Road Phases II and III.

Looking back on 2006

Road Program

By: David R. Louth, P.E., S.I.T., Roadway Engineer

In 2006, over \$1.8 million dollars was spent for county, township & village road work. Our county road crews and our paving contractor were very busy paving 29.6 miles of county, township and village roads and sealing 91.3 miles of roads; sealing is another name for tar & chip application to the surface of the roadway. Seal acts as a water sealant to keep pavement from absorbing water.

Traffic Department

By: Steve Howell, Traffic Supervisor

The traffic department striped 298 miles of roads in 2006, 175 miles being county roads, 88 miles were township roads and 35 miles were municipalities. The traffic crew had 12 locations for school paintings. Thermoplastic in 42 locations is also maintained by the traffic department. There are over 11,000 traffic signs, 14 traffic signals and 4 flashing signals throughout Allen County that our traffic department maintains.

Everyone received a Valentine's gift this year!

S N O W

Our county has been very fortunate the last few winters. With the exception of the snow storm that started on Tuesday morning, February 13, 2007 and continued through Wednesday, February 14th. The storm dumped over a foot of snow in our area, leaving delays and cancellation all over the county. Our crews were geared up and ready to start plowing snow.

Overall, the winter was not too bad on our budget, using 1500 ton of salt, 2400 ton of grits and 2400 hours of overtime totaling \$188,000 for the 2006-2007 winter season. The last couple of winters we used over \$200,000 in salt, grits and overtime.



THAYER ROAD PROJECT

By: David R. Louth, P.E., S.I.T., Roadway Engineer

In 2005, the Allen County Engineer received an Ohio Department of Development (629) Grant in the amount of \$ 2,000,000 for the Thayer Road Improvement Project. This grant was available because of Proctor & Gamble's (P&G) proposed expansion and subsequent enhancement to the local economy.

P&G began constructing their new Distribution Center on Reservoir Road just east of Thayer Road in the spring of 2006. P&G had their project on a fast-track and were planning to be partially operational as early as December 2006.

Thayer Road needed to be improved to accommodate the increased commercial truck traffic while maintaining the safety of the vehicular traffic using the roadway. To further assist P&G, the project construction schedule called for the construction of Thayer Road to take place in 2 phases.



Thayer Road during construction



Thayer Road after construction

Thayer Road continued.....

Phase 1: The portion of Thayer Road from the railroad south to Reservoir Road was constructed during the 2006 construction season.

Phase 2: The portion of Thayer Road from the railroad north to State Route 81 (Ada Road) will be constructed during the 2007 construction season

In general, the pavement was widened from approximately 20 feet to 24 feet (approximately 2 feet of additional pavement on each side) and the right-of-way was widened from 40 feet to 60 feet (10 feet of additional right-of-way on each side), more right-of-way was needed in some areas. Also, the vertical alignment of the roadway was redesigned to take out the major peaks and valleys, to increase the sight distance down the road. The length of Phase 1 was approximately 1/2 mile.

The Engineer's Estimate for Phase 1 was \$603,000.00 and went out to bid in September 2006. With the low bid of \$466,000.00, R.D. Jones Excavating, Inc. was awarded the contract and began work almost immediately. The construction timeline was approximately 2 1/2 months, from October 1 to December 15, 2006. The Thayer Road Phase 1 Project was completed on time and under budget.

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

The engineer's office had two, 30 year employees retire on September 30, 2006. The county's Road Superintendent Rick Keller received a retirement plaque from Tim Piper, County Engineer at the Commissioners meeting in the Allen County Courthouse.



Tim Piper presents Rick Keller with retirement plaque

Rick Keller was hired as a laborer at the Allen County Engineer's department in 1976. In 1996 Keller was promoted to West Side Road Foreman in charge of all road maintenance of the west side of Allen County. His job as foreman was to oversee all road maintenance on the west side of the county, such as paving, tar & chip work, roadside drainage improvements and snow removal. On March 5, 2001, Keller was appointed Road Superintendent and has served in that capacity until the present. As

Road Superintendent, Keller has been responsible for maintaining the county and township roadway system for the Allen County Engineer's Office and township trustees, which includes overseeing road crews, overseeing the County & Township Road Programs and directing snow removal operations for county and township roads. During the 2005 ice storm emergency, Rick coordinated cleanup efforts with ODOT, villages, townships and other county agencies and was responsible for the getting county and township roads open to traffic in a short period of time.

Bill Kimmel was hired as a laborer at the Allen County Engineer's department in 1976. Over the years, Kimmel worked on the sign and paint crew, the bridge crew and in the building and grounds department. In 1997 Kimmel became a Ditch Maintenance Technician, working on maintaining petitioned ditches in Allen County. On January 29, 1998, Kimmel was appointed as Ditch Maintenance Supervisor, responsible for overseeing the maintenance of over 200 miles of county-petitioned ditches for the citizens of Allen County. Other responsibilities as Ditch Maintenance Supervisor included overseeing ditch construction, cleaning tiles and waterways.



Bill Kimmel retires after 30 years of service with Allen County

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

2006 BRIDGE REPORT

By: Brion E. Rhodes, P.E., P.S.— Bridge Engineer

The Allen County Engineer is responsible for the inspection, maintenance and replacement of over 380 bridges on the county system. To manage such a large system, Tim Piper relies on the bridge department to maintain each bridge for as long as possible. While the average bridge is expected to last fifty years, actual life expectance can vary anywhere from 25 to 100+ years. This combined with funding issues, makes our bridge replacement program cyclical in nature. Therefore, after several big years, 2005 and 2006 have been very low years for the bridge department, we did not replace a single bridge in 2006. While this may not sound very productive, in actuality it was a great benefit to the county. Since replacement projects receive the most attention, general maintenance projects can be easily overlooked. This lull in replacement projects allowed us to re-focus and concentrate our efforts on maintenance issues for 2005 and 2006.

This year's major bridge project is the rehabilitation of the Metcalf Street Truss Bridge No. ALL-CR 270-4.13, over the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the City of Lima, Ohio. This rehabilitation project involves painting and repairing of the 538 foot structure, which was built in 1923 and will take approximately 4 months to complete.



Metcalf Street Bridge

Because of the size and complexity of the project, we were pleased with both the number of bidders and price of winning bid. The project was awarded to M & J Construction Co. of Tarpon Springs, Florida at the cost of \$2,489,406.13, which is actually \$27,664 under the engineer's estimate.

In order to afford this project, the Allen County Engineer will be utilizing ninety-five percent (95%) federal funding to cover the construction and inspection cost. Unfortunately, our federal funding is capped at \$2,538,300, therefore any additional amount will be split between the Allen County Engineer and the City of Lima, since we share the responsibility of the bridge. In an effort to save money, the Allen County Engineer, Tim Piper, has decided to administer the construction of this project in-house, which was initially managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation. In addition, we will be hiring a consultant to perform the inspection, which should save an additional 2% to 5% of the construction cost.

This project should begin late this spring and must be completed by December 1, 2007.

ALLEN COUNTY BRIDGE FACTS

4	Bridges Closed
12	Bridges with load limits
380	Bridges Inspected
134	Prestress Box Beam Bridges
44	Steel Beam Bridges
40	Concrete Deck Bridges
27	Truss Bridges

2006/ 2007 Drainage Engineering ~ Year in Review

By: Douglass S. Degen, Drainage Engineer

All engineering and administrative work conducted by the Drainage Engineering Department is supervised and approved by Timothy J. Piper, Allen County Engineer. This department has a dual role within the county structure. It operates as the reviewing agency for commercial, industrial, and residential developments, as well as the drainage consultant for the County Commissioners. Within this realm we are responsible for all petitioned drainage improvements of which the Commissioners have final authority. We are also the County Engineer's compliance coordinators of the OEPA's Phase II Stormwater Regulations. An integral component of this program of which our department manages is the Stormwater Management & Sediment Control Regulations. The Stormwater Regulations are a self-supporting entity funded entirely from permit and review fees acquired from developers.

Douglass S. Degen, Drainage Engineer is the Supervisor of the Drainage Engineering Department as well as Superintendent of the Ditch Maintenance Department and as such is responsible for reviewing all of the work, budget, and assessment procedures, conducted by the engineering and ditch maintenance departments. This includes annual review of fund balances to determine which projects need assessing for future maintenance activity.

Brandon Brenneman was appointed as supervisor upon Bill Kimmel's retirement and as a result supervises all documentation and work completed within the Ditch Maintenance Department. Josh Foster is also an integral component of our Ditch Maintenance Department. In Brandon's absence he becomes the supervisor and addresses all maintenance needs in an excellent and professional manner. Currently we maintain 170 miles of Open Ditch, 21 miles of Agricultural and Residential Conduits, 11 miles of Waterways, and 11 Detention Ponds. These result in the management of over \$8.3 million dollars in drainage improvements. Our maintenance program grows by an average of 3 to 6 projects annually.

Funding for the engineering, administration, construction and maintenance of petitioned drainage improvements is derived from funds acquired from parcel owners within the watershed of each project. The funding method and process are outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 6131, 6133, and 6137, and have been utilized Allen County since the mid 1800's.

One of the most important aspects of the petition process is the permanent maintenance program. All projects constructed through petition are placed on permanent maintenance once construction is completed.

Highlighted in this report are photographs of selected maintenance activities. I would like to specifically point out that we have an extremely hard working crew of highly skilled personnel who take a great deal of pride in their work and in many



Brandon Brenneman
Ditch Maintenance Supervisor



Removal of tree from Jennings Creek

cases do not work in the most desirable conditions. Numerous projects transitioned through the petitioned process in the past year. A majority of these were either approved for surveying, engineering, and plan preparation at the First Hearing and several were approved for construction at the Final Hearing. All projects are important to the parcel owners in the watershed to protect their interest and as a result of the approval by the commissioners we shall see significant projects such as Flat Fork Creek, Pike Run, and Gaskill Ditch completed this year.



Log Jam & Debris Removal

The work elements associated with petitioned drainage improvements as well as all other department functions are numerous and a monumental task. Due to the nature and number of current projects on our roster, it is entirely unfeasible that one



Economical spot spraying

individual could accomplish the work elements alone. To assist with these endeavors in the department are Assistant Drainage Engineer's Nathan Davis and Andrea Rode. Nathan is a 20002 graduate of the Ohio State University and Andrea graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2001.

As stated earlier William G. Kimmel retired from the Allen County Engineers Office after 30 years of service. His last position was that of Ditch Maintenance Supervisor which he held for eight years. Upon his retirement, Brandon Brenneman was selected as his replacement. He began employment with the Engineers Office in 2001 as an Equipment Service Attendant and joined the Ditch Maintenance Department in 2004. His experience as a Heavy Equipment Operator and ability to maintain the equipment makes him an exceptionally valuable asset to the department. He is also a Certified Chemical Applicator and a wealth of knowledge in regard to all projects on our maintenance program. Financial planning, tracking, and accountability are key components of the program. Brandon has adapted well to all documentation required for the position.



**Waterway Construction with
Liebrecht Equipment**

He is married to LeeAnn and they reside on Conant Road, close to Spencerville. Please call him with any concerns that may arise in regard to projects on our maintenance program.

As always the work in the Drainage Engineering Department is never fully complete. Individuals have been working on drainage in our region for 150 years and this work will continue as new facilities are required to be constructed and existing systems deteriorate. If you have any questions or problems pertaining to drainage issues, petitioned drainage improvements or their maintenance please contact the Allen County Engineers Office, Drainage Engineering Department @ 419.228.3196.