

Mid-Year Construction Update

Despite the unusually stormy spring and early summer, we are managing to make progress on several projects across the County. The storms and high winds have added an unplanned need for extensive tree clearing and removal in addition to many road wash outs and plugged pipes. County Crews have been canvassing the County to repair localized storm damage. Regular mowing and vegetation management continued as well.

This year we have benefited from several grant sources, Federal, OPWC, ODOT, and MVGT funds from several programs has allowed us to treat over 25 miles of roadway. While this is an extraordinary amount of funding, it represents the level of funding we need to average annually to care for our 400+miles of County Highway. The project specifics are as follows:

Resurfacing has been completed on Easton, Bridgewater, County Home, and Beham Run Roads, with final pavement markings still pending. This 11.5-mile resurfacing project cost more than \$2.8 million, or approximately \$240,000 per mile. Because these roads are documented Federal Aid Routes, they qualified for a unique \$2.0 million federal grant. OPWC awarded the County \$600,000, and the Highway Department provided the remaining \$200,000 local share.

The second part of our program focuses on preventive maintenance for roads last paved 5–10 years ago. Crack sealing was completed at selected locations. Chip sealing is scheduled to begin July 20 on Claysville, Georgetown, and North 8th Street. Deep repairs were completed in these corridors before treatment to help extend service life and improve road conditions. The cost of this program was \$57,000 per mile, almost \$200,000 per mile less than cost of resurfacing. We were able to cover 11 miles of highway, extending the life of the existing surface for another 5 years.

As costs continue to increase faster than our revenue and resources, it is imperative that we extend the life of our paved roads as much as possible. These techniques are common and proven at State and local levels of road maintenance. Please take a few minutes to view the videos on our website to gain an understanding of the process and long-term benefits.

The final contract work to be completed is the resurfacing of Peoli Road. We are pleased to have been selected through ODOT's Oil and Shale program that provides \$500,000 for roads that have been indirectly impacted by the Oil and Gas production. Additionally, we are thankful to ODOT to helping us move this up instead of 2027.

Thank you for giving me the continued opportunity to serve and help move our highway maintenance program to a sustainable level and provide the highest level of service possible for our community.

Submitted by: Paul E. Sherry, PE, PS, Guernsey County Engineer