

**JAMES (JIM) A. WIECHART, P.E., P.S.**  
**Mercer County Engineer**  
**REPORT FOR 2010**

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From year to year public opinion, the weather, fashion and politics often change; but the industrious and continuing efforts of this office never changes. Your public servants at the Mercer County Engineer's Office are dedicated to improving and making Mercer County's local roads and bridges safer and better for the people that use them. Every year since the turn of the millennium we have produced this report and again this year it is available for your scrutiny.

2010 provided a unique set of challenges and opportunities for our projects. In early spring, the weather was wet which stymied our efforts; but as the year progressed, it stayed dry which greatly assisted our ventures and as a whole, when compared with other years, Mother Nature was kind to our endeavors.

The slow economic recovery has had a net negative impact upon our revenue and as a result, fewer projects were completed than we would like. As we consistently do, we look for new and ingenious ways to be more efficient in our operations and provide the same level of service at less cost.

With this report you will find no bells and whistles herein to satisfy such surface desires. If that is what you aspire to, this is not the place for you. If you want to know the facts and figures of what we were engaged in, you have found the proper resource. So, on behalf of the dedicated public servants of this office, thank you for the opportunity to serve. Please read, critique and question any or all aspects of this report. We provide it for that opportunity to you as this serves as our 2010 annual report.

## REVENUE/EXPENDITURES

<u>HIGHWAY RECEIPTS</u>			<u>HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES</u>		
MOTOR LICENSE FEES	\$2,207,782	24%	RESURFACING/IMPROVEMENTS	\$4,585,809	50%
GAS TAX	\$2,366,745	26%	BRIDGE CONSTR. & MAINT.	\$1,530,125	17%
SALES & REIMBURSEMENTS	\$387,617	4%	SALARIES	\$1,305,572	14%
GAS REIMBURSEMENT	\$448,430	5%	FRINGE BENEFITS	\$453,712	5%
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	\$3,709,092	41%	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	\$346,458	4%
INTEREST INCOME	<u>\$23,745</u>	<1%	ROAD MAINT. & UTILITIES	\$603,273	7%
			REPAIRS & SUPPLIES	<u>\$241,983</u>	3%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$9,143,411</b>		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$9,066,932</b>	

NOTE:

Carryover monies and grants make up the difference between expenditures and revenues.

## 2010 ROAD RESURFACING

The LICA Construction Corporation was awarded a contract for the county road resurfacing.

<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>LENGTH (MILES)</u>	<u>WIDTH</u>	<u>(448II) TONS</u>	<u>(448I) TONS</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
<b>Mercer County 1 ½"</b>					
Philothea Road	2.014	19'	920	925	\$100,605
<b>Mercer County ¾" x ¾"</b>					
*Carthagen Road	4.044	24'	4,355	2,430	\$359,411
*Ft. Recovery Minster Road	<u>5.147</u>	24'	<u>5,507</u>	<u>3,190</u>	<u>\$461,125</u>
*Denotes Widening Trench	<b>11.205</b>		<b>10,782</b>	<b>6,545</b>	<b>\$921,141</b>

Note: Other resurfacing was done through roadway reconstruction projects listed elsewhere within this report.

## 15 ROADS RECEIVED CHIP AND SEAL SURFACES

<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>WIDTH</u>	<u>LENGTH (MILES)</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
<b><u>FULL SEAL</u></b>			
Old Town	18 ½'	2.520	\$34,532
Hickernell	19'	1.019	\$18,867
Smith	17 ½'	1.039	\$11,241
Township Line	19'	2.282	\$34,868
Erastus Durbin	19'	2.502	\$27,546
Skeels	18'	1.016	\$13,206
Monroe	24'	1.501	\$20,827
Menchhofer	18 ½'	0.503	\$4,176
Siegrist Jutte	18 ½'	3.023	\$41,485
Watkins	19'	4.569	\$53,565
Burkettsville St. Henry	21'	2.471	\$27,745
Clune Stucke	18 ½'	3.822	\$42,785
Mercer Darke County Line	19'	1.207	\$14,595
Depweg	17 ½'	0.730	\$7,616
St. Peter	19 ½'	<u>0.877</u>	<u>\$8,450</u>
<b>TOTAL FULL SEAL</b>		<b>29.081</b>	<b>\$361,504</b>

## PAVEMENT MARKINGS

The following pavement markings were placed: 50 miles of centerline and 20 miles of edge line at a cost of \$19,755.

## BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Bridge maintenance was completed on many structures throughout Mercer County. Those maintenance details are generally all lower cost activities and are not listed herein as they involve a great many structures. Replacements and rehabs (higher cost projects) are detailed in this report below.

Two large federally-funded bridge replacements were completed in the northern part of the county. Township Line Road Bridge (DUB T61-25.41), a 176.5' multi-span replacement project over the St. Marys River was completed at a cost of \$686,982 with a federal highway grant covering \$652,193. Tomlinson Road bridge (UNI C131B-2.86), a 69' single-span replacement project over the Kyle Prairie Creek was completed at a cost of \$427,599 with a federal highway grant covering \$357,764.

Ten bridge projects and four large culverts were completed. Most of the projects are complete replacements with those listed with an "R" next to the type are a "rehabilitation". At this time, there are no bridges left on county and township roads with load restrictions.

### 2010 BRIDGE & LARGE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

<u>TWP</u>	<u>CULVERT</u>	<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>COST</u>
REC	T56-3.52C	ST JOE	64 LF 48" DIA CONCRETE PIPE	\$3,283 Material only (Equip. & Labor by Twp)
REC	T56-3.92C	ST JOE	16 LF 8'W X 4' H CONCRETE BOX	Mtl. Supplied from stock in bridge area (Equip. & Labor by Twp)
BUT	C80-10.08C	SIEGRIST JUTTE	56 LF 60" DIA. CONCRETE PIPE	\$12,179
MAR	C131-5.81C	CASSELLA MONTEZUMA	48 LF 34"H X 53"W ELL. PIPE	\$9,715

<u>TWP</u>	<u>BRIDGE</u>	<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>COST</u>
GRA	C10-9.99B	WATKINS	PRESTRESS BOX BEAMS	\$29,292
REC	T56-3.42B	ST JOE	16 LF 10'W X 6' H CONCRETE BOX	\$5,790
GRA	C60-3.26B	CARTHAGENA	COUNTY BEAMS(R)	\$61,860
DUB	T61-25.41B	TOWNSHIP LINE	PRESTRESS BOX BEAMS	\$686,982
REC	C70-4.10B	PHILOTHEA	56 LF 66" DIA. CONCRETE PIPE	\$17,651
FRA	C80A-0.83B	CLOVER FOUR	PRESTRESS BOX BEAMS	\$211,918
UNI	C131B-2.86B	TOMLINSON	PRESTRESS BOX BEAMS	\$427,599
CEN	C151B-0.28B	RICE	72 LF 87"H X 136"W ELL. PIPE	\$45,856
MAR	C151-4.66B	CLUNE STUCKE	72 LF 87"H X 136"W ELL. PIPE	\$43,291
MAR	C151-5.80B	CLUNE STUCKE	80 LF 12'W X 7'H CONCRETE BOX	\$59,004

NOTES: Some of the bridge and culvert materials for these projects were purchased in 2009. Also, some of the projects may have been started in 2009. Cost shown is 2010 and may not be total project cost.

## **ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

The following roadways were improved with the pavement and shoulders being widened:

Ft. Recovery-Minster Road from Goettemoeller Road to Mercer-Auglaize County Line  
Cost: \$297,768.54      Grant: \$151,465    (OPWC state grant funds)

Deep Cut Road from SR 707 to Mercer-Auglaize County Line  
Cost: \$1,033,971.91      Grant: \$801,845    (federal funds)  
Note: to be finalized in 2011

St. Anthony Road from Burkettsville-St. Henry Road to Coldwater Creek Road  
and Coldwater Creek Road from St. Anthony Road to US 127  
Cost: \$1,246,182.22      Grant: \$903,697    (federal funds)  
Note: to be finalized in 2011

## **MAINTENANCE**

Roadside maintenance of existing roadway components is a very important part of our operations. During 2010 there were 1109 signs replaced. 10 miles of roads were spot-paved.

Due to the wet spring, 8 county mowers ran pretty consistently May through September mowing 390 miles of county roads making anywhere from 5 to 7 rounds in some sections. The mowing of county open ditches and maintenance ditches, with some touch-up was completed before mowers were put away for the season. County crews installed 56 catch basins. 19 different locations had trees cut and brush removed. Approximately 1000' of old fence was removed.

In fighting snow and ice, 1,368 tons of salt were used at a cost of \$86,266.26 and 1,386 tons of grit were used at a cost of \$9,917.19. 1,211 hours of overtime were worked in snow removal. In all, the costs of snow and ice control and removal to our operations in 2010 were \$354,091.29.

The DeAngelo Brothers, Inc. received the contract for roadside herbicide spraying. The bid price per mile of roadside was \$49.95. The total amount for treating both sides of all county roads was \$19,130.

## **LITTER PICK-UP**

The County Engineer's Office, in partnership with the Mercer County Solid Waste Office and various Boards of Township Trustees, sponsored various civic and community groups in 11 Mercer County townships to pick up litter along county roads in 2010. The engineer's office paid each group \$20.00 per mile for their efforts in this community service project. A total of 328 miles was picked up. The county furnished litterbags, safety vests, and signs and paid the tipping fees in disposal of the litter.

## PERSONNEL

A total of 24 full time employees make up our personnel. In the year 2010 there were 14 part-time and seasonal employees that worked for the Engineer. In 2000 we had 31 full-time employees. In 1984 there were 39 full-time employees.

## EQUIPMENT PURCHASES/FACILITY UPGRADES

The following is a list of the purchases over \$5000 during 2010.

12' snow plow(#51)	\$ 8,340.00
2011 Ford F550 4x2 w/service body (29P)	\$ 37,660.00
2011 Intl. 7400 w/distributor unit(#50)	\$ 129,727.10
2011 Intl. 7400 w/ dump body, hitch & access.(#51)	\$ 113,021.00
Mower Equipment for 25M	\$ 31,346.14
New Holland Tractor(25M) T6020	\$ 40,861.05

## INTERESTING FACTS

There are 407 bridges on Mercer County township and county roads. Every year all 407 bridges are inspected by our office.

There are 447.906 miles of township roads and 387.945 miles of county roads in Mercer County.

Since 1999 the Mercer County Engineer has obtained approximately \$3,415,723 in competitive state grant programs for local road improvements.

Since 1999 the Mercer County Engineer has obtained \$19,160,631 in competitive federal grant programs for local road improvements.

No real estate, sales or property taxes fund county road and local road bridge improvements in Mercer County. Road user fees in the form of motor vehicle gas taxes and license fees fund our efforts.

The number of Mercer County Engineer full and part-time employees has decreased over the last 20 years with less resources going towards salaries and fringe benefits as a percentage of the total budget.

From 2006-2010 total salaries and fringe benefits have only increased over that 5 year period 1.8%; being an average annual increase in that period of time of 0.36%.

## SUMMARY

Much was accomplished in 2010 and we welcome your comments, suggestions and questions to our office: Mercer County Engineer, 321 Riley Street, Celina OH 45822, Phone# 419-586-7759, e-mail: engineer@mercercountyohio.org. Listed below are some of the short and long-term goals for the office for the years to come.

1. Maintain to a minimum level of condition our roadway pavements.
2. Obtain outside funding sources to supplement our budget for capital improvements.
3. Be aggressive in putting significant resources into capital improvement projects like roadway widening, bridge replacements, etc.
4. Complete the development of the Mercer County Engineer facility west of Celina.
5. Assist townships in getting outside funding sources for their capital improvement projects.
6. 24' by "24"—long-term goal to have all county road pavements widened to a minimum width of 24' by the year 2024.

*James A. Wiechart*

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