

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

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FROM THE DEPUTY ENGINEER

By now, I'm sure a lot of you have heard about the recent proposal from Governor Mike DeWine's office to raise the Gas Tax 18 cents/gallon in order to generate more revenue for ODOT and local governments. The Gas Tax is already earmarked in the state constitution for roads and bridges only. Originally with DeWine's proposal, our office and all of the local governments around our county were expected to receive a substantial increase on all of our budgets. However, after the bill went through the House this past week, the proposed Gas Tax increase was reduced from 18 cents to 10.7 cents/gallon. Diesel fuel would also increase 20 cents/gallon under the current House bill. The bill was then introduced in the Senate where it has been discussed this week. The Senate is expected to release their version of the amended bill this coming Monday. We can only hope that they didn't change it too much and that they are still proposing some kind of an increase. The revenue for our department has been virtually flat over the last decade. In the meantime, due to inflation and other factors, the cost to pave a road or replace a bridge has more than doubled over that span.

This past week, Elizabeth, Jim, and I met with the Commissioners and Engineers with ODOT District 2. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss different ideas and layouts for the east side of the by-pass where State Street, CR 198, and CR 229 could be affected in order to make that section of the by-pass much safer. Currently, the CR 198/CR 229 intersection with the by-pass is very dangerous and it needs to be improved. We will continue to discuss different layouts and ideas with ODOT, and the Commissioners, to come up with a comprehensive solution in order to improve this part of the by-pass.

Several Townships have already asked for estimates to pave their roads this year, however others have not. We recommend to get those estimates and request for paving early in the year, so you can take advantage of better asphalt prices. As the contractors fill up their construction schedules, normally prices go up. We will be opening bids for this year's OPWC Township contract (led by Woodville Twp.), next Wednesday, March 20th. We also have Jackson Township's project out for bids and will open those bids on April 1st.

After the winter that we had, it is hard to believe that we are approaching spring and the paving season. Incidentally, talking with M&B about our upcoming paving projects, they would like to start with CR 53 first, and then move to CR 229 and CR 239. They would like to start next month (mid-April) with monument boxes on Tiffin Road and Port Clinton Road, and then continue with the milling and paving. We have a pre-construction meeting setup with M&B and ODOT April 8th.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

The weather seems to be finally switching to spring now. Some warmer temperatures the past couple of days sure felt better! Hopefully winter and snow are behind us, and summer and sun are around the corner.

Although the warmer temperatures are nice, it does make it difficult this time of year when the frost starts coming out of the ground and things turn sloppy. We will push through and get things done as usual. Projects like plow damage repair, guardrail repairs, and snow fence removal will be high on the agenda the next two weeks.

Lately, we have been grinding brush with the excavator (Lewis Ditch & a section of CR 198), repairing a bank slip on Nine Mile Ditch, and have removed a couple of trees (one on CR 175 and one on CR 268). Some snow fence was taken down, since it was lying on the ground from the wind. The berm drag is back out, working on reclaiming the berms. The guys started on CR 12 and are now on CR 39. Next stop will be CR 1.

Perry, Nick, Austin, Jimmy, and Matt have all had a hand at putting up new green signs in the county. All townships on the west side of the county have now been completed. The guys are now working on Green Creek and Riley Townships. The crew on night shift has completed the night inspection. Also, next week will be the last week for the night shift.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Steve Pfeiffer March 19th
Rick Villarreal March 29th