

## Senator Brown and colleagues create proposal to rebuild America's infrastructure

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LOGAN — Improvements could be made to structurally deficient bridges in Hocking County if President Donald Trump follows through with his promise to invest a trillion dollars in America's infrastructure.

United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Democratic colleagues worked together to draft "A Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure" proposal (not a bill) to start thinking about how it could improve the nation's transportation, water, housing and community infrastructures. It could create thousands of manufacturing and construction jobs in the Buckeye State, according to Brown's office.

"President Trump promised a one trillion dollar investment in American infrastructure, built with American iron and steel and made by American workers. This blueprint would hold the President accountable for keeping that promise — and we stand ready to work with him to make it a reality," said Brown. "It's time to put Ohioans to work rebuilding our bridges and roads."

According to a report from Brown's office, nearly a



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The Ohio Avenue bridge is structurally deficient and there are plans to replace it in 2018-2019, according to Hocking County Engineer Bill Shaw.

quarter of Ohio's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. In Hocking County, there are close to 300 bridges, according to the report.

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### SPORTS



## Tall order of business



Work began on a downtown business

LOGAN — The new chapel and Pal Tuesday afternoon

physical updates and decorations as a work project, a FairHope Hospice provides the additional amenities

# Ohio lottery

Rolling Cash 5 6 • 10 • 12 • 18 • 21  
Night Pick 3 7 • 7 • 7  
Night Pick 4 3 • 1 • 4 • 2

Night Pick 5 3 • 5 • 8 • 3 • 0  
Day Pick 3 1 • 4 • 5

Day Pick 4 6 • 8 • 4 • 7  
Day Pick 5 9 • 2 • 1 • 5 • 3

## INFRASTRUCTURE

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Hocking County Engineer Bill Shaw said their office is responsible for 261 bridges on county and township roadways. Eight of the bridges are considered structurally deficient, which means a bridge that has one or more structural defects that require attention.

"This status does not indicate the severity of the defect but rather that a defect is present," said Shaw. "A bridge in Ohio is any structure with a span or diameter (in case of a pipe or culvert) of 10 feet or greater."

Shaw explained that the bridge on Nutter Boring Road is closed and has been for quite some time since it is on a "non-maintained" road. It will not be replaced.

At other bridges, existing culverts on Wahl Road and Bremen Road will be replaced this year or next, according to Shaw.

"Also, the Ohio Avenue bridge is structurally deficient and planned to be replaced in 2018-2019," Shaw explained. "The third and eighth bridges on Big Pine Road have some abutment problems and we hope to replace them this year."

"The final two bridges, the fourth on Middlefork Road and an aluminum box culvert on Sutton Road also have a few structural problems, which we will address this year but not replace," he shared.

Shaw wanted to note that none of these structures are "unsafe" or need to be closed.

He also pointed out that functionally obsolete is a status used to describe a bridge that is no longer by design functionally adequate to its task. He mentioned that a reason for this status may be that the bridge doesn't have enough lanes to accommodate the traffic flow.

"We have 29 in this category. Most of them have been placed in this category because of the existing bridge width, current traffic counts, or poor alignment. None of these have any structural problems," he continued. "A functionally obsolete bridge may be

perfectly safe and structurally sound, but may be poorly aligned or not have a enough clearance to allow an oversized vehicle."

According to Shaw, a bridge with a weight restriction or unable to carry a full legal load, could cause serious problems.

"These would have a chance of failure if a legally loaded truck ignored the weight limit and crossed the structure," he shared. "Although we had around 188 bridges with reduced load limits in 1980, we have none today. We are very proud of that."

Statewide, 1,893 county bridges fall into the structurally deficient category while 4,278 are functionally obsolete, according to Shaw.

"And unfortunately no one is willing to admit that revenues from our existing gas tax and license fees are far too inadequate to address the road and bridge maintenance/construction needs," he said.

Shaw also went on to say he is in full support of improving transportation infrastructure.

"However, it is important to point out that we here in Hocking County, and most other counties, can build about three bridges with our local dollars for the same cost to build just one with federal or state dollars," he expressed. "It would be my hope that any transportation infrastructure program would pass through some dollars to the locals, similar to the Ohio Public Works Commission program, so we can get the biggest bang for the buck."

"No one knows more about which bridges need built by which method in each county than the county engineer in that county," Shaw continued. "Under at least one current program, the county engineer is told which bridge will be replaced and at a cost three or four times more than necessary."

According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District Bridge Engineer Wesley Buckley, ODOT is responsible for the inspection and major maintenance of 153 bridges in Hocking County.

Buckley said there were about 10 of those bridges that are functionally obsolete.

"A Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure" proposal is just a plan and doesn't have specific line items. However, Ohio has one of the nation's largest interstate systems and major public transit network, which could benefit from an investment, according to a report from the senator's office.

- Ohio has the nation's fourth largest interstate system with 6,700 lane miles.
- Ohio's public transportation agencies serve more than 300,000 passengers every weekday.
- An estimated 109,000 Ohioans work in highway construction in the state.
- An estimated \$14 billion will need to be spent to keep Ohio's wastewater systems up-to-date over the next 20 years.
- Brown also highlighted several priorities for Ohio that could be addressed through the new proposal:
- Buy America — The plan would apply Buy America to all taxpayer-funded public works and infrastructure projects to ensure that American tax dollars support American materials and jobs.
- Fixing Ohio roads and bridges — The plan calls for \$210 billion for road and bridge repairs and \$200 billion for a Vital Infrastructure Program (VIP), which would direct money toward projects of critical national significance.
- Updating outdated sewer systems — The plan calls for \$110 billion to modernize outdated water and sewer systems.
- Improving public transportation — The plan calls for \$130 billion to replace and expand rail and bus systems.
- Eliminating blight and lead hazards — The plan includes \$100 billion to address affordable housing challenges, eliminate blighted properties that bring down local property values, and remediate lead hazards that put children at risk of lead poisoning.
- Rebuilding America's schools — The plan includes \$75 billion to help modernize America's schools without burdening local taxpayers.

## ARTWORK

Continued from page

you mix and that is what is creative art."

In addition to landscape — Collinsworth is known locally for his trees — he likes to paint characters from his favorite movies; there are paintings in the HVI hall of Carrie and Beetlejuice, as well as scenes from his childhood.

He pays attention to detail, especially the use of shadow and light, and prefers to work with music playing, or complete silence.

"You can paint something that you see on the Internet, you do it your way, and that's the cool part," Collinsworth added.

Erica McDaniel, though a bit quiet, was just as excited to have her artwork shown in the Exhibition. Due to a cold, the announcement of the acceptance was delayed so she would be able to share in the initial excitement. Her piece, a large colorful peacock, is in the style she has used previously.

"I take my time," McDaniel remarked. "I use one color at a time, and take my time."

McDaniel waits for each layer of paint to dry before moving on, in contrast to Collinsworth's blending. She, however, experimented with blending in a recent painting of a lighthouse sunset.

Other pieces of McDaniel's artwork includes the collection HVI has added, featuring birds like the small blue bird displayed in the hallway building. Even while waiting for the paint to dry, she focuses completely on her work, while the rest of the room is busy.

Harris and McDaniel came together to deliver the art to the office in Columbus had a blast, despite the confusion. It was very fun for the small town group going to a big city, but the group will travel.

"We like to go place