



Legislative Program 2019

**A glance at priority issues and the
current transportation funding situation
for Ohio's Counties**



County Engineers Association of Ohio

CEAO Legislative Priorities

As adopted by the CEAO Legislative Committee, the following priority issues are of critical importance to counties in the state of Ohio:

Funding

Funding is a Federal, State and Local issue, but the majority of our funding comes from either Gasoline/Diesel fuel taxes or Motor Vehicle License Plate registration fees. Unfortunately, these funding sources haven't been increased for decades to keep up with inflation. This lack of funding makes maintaining our aging infrastructure a nearly impossible task. Therefore, increases in our funding are necessary and our priorities are as follows:

Gasoline Excise Tax Increase

Congress hasn't increased the federal gas tax since 1993 (25+ yrs) and Ohio hasn't increased its gasoline tax since 2003 (15+ yrs). In the meantime, County Engineers have lost 50% of their buying power due to inflation. Therefore, legislation is needed for Ohio to join the other 18 states who have either raised their gas tax or adjusted their formula since 2013 to provide more revenue for transportation.

License Plate Registration Fee Increase

Ohio license plate registration fees haven't been increased statewide since 1988 (30+ yrs). Therefore, we advocate the expansion of the license plate fees, with the additional revenue being split between local governments including: counties, townships, and municipalities.

Hybrid/Electric/Natural Gas/Alternative Fuels

Since these vehicles do not use traditional fuels, we currently are not collecting either gasoline or diesel fuel taxes. These alternative fueled vehicles are becoming more popular all the time. Therefore, legislation is needed to implement a new method for these vehicles to contribute to the costs of maintaining our roads and bridges.

Other Transportation Revenue Options

- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fees
- Designated sales tax
- Public private partnerships (P3)
- Levies
- Tolling
- Driver's license
- Rental vehicles

Efficiency in Local Government

Force Account

County Engineers utilize force account labor to lower costs and improve efficiencies for road and bridge projects. Unfortunately, force account limits haven't been increased to keep up with inflation. Current force account limits were last increased in June 2003, but without a factor for inflation. Therefore, legislation is needed to 1) adjust thresholds to reflect the increases in construction costs since 2003 and 2) implement an annual increase that is tied to a construction cost index.

State Prevailing Wage on County Road Projects

Raise the state prevailing wage threshold on road and bridge projects to match that of other construction projects in ORC 4115.03. (Schools constructed with non-prevailing wage showed a 20% savings).

Fact: Although Ohio is ranked 35th in the nation by geographic size, it has the fourth largest interstate network.

Safety of the Traveling Public

Overweight Vehicle Fines

ORC 5577.99 should be amended to credit all overweight fines to the maintenance and repair of county roads, highways, bridges, or culverts.

Guardrail Standards

Guardrail mandates need to be revised to give the County Engineer authority to determine the appropriate guardrail treatments along embankments and road side hazards.



Efficiency in County Engineering

Load Restrictions

County Engineers currently have the ability to post load limit restrictions on bridges located on county or township roads. This is essential to preserve the integrity of our infrastructure and protect the safety of our citizens. Legislation is needed to give County Engineers the authority to post load restrictions on specific roadways after the completion of an engineering analysis, as well as to create specific haul routes for cargo that would be detrimental to local highways.

OUPS Legislation

Public road rights-of-way were established for the purpose of maintaining the integrity and safety of roadways. OUPS legislation needs to allow the public agency owning the right-of-way to maintain the control of its designated use.



Stormwater Management Districts

Stormwater management districts need to have the ability to raise revenue to fund EPA mandates, along with constructing and maintaining stormwater systems.

Drainage Petition Improvements

Update Ohio drainage laws for clarity and consistency.

Fact: Every trip begins and ends on a local road. CEAO is here to collaborate with all to keep Ohio's transportation network open for business.

The Need is Now

Why do we need more money?

Revenue from gas and license user fees has been stagnant and construction costs are always increasing. County Engineers, although using revenues efficiently, cannot keep up with the increasing costs for improvements. Since 2003, County Engineers have lost 50% of their buying power due to inflation.

Current revenue: \$450 Million per year

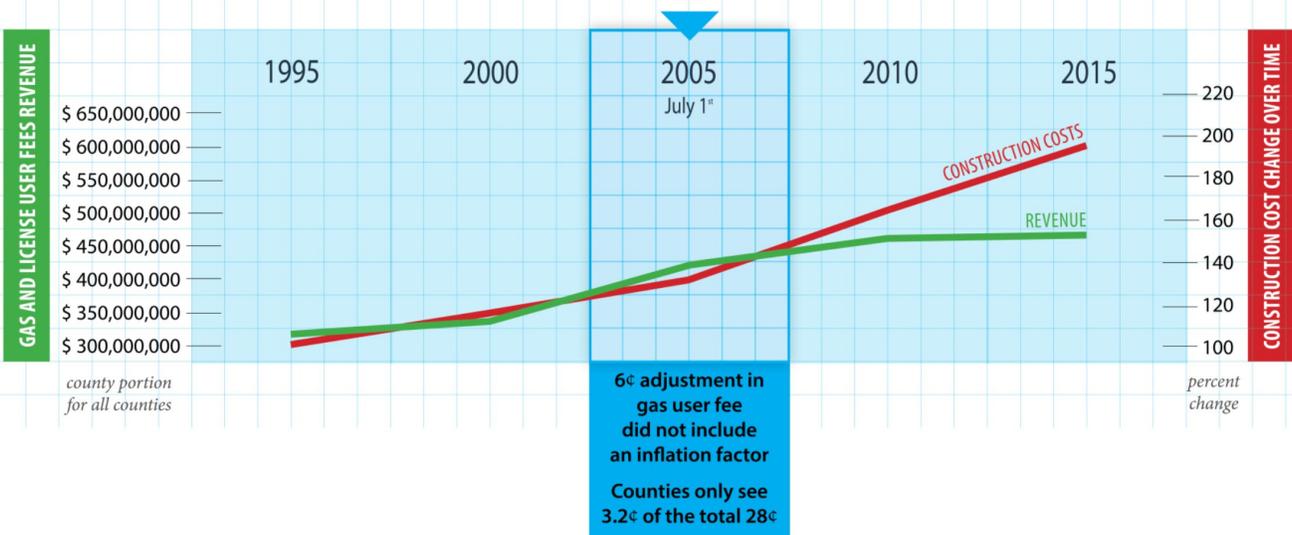
Current need: \$1.12 Billion per year

Funding deficiency: 60%



THE PROBLEM IS NOW, WHY CAN'T THE SOLUTION BE NOW?

Local roads are vital to securing our jobs and the economy in Ohio.



Fact: County Engineers cannot keep up with the increasing costs for improvements of our roads and bridges. Since 2003, County Engineers have lost 50% of purchasing power due to inflation.

Facts About Ohio County Roadways

Safety Facts

Traffic Accidents (5 year total)	156,320
Traffic Injuries - Serious (5 year total)	6,931
Traffic Deaths (5 year total)	890
Percent of Total Traffic Deaths in Ohio	17%



Road Facts

Total Miles of County Highway	28,970
Less than 20 ft Wide (Below Current Standards)	18,879
Between 20 ft and 24 ft	9,422
Greater than 24 ft	669
Cost per Year to Widen County Highways to Current Standards on a 20-year Schedule	\$226 Million
Cost per Year to Pave County Roads on a 10-year Schedule	\$362 Million
Cost per Year to Maintain County Highway System (including guardrail, pavement marking, signs, culverts, mowing, and snow plowing)	\$406 Million

Bridge Facts

Total Number of County Bridges	26,298
Closed Bridges	96
Posted with Load Limits	1,356
One Lane Bridges	3,024
Bridges 50 years and older	9,576
Eligible for Replacement	1,854
Eligible for Repair	6,221
Total Cost to Replace and Repair all Eligible Bridges	\$1.2 Billion
Cost per Year on a 10-year Schedule	\$127 Million



Total Amount Needed = \$1.12 Billion per year

Fact: Ohio is within a 600-mile drive of half of the nation's population and is considered a crossroads for America's manufacturing and agricultural industries.

About Ohio's County Engineers

Who we are

Ohio's county engineers are elected officials who by state statute must hold dual registrations as both a Professional Engineer (P.E.) and a Professional Surveyor (P.S.). **This dual registration requirement has led to Ohio's national reputation for excellence and safety.**



What we do

Ohio's County Engineers are responsible for duties in the areas of civil engineering, surveying, drainage improvements, permitting within public rights-of-way, as well as highway and bridge construction and maintenance. County Engineers are responsible for 26,298 bridges and 28,970 miles of urban and rural roadways that are vital to the continued growth and prosperity of Ohio.

Why our qualifications are important

The professional qualification requirement of the County Engineer is critical to the citizens of Ohio. It is necessary that a County Engineer holds both a professional engineering and surveying license due to the magnitude of the duties mandated to the office. The Ohio Revised Code contains 17 separate sections relating to surveying, all duties for which the county must ultimately be responsible. Additional benefits of having County Engineers dually registered include ensuring that engineers elected have the appropriate professional education and experience. Lastly, by having the dual license expectation, real savings are realized as taxpayers only pay for one position rather than multiple positions.



About the County Engineers Association of Ohio

The County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) works to ensure Ohio's County Engineers can provide the highest quality services for the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services and to construct solutions for the many challenges to Ohio's local infrastructure and land development needs. We do this with a focus on education, legislation and training to protect the public health, safety and welfare in the areas of transportation, surveying, mapping and water infrastructure.

County Engineers Association of Ohio

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