

February 27, 2009

***Official Launch of the County Engineer's Association of Ohio's County
Highway Needs Web Site***

Hamilton County --- On March 1, 2009, the County Engineer's Association of Ohio (CEAO) will officially debut www.BridgetheGapOhio.com, a web site designed to inform the public of the needs of the County Engineers of Ohio to maintain infrastructures. This site will give an overview of the state of Ohio's roadways and bridges, as well as what is needed to ensure that the State of Ohio has the best possible infrastructure system. In addition, the site explains what can be done to protect and improve Ohio's infrastructures.

The State of Ohio's eighty-eight County Engineer's are responsible for over 29,000 miles of roadway and over 26,000 bridges, with the License Plate Fee and the gas tax serving as the main sources of revenue for maintaining these infrastructures. Unfortunately, in the last few years, the gas tax revenue has been steadily declining and the License Plate Fees have not been increased since 1987. Construction costs have increase since 2003 by over 40%. Due to this, it has become difficult for Ohio's County Engineers to preserve and improve their roadways and bridges. It has been determined that it would cost \$230 million annually to maintain a 10-year resurfacing schedule for county roadways and \$770 million annually to replace or repair all deficient and obsolete county bridges.

Action must be taken immediately to remedy this growing and detrimental situation. By visiting www.BridgetheGapOhio.com, the public will be able to become informed on this developing problem. In addition, they will be able to explore potential solutions.

The Hamilton County Engineer's Office is responsible to maintain 1,200 lane miles of County Roads and 420 Bridges. Due to funding constraints the County Engineer has had to reduce pavement repairs; eliminate guardrail, raised pavement marker and culvert replacement contracts; reduce the number of bridges rehabilitated or replaced and reduce or eliminate resurfacing and roadway rehabilitation contracts.

The Cleves Warsaw Road Truss Bridge built in 1923 had to be load limited in 2008 and construction on a replacement structure will not begin until 2012. Day Road Bridge, Blue Rock Road Bridge, Shadybrook Road Bridge, Link Road Bridge, Brehm Road Bridge, Loveland Madeira Road Bridge, Galbraith Road Bridge, Sheed Road Bridges, Covered Bridge Road, and the Sharon Road Bridge deck overlay all have to be delayed at least three years due to lack of funding.

Hamilton County needs more than \$9,000,000 in resurfacing in 2009 to keep on pace for a 15 year paving cycle with less than \$1,000,000 available.

For more information on this new website, please visit www.BridgetheGapOhio.com, or the Hamilton County Engineer's website at www.Hamilton-co.org/engineer.

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