

Erie County Engineer's Office

2025 Annual Report

February 4, 2026

Erie County Commissioners
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, OH 44870

Re: 2025 Annual Report

Dear Commissioners:

Please find the 2025 Annual Report attached for your review in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5543.02. The report summarizes the accomplishments of the Erie County Engineer's Office in 2025. Our staff continues to responsibly pursue and manage funding for repair and replacement of our valuable infrastructure.

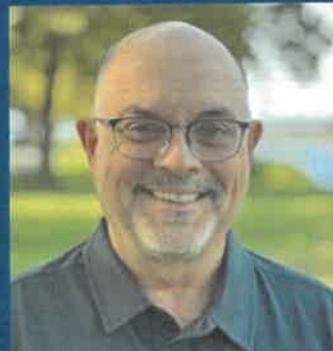
We appreciate the commission's assistance with much needed equipment replacement this year. The work of the office doesn't get done without dedicated, professional employees to deliver design and construction of our 2026 projects. We look forward continuing to work with the commission and other county agencies to provide services for our community.

We thank you and look forward to your continued support of this office.

Respectfully,



Eric B. Dodrill, P.E., P.S.
Erie County Engineer



Eric B. Dodrill, P.E., P.S.



Erie County Engineer &
Highway Department

2700 S. Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
(419) 627-7714

www.eriecounty.oh.gov/ErieCountyEngineer

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Total Area: | 626 sq. mi. |
| Population: | 73,841 |
| Length County Roads: | 139.635 miles |
| Total Bridges: | 137 |
| Approx. Total Culverts: | 700+ |
| Maintained Ditches: | 128 |

2025 FINANCES

The Erie County Engineer operations are primarily funded through highway user fees like Motor Vehicle Registration Fees, Permissive Sales Tax and Gasoline Excise Tax. In 2025, we received \$6,592,218 in such fees compared to \$6,484,943 in 2024, an increase of approximately 1.654%.

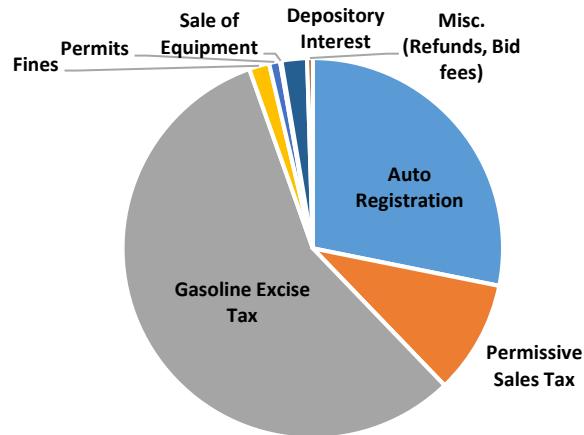
We continue, whenever possible, to apply for Federal & State Grant money to maximize the use of county dollars to complete projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

A breakdown of our 2025 Revenues and Expenditures is shown below.

REVENUE

2025

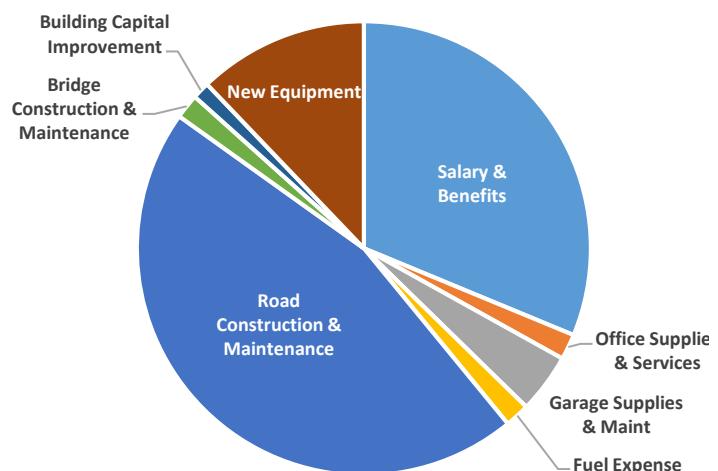
| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Auto Registration | \$ 1,962,909.05 |
| Permissive Sales Tax | \$ 672,537.00 |
| Gasoline Excise Tax | \$ 3,956,771.80 |
| Fines | \$ 119,701.97 |
| Permits | \$ 65,602.72 |
| Sale of Equipment | \$ 7,811.00 |
| Depository Interest | \$ 151,395.59 |
| Misc. (Refunds, Bid fees) | \$ 33,093.32 |
| SUB-TOTAL | \$ 6,969,822.45 |
| ODOT Grant (Direct Payments) | \$ 108,564.24 |
| TOTAL | \$ 7,078,386.69 |



EXPENDITURES

2025

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$ 2,053,032.89 |
| Office Supplies & Services | \$ 119,875.48 |
| Garage Supplies & Maint. | \$ 278,676.88 |
| Fuel Expense | \$ 115,134.96 |
| Road Construction & Maintenance | \$ 3,010,848.58 |
| Bridge Construction & Maintenance | \$ 115,290.96 |
| Building Capital Improvement | \$ 80,377.26 |
| New Equipment | \$ 797,879.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL | \$ 6,571,116.01 |
| ODOT Grant (Direct Payments) | \$ 108,564.24 |
| TOTAL | \$ 6,679,680.25 |



2025 County Road Project

2025 Erie County Resurfacing Program

County Roads

- Berlin Road – Mason Road to Huron Corp Line

Total Project Cost
\$1,307,865.85

Contractor: Erie Blacktop, Inc.



Berlin Road, Berlin Heights, Ohio

Huron Township Roads

- Andress Road – Nash Road to House #13416
- Ruggles Beach Subdivision

2025 Microsurfacing Program

- Approximately 44.23 miles of various roads throughout the county
- Approximately 0.35 miles of townships roads

Total Project Cost
\$843,830.35

Contractor: Strawser Construction, Inc.

2025 Pavement Marking Program

County Roads

- Completed 84.77 miles of center line and 158.17 miles of edge line

Total Project Cost
\$165,908.16

Contractor: Oglesby Construction, Inc.

Township Road

- Completed 91.05 miles of center line and 59.982 miles of edge line

ERI-CR PM-FY2025 Pavement Marking on Various Roads

PID No. 114298; Agreement No. 40824

Total Project Cost
\$104,858.41

County Roads

- Completed 60.014 miles of center line and 120.678 miles of edge line

Contractor: Oglesby Construction, Inc.

2025 Mowing on Designated Roads

- Three mows are performed @ \$12,748.38/mow

Total Project Cost
\$38,245.14

Contractor: Schippels Excavating & Concrete, LLC

2026 Upcoming Project

(ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing improvements along U.S. 6 between the City of Sandusky and the City of Huron, in Erie County, Ohio to meet the goals of the Connectivity Corridor. As a separate project, ODOT is including the construction of a segment of the Sandusky Bay Pathway to promote continuous pedestrian-friendly access between the cities of Sandusky and Huron. This project has been developed through collaboration with many local government agencies and private businesses. It would not be possible without the following funding partners: Federal Highway Administration; City of Sandusky; Erie County Commissioners; City of Huron; Erie Shores and Islands; Erie County Regional Planning Commission; Cedar Fair Entertainment Company.

The following improvements are being proposed.

Construct 5 modern roundabouts at the following intersections:

- U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) and Perkins Avenue
- U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) and Camp Road
- U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) and Rye Beach Road
- U.S. 6 (Rye Beach Road) and the State Route (SR) 2 interchange ramps

Add a center two-way left turn lane on U.S. 6 between Camp Road and Rye Beach Road.

Construct a 10-foot-wide multi-use path at the following locations:

- Sandusky Bay Pathway: This portion of the path will begin at Cedar Point Drive, cross over Pipe Creek in Castaway Bay, and continue along Heron Creek Drive before turning south at E. Shoreway drive to continue east along the north side of U.S. 6, ending at Hemminger Ditch (near the entrance to the Landing Park). Development of The Landing Park will be administered separately by the City of Sandusky.
- On the north side of U.S. 6, from the Cedar Point Sports Center to Rye Beach Road.
- On the east side of Rye Beach Road, from Cleveland Road through the State Route 2 interchange to University Drive (at the Bowling Green State University Firelands Campus).

The Sandusky Bay Pathway will be constructed in 2024. Construction for the U.S. 6 Multi-use Pathway and the Connectivity Corridor will begin in April 2026 and be completed in October 2027.

2025
ERIE COUNTY DITCH MAINTENANCE
ANNUAL REPORT

During 2025, the Erie County Ditch Maintenance Department completed a wide range of improvements to county-maintained ditches, tile systems, and subdivision drainage infrastructure. These efforts support proper stormwater management, reduce flooding risk, and maintain long-term functionality of the county's drainage network.

Summary of Work Completed:

- 14,227 linear feet of ditch reshaped, realigned, dipped and/or had debris removed to allow for normal flow, as well as to provide adequate freeboard for tile outlets.
- 139,310 linear feet of mowing and brush clearing including 11 detention areas mowed
- 8 rock structures along with several tiles and culverts were repaired
- 225 feet of new tile installed and 1,250 linear feet of various size tiles were jet-vaced or videoed.
- 182,578 linear feet of ditch was sprayed along with detention areas and tile outlets
- 29 basins were repaired or replaced and two new basins installed

The mowing program starts in early summer continuing thru late fall. 34 ditches, with the combined length of over 26 miles were completed. This mowing program allows for a more economical application of herbicides by not wasting the solution on last year's dead vegetation, while still allowing for wildlife nesting and habitat utilization.

Ditch Maintenance has 53 subdivisions with 48 detention basins that need regular spraying and or mowing maintenance. Twenty of the detention basins were tackled this year to address persistent and hard to control noxious weeds such as cattail and phragmite along with broadleaf and woody vegetation. Weather permitting I hope to target three additional cleared of brush and improve drainage to keep these areas from holding stagnant water.

For 2026 I have plans to work on several ditches that include dipping, mowing and spraying that have been ongoing from year to year because of length that are in excess of 7 miles. There are a fair amount of basins that will need repaired and tile that will be replaced.

A new petition ditch, **Trusdale #141 in Oxford Township**, was added to the maintenance program in 2025. The department now manages and maintains **129 projects**, including **three joint-county projects**, with a combined maintenance base exceeding **\$16 million**.

Prepared by
Joe Weilnau
Ditch Maintenance Supervisor

| MAINTENANCE SUMMARY FOR FY 2025 | |
|---|---------------------|
| MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS | |
| GENERAL INFORMATION | TOTALS |
| NEW PROJECTS RECEIVED FOR MAINTENANCE FY 2025 | 1 |
| TOTAL PROJECTS ON MAINTENANCE | 129 |
| MILES ON MAINTENANCE | |
| OPEN DITCH | 58.47 |
| TILE | 49.65 |
| DIKES | 0.33 |
| TOTAL MILES | 108.45 |
| MISCELLANEOUS/PARAMETER PROJECTS ON MAINTENANCE | |
| CATCH BASINS | 1458 |
| PUMP STATIONS | 5 |
| RETENTION / DETENTION PONDS | 48 |
| SUBDIVISIONS | 53 |
| CATTAILS AND AQUATIC WEEDS* | |
| DITCH TREATMENT | |
| BRUSH / WEED TREATMENT | |
| GALLONS OF SOLUTION APPLIED | 1749 |
| LINEAR FEET TREATED | 182,578 |
| CATTAILS / AQUATIC WEEDS / NUISANCE AREAS | |
| GALLONS OF SOLUTION APPLIED | 60 |
| AMOUNT OF ACRES TREATED | 3 |
| RETENTION / DETENTION POND TREATMENT | |
| BRUSH / WEED TREATMENT | |
| GALLONS OF SOLUTION APPLIED | 60 |
| AMOUNT OF ACRES TREATED | 3 |
| GENERAL | |
| TILE OUTLET PIPES INSTALLED | 20 |
| TILE OUTLET PIPE ANIMAL GUARDS INSTALLED | 20 |
| RIP RAP EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES INSTALLED | 8 |
| TONS STONE USED | 101.81 |
| DITCHES CLEANED/RECONSTRUCTED* | 9 |
| TOTAL MILES | 2.3 |
| BRUSH REMOVAL MILES | 26.4 |
| LBS. FESCUE SEED USED FOR SEEDING/RESEEDING (ESTIMATED) | 250 |
| SCHEDULE "B" PARCELS CHECKED/UPDATED/CORRECTED | 24 |
| ANNUAL INSPECTIONS COMPLETED | 126 |
| CATCH BASINS REPAIRED / INSTALLED | 31 |
| FEET OF CULVERT INSTALLED | 20 |
| CULVERTS REPAIRED | 2 |
| 6 YEAR UPDATES COMPLETED* | |
| FEET OF TILE JETTED OR ROOT CUTTER | 1250 |
| DEPT. FULL TIME EMPLOYEES | 1 |
| DEPT. PART-TIME/SEASONAL EMPLOYEES | 0 |
| VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO DITCH MAINTENANCE DEPT. | 1 |
| TOTAL ASSESSMENT COLLECTION FOR FY 2025 | |
| TAXBASE FOR ALL MAINTAINED PROJECTS | \$16,030,542.77 |
| TOTAL PROJECTS TO ASSESS FOR MAINTENANCE IN FY 2025 | 129 |
| AMOUNT TO BE COLLECTED 2025 | \$353,115.27 |
| TOTAL TO COLLECTED ON 2025 TAX DUPLICATE | \$328,756.41 |
| TOTAL TO BE COLLECT FOR 2026 TAX | \$375,335.78 |
| TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS & COSTS ("R" FUNDS) | |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS ("R" FUNDS INCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS) | \$328,269.64 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$434,248.21 |

Why Weight Limits Matter

Weight limits on public roads play a far bigger role than most people realize. They're a quiet backbone of transportation safety, infrastructure preservation, and economic stability. A tight summary of their importance looks like this:

Protecting Road and Bridge Infrastructure

- Roads and bridges are engineered to handle specific maximum loads. Exceeding those limits accelerates wear, causes pavement fatigue, and leads to cracks, potholes, and structural damage.
- Overweight vehicles can shorten the lifespan of infrastructure dramatically, forcing costly repairs or replacements earlier than planned.

Ensuring Public Safety

- Heavy vehicles increase the risk of accidents, especially on roads not designed for them.
- Weight limits help prevent catastrophic failures, such as bridge collapses or roadbed failures, by keeping loads within safe engineering tolerances.

Protecting Public Funds

- Road repairs are expensive. Weight limits reduce unnecessary damage, saving taxpayers money and keeping transportation budgets sustainable.

Supporting Efficient Transportation

- Limits ensure that freight movement remains safe and predictable.
- They balance the needs of commerce with the need to preserve infrastructure, especially as freight volumes grow with e-commerce and industrial transport.

The Bottom Line

Weight limits aren't arbitrary—they're grounded in engineering, economics, and safety. They keep roads reliable, protect communities, and ensure that the transportation network can support both everyday travel and heavy commercial activity without failing prematurely.

Summary of Weight and Measure Activity for 2025

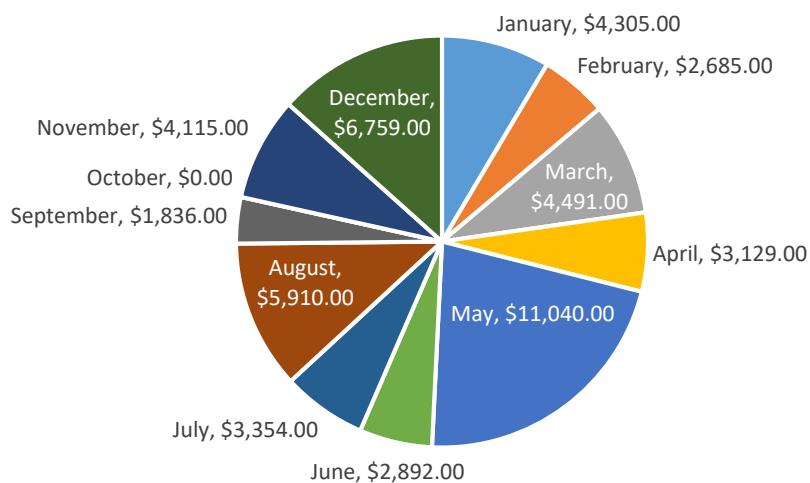
The following contains a summary of all overload, over dimensional, and other traffic violations from Jan 1, 2025 through Dec 31, 2025.

| Month | # of Overloads | Fines | Total LBS Over Weight |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| January | 3 | \$4,305.00 | 109,000 |
| February | 2 | \$2,685.00 | 71,500 |
| March | 3 | \$4,491.00 | 123,700 |
| April | 3 | \$3,129.00 | 78,300 |
| May | 6 | \$11,040.00 | 314,700 |
| June | 2 | \$2,892.00 | 78,400 |
| July | 3 | \$3,354.00 | 85,800 |
| August | 3 | \$5,910.00 | 170,000 |
| September | 1 | \$1,836.00 | 52,200 |
| October | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 |
| November | 2 | \$4,115.00 | 119,700 |
| December | 5 | \$6,759.00 | 178,800 |
| YEARLY TOTAL | 33 | \$50,516.00 | 1,382,100 |

Average Fine : \$1,530.78

Average Overload: 41,881 LBS

FINES



The Erie County Tax Map Office

Services Include:

- Real estate transfers
- Legal description review
- Lot splits and combinations
- Historical research
- New survey review

The Tax Map Office and Auditor's Office work together to maintain the digital mapping system for Erie County. Managing real estate transfers is crucial to providing correct property **ownership data**. The office updates parcel information on a **daily basis** to provide the most accurate and comprehensive information possible for more than **46,000 parcels** in Erie County.

2025 Stats

10 Plats Filed

241 Lot Splits/Combos/New Surveys

3,278 Property Transfers

ECEO GIS Updates

The Engineer's Office hired a GIS Specialist, **Emma Farahay**, in April of 2025. Goals in 2025 included updated digital mapping efforts and increased efficiencies throughout the office. Farahay also assisted the Erie County GIS Advisory Board with training efforts.

Project Highlight: Streetlight Status Tracking

The Engineer's Office is responsible for notifying Ohio Edison of outages for over **200 streetlights** across the county. While previously completed on paper, the bi-annual inspections were completed in **less than half the time** using a tablet and online map. Office staff now has the ability to view and submit outage reports quickly online to Farahay, streamlining the process.

GIS Training:

Farahay taught two GIS courses in fall of 2025

- 74 unique participants
- 94 cumulative participants
- 16 departments represented

