

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Columbus Day Facts

Columbus sighted land on October 12, 1492 but just 2 days prior to this, the sailors were threatening mutiny, as they had been out of sight of land for 33 days.

Columbus returned to Spain on March 15 on the Nina after having been separated from the Pinta in mid February 1493.

Fred's Desk



FALL ARRIVED last week, so it's time to start thinking about winter. The one bright spot is that the price of rock salt for snow and ice control has dropped \$2.02 per ton from last year. For the past ten years, we have been obtaining our salt thru the ODOT bid. In 2002 we paid \$34.55 per ton delivered, and each year it increased until it was \$65.65 in 2009. It stayed the same in 2010, but has dropped to \$63.63 for this winter. We're committed to purchase 3000 ton of rock salt this winter.

We did receive very good news from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). They are going to fund 85% of the money needed to replace the two bridges washed out during the June heavy rainfall.

They will be funding \$273,000 of the \$321,300 needed for this project, which will be probably bid within the next month or so. Our road oil for dust control project was completed on Sept. 15th. The final cost paid to Lash Paving for furnishing and applying the road oil was \$197,667.50. Rocal, Inc. will soon deliver 2380 new high intensity road signs and 1290 posts as part of a federal grant to

bring our signs into compliance with the new federal regulations. Once they are delivered, we will then begin installing them along our highways. This \$57,801.29 project is 80% funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

At this time, we are currently working on four future federally funded projects. The first one is for the rehabilitation of two stone arch bridges located on the old National Road. One is on Union Twp. 814 just east of Morristown located on the north side of US 40. The other is located on CH 40-B at Lloydsville. Trans-Systems Corp. has been hired to prepare the Construction Plans for this project.

The second project is for the replacement of an existing 3 span concrete arch bridge located on CH 10 (Barton-Blaine Road), located near the intersection of CH 10 with Rehm Road. The estimated cost of this project is \$824,000 for construction plus engineering and right-of-way costs. This is also 80% FHWA funded. We are now entering the consultant selection process. Construction should begin

in about two years.

The third project is for the replacement of traffic signals at the intersection of Mall and Banfield Roads. The nearly \$200,000 project is also in the consultant selection phase. This project is 100% FHWA funded. The fourth project is for the placement of new guard rail on various county highways. This \$300,000 project won't be funded until 2016. This will be 80% FHWA funded.

The road crews just completed a FEMA slip repair project on CH 5 (Glencoe-Jacobsburg Road) and started a new one this week on CH 102 (Mt. Olivett Road). We will be reimbursed 75% of the costs by FEMA and 12.5% by OEMA. The bridge crew set concrete beams on new abutments on Kirkwood 712 (Muskrat Road) this week, making it the ninth bridge completed this year by them. They also installed three temporary bridges this year, in addition to making major repairs on several other bridges.

Road and Bridge News



The slip repair project of County Road 5, Glencoe St. Clairsville Road has been completed. The area was damaged during the heavy spring rains that occurred throughout May and early June of this year.



These photos show the concrete beams being set on Flushing Township Road 597, located near Holloway. The beams were supplied by Carr Concrete. The crane & operators were from Nemo Hauling Rigging & Crane.

The County Engineer and the Frog

A county engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week." The county engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want." Again, the county engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The county engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer and I am married. I don't need a girlfriend, but a talking frog - now that's cool."

Broadband Project

On September 28 Horizon Tel, the company that has the \$95 million dollar project to install a new fiber optic network in 34 counties in southeast Ohio, held a meeting in Newark, Ohio to bring County representatives up to date.

Bill McKell, President of Horizon Tel, talked about the progress and where construction is taking place currently.

Work recently started in Guernsey, Noble and Monroe Counties and will begin in the very near future in Belmont, Harrison and Jefferson.

The fiber optic network is meant to improve the backbone of the internet infrastructure and will not provide internet service to residents. Local internet service providers can use the backbone to expand to areas where there is little or no broadband available.



2011 JUNE / JULY / AUGUST DEED TRANSFER STATS			
MONTH	DEEDS	TRACTS	EASEMENTS
JUNE	244	402	78
JULY	207	344	53
AUGUST	230	407	55

2002 JUNE / JULY / AUGUST DEED TRANSFER STATS			
MONTH	DEEDS	TRACTS	
JUNE	290	517	
JULY	265	417	
AUGUST	297	477	