

Renewal of the legislation SAFETEA-LU

SAFETEA-LU signifies the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. This legislation, first signed in 2005, guarantees funding throughout the United States (and its territories) to promote safety, equity, innovative finance, congestion relief, mobility and productivity, efficiency, and environmental stewardship and streamlining.

Along with the gas tax and license fees, bridge and asphalt resurfacing projects are funded in Muskingum County by federal funds stemming from this legislation. Although not guaranteed, these funds are applied for by the Engineer's Office. A lot of success has been had in securing funding and as the legislation is renewed every couple of years, we hope to continue the success.

One of the difficulties of securing funding is the foresight of what projects will need to be completed and the timeline required for completion. At times, the Engineer's Office must look five to ten years into the future to determine how to spend money, like that provided by SAFETEA-LU through different agencies.

Currently, Congress has temporarily extended the SAFETEA-LU, which was originally set to expire on March 31, 2012. The extension has allowed further debate until June 30, 2012. The House of Representatives and Senate have their own versions of the SAFETEA-LU that they would like to see signed into law by the President. Obviously, political issues factor into the legislation.

One difference the Republican controlled House and Senate controlled Senate is a proposed funding source from the House plan that takes royalties on expanded oil and gas drilling and oil shale production and placing it in the funding. One percent (1%) of the total funding would come from the proposed source. It is a controversial revenue source that the Senate's plan does not include. The House is introducing a five-year, \$260 Billion proposal, while the Senate has a two-year, \$109 Billion plan.

Uncertainty at the federal level definitely creates doubt and insecurity amongst the state and local officials. However, localities such as the Engineer's Office must continue to plan projects and create a big picture mentality. Without having the foresight to budget and plan projects, trouble could certainly arise. Fortunately, the Engineer's Office works very well amongst each other and with local and state officials to ensure Muskingum County continues to prosper and move forward with the road and bridge infrastructure. Safety and improvements are essential parts of our jobs.

News and Notes

- ⇒ North Pointe Road will be resurfaced with asphalt from Richvale Road to just north of Powelson Road. The bid opening for the project is on Monday, May 7. Also included in the project is surface repair to the Vista View Drive overpass prior to resurfacing and some berm and shoulder restoration.
- ⇒ Pavement marking bids will also be opened on Monday, May 7 in the Commissioners' Chambers. This is a 100% funded project by the federal government that will restripe over 86 miles of lines. There will be 67 miles of yellow centerline and 19 miles of white edge line.
- ⇒ Bids for various road resurfacing through funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission will be opened on Thursday, May 3. These roads include Dietz Lane, Old River Road, Salt Creek Drive, and Old Wheeling Road. A portion of Arch Hill Road will be resurfaced as well through the Community Development Block Grant assistance program. A bid opening has not been established for that yet.
- ⇒ We will find out on June 7 who will be replacing three bridges this year. The Main Street bridge in Roseville, Shannon Road bridge near the Frazeyburg corporation limit, and Creamery Road bridge near Conn Road are all due to be replaced for various reasons.
- ⇒ The Almanac is predicting May to continue to be cooler and rainier than normal, on average. They are also predicting a cooler and drier summer and fall through October than normal. However, the hottest times will occur in mid-June to early July.
- ⇒ A reminder that as the transformation of the yard takes place and things are moved around, it is becoming ever more important to remain as organized as possible, so please place things where they should be. If you're not sure, ask! Thanks!

Happy Birthday to...

Logan Deitrick	5-1
Josh Emmert	5-9
Chris Foster	5-14
Mike Marolt	5-13
Mike Means	5-7
Matt Russell	5-7
Sandy Snelling	5-16
Tom Spencer	5-14
Brian Taylor	5-2

Happy Anniversary to...

Bill Bates	20 years
Todd Graham	8 years
Bryan Lowry	20 years
Jason Mock	10 years
Bill Roberts	19 years