



**HANCOCK COUNTY
SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT
YEAR IN REVIEW
2024**



2024 | OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2024 Fiscal Year in Review for the Hancock County Secondary Road Department. Our knowledgeable and experienced team remains committed to delivering excellent public service while staying fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Hancock County.

The Secondary Road Department is the largest county department, with 31 employees spread across 9 locations: Britt (Main Shop), Garner, Woden, Crystal Lake, Miller, Klemme, Goodell, Kanawha, and the Engineering Office at the Courthouse. Together, we manage and maintain county assets such as bridges, culverts, rock and paved roads, right-of-ways, equipment, and signs. None of this would be possible without our most valuable asset—our people!

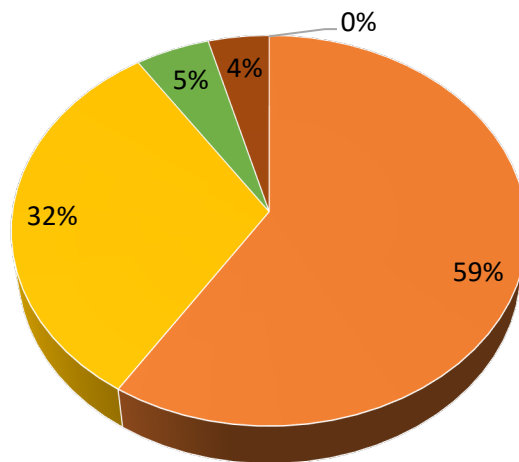


2024 | BUDGET BREAKDOWN

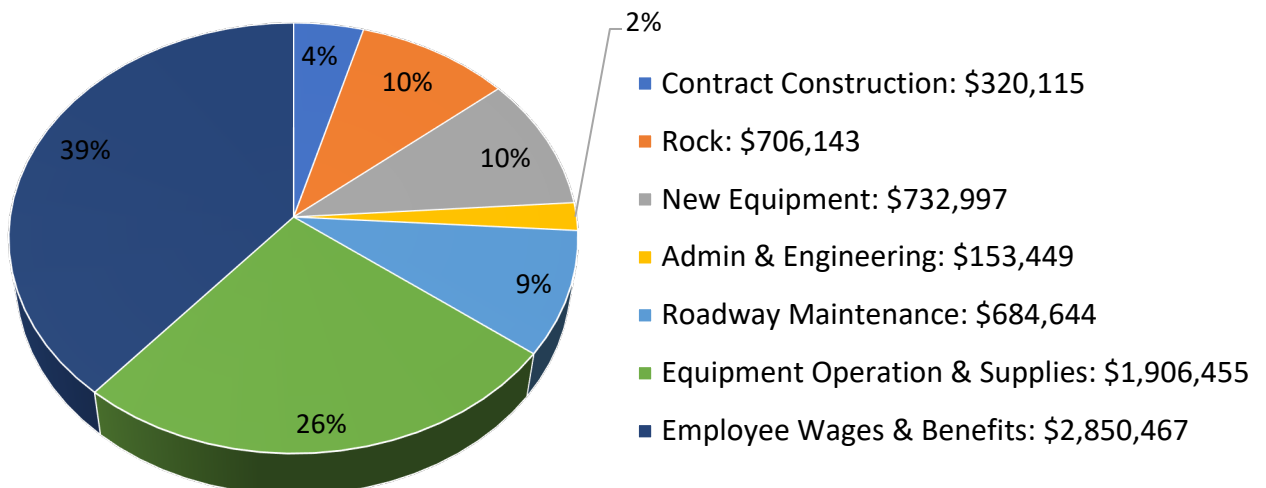
How much does the Secondary Road Department receive from property taxes? For a property assessed at \$200,000 in rural Hancock County, the property taxes amount to about \$2,100. Of that, approximately \$275 (13%) goes to the Secondary Road Department. To put it in perspective, one load of rock costs the county around \$245. The Board of Supervisors transfers funds to the Secondary Road Department from the Rural Basic Fund, which is supported by property taxes. The department's largest source of revenue, however, comes from the Road Use Tax Fund, which is generated from gas taxes and vehicle registration fees.

2024 REVENUE

- Road Use Tax Fund: \$4,386,104
- Rural Basic Tax Levy: \$2,347,729
- Misc. Receipts: \$380,122
- Farm-to-Market Fund: \$311,671
- Bridge Replacement Fund: \$0



2024 EXPENDITURES



2024 | ROADS & BRIDGES

Hancock County Secondary Roads oversees more than 1,012 miles of roads and 126 bridges. Of these, 253 miles are paved, and 759 miles are gravel. According to Iowa Code 309.22, counties are required to develop a five-year construction program annually by April 15. This program includes a list of projects to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year, as well as a priority list for projects over the following four years. A copy of the current five-year program can be found at: <https://hancockcountyia.gov/engineer/>

2024 NOTABLE PROJECTS

A total of \$600,000 was spent in 2024 on the following projects:

- 2 miles of concrete patching
- 28.5 miles of crack sealing
- 1 emergency CMP replacement (Vail Ave by Eldred-Sherwood Park)



Out of the 126 bridges Hancock County is responsible for, 22 of them are currently load rated. With an expected service life of 60 years, Hancock County would need to replace on average two bridges each year to keep pace.



0

Bridges Replaced



\$0

Spent on Bridges in
FY 2024



41 YEARS

Average Age of
Our Bridges

2024 | WINTER OPERATIONS

Reacting to winter weather events are our highest priority. This past winter was a normal year in terms of snowfall. Priority response to winter weather events outside normal working hours are 5:00-7:00 a.m. and 3:30-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

To improve equipment maintenance in the field, especially during winter, the Secondary Roads department upgraded to a Stellar Industries service truck equipped with a liftgate and electric crane.

Thanks to lower fuel prices and a mild winter, Secondary Roads spent \$220,000 less on diesel fuel this fiscal year, reducing costs from \$530,000 in 2023 to \$310,000 in 2024.



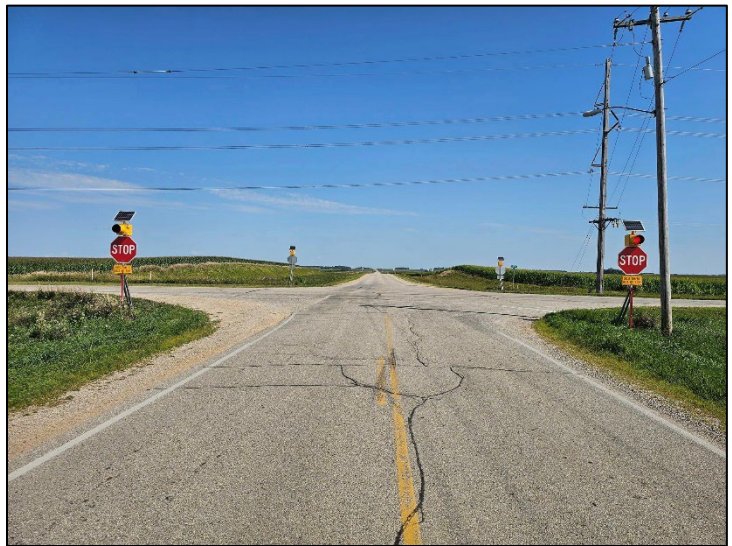
For more information on our route priorities and level of service, see Hancock County Ordinance No. 4:

<https://hancockcountytia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Ordinance-Number-4-Secondary-Roads-Snow-and-Ice-Removal-April-2019.pdf>

2024 | SAFETY

Safety is a top priority for Hancock County Secondary Roads. We are committed to ensuring safe and reliable routes for our residents and visitors traveling through the county. Over the past year, several safety initiatives were implemented, supported by safety improvement grants from the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Solar Flashing Beacons Safety Grant (\$6,000 Grant): Installed four red and four yellow solar-powered flashing beacons at the intersection of R44 (Oak Ave) and B16 (310th St), based on recommendations from a prior intersection study.



Sign Replacement Program Grant (\$10,000 Grant): Replaced all traffic signs on B14 (330th St) and R70 (River Road) with diamond-grade reflective signs, upgrading the wooden posts to metal Telespar posts.

2024 | BY THE NUMBERS

The administrative team at the Hancock County Secondary Road Department plays a crucial role in fulfilling our mission to serve our stakeholders. The activities and figures below offer a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes operations that support the department's work.

41 (+15)

Utility Permits

77 (+37)

Driveway Permits

97 (+17)

Trip Permits

55 (+1)

Annual Trip Permits

7 (-3)

Work in the ROW Permits

1 (-1)

Tile Crossing Permits

116 (+9)

Dust Control Requests

10 (+8)

Ditch Cleaning Requests

39 (-94)

Road/ROW Repair Requests

48 (+6)

Traffic Sign Repair Requests

1,808 (-34)

Claims Processed for Payment

318 (+2)

Receipts processed for Deposit

2024 | EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

During the past fiscal year, the Hancock County Secondary Road Department saw the retirement of three dedicated employees. Mark Stille from the Goodell Shed retired in October 2023 after 40 years of service. Keith Carolus from the Klemme Shed retired in February 2024 with 38 years of service, and Al Lang from the Kanawha Shed retired in May 2024 after 27 years of service. Hancock County extends its gratitude to Mark, Keith, and Al for their many contributions. We also recognize and celebrate other employees who have reached significant service milestones.

New Hires:

Chase Ulven – Klemme Shed

Tim Smith – Goodell Shed

5 Years of Service:

Andy Bruggeman – Britt Shed

10 Years of Service:

Brad Smidt – Britt Shed



Mark Stille



Keith Carolus

2024 | EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Al Lang