



Hello, and welcome to the Madison County Highway Department website. The information below is meant to help citizens and visitors understand why our department is needed, how it operates, and what we accomplish for our citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our department. Your Highway Department works hard and does a lot of varied work, and we do it all day after day, week after week, and year after year and will continue to do so until technology has us all in flying cars.

Adam J. Walden, P.E.
County Engineer

Department Organization

Illinois State Statute sets the reason our Department exists: “An integrated system of highways and streets is essential to the general welfare and to the agricultural, industrial, recreational, and social development of the State. [Therefore] ... the provision of safe and efficient highway transportation is a matter of public concern. It is the declared and continuous policy of the [State] legislature to provide for improvement of ... the highway transportation system as well as the preservation of investment in highways. [605 ILCS 5/1-102]. The next section [605 ILCS 5/2-102] goes on to effectively create and then define what the County Highway system includes. **The Madison County Highway Department exists to provide safe and efficient roads and structures on our highway system for the good of the public.**

A County Engineer is also required by State Statute, and in Madison County, the County Engineer also serves as the Department Head. Additional engineering and administrative staff help supervise employees, plan, and design and oversee construction and maintenance projects. The vast majority of our department’s time is spent maintaining our current highway system through reconstructing, repairing or doing preservation and maintenance work to our roads and bridges. The department currently

operates with 16 employees in our engineering office and 29 Teamsters in the maintenance field. We typically hire around 10 seasonal help each year.

Day to Day and Seasonal Work

On any given day our engineering staff: Processes permits that enforce our policies to protect our highway corridors (Oversized & Overweight / Utility / Entrance). Obtains environmental, ecological, and cultural clearances for projects. Designs and reviews construction plans. Coordinates project development with consultants. Oversees construction projects that include on site layout, QC/QA, and documentation. Prepares resolutions for the Transportation Committee. Provides assistance to any one of our 21 Township Road Districts whether it be engineering advice, administration of their MFT funds or acting as a liaison between them and IDOT. Performs routine and special inspections of bridges and structures. Maintains account ledgers and general bookkeeping. Reports various information to the State for compliance. Purchases right-of-way for roadway improvements. Fields resident's concerns and questions. Obtains survey information for projects and helps maintain GIS information. Takes part in continuing education to maintain certifications and licensures.

Meanwhile our Teamsters are performing preservation maintenance like: oiling & chipping, and patching. Replacing culverts that range from small entrance culverts to large crossroad culverts. Keeping signs and striping up to date and visible. Trimming trees, mowing, and spraying vegetation to preserve ROW and sight distances. Removing ice & snow and salting during winter storms. Maintaining our vehicles and equipment. Hauling equipment and materials to and from jobsites. Removing debris and trash from our right-of-ways. Maintaining roadside drainage ditches and keeping shoulders in good repair. Keeping an eye on our highways before little problems turn into big ones.

Our System and Our Neighbors

Our department actively maintains close to 190 miles of County highways and 2 traffic signals. 10% of highway miles are Concrete, 25% are Asphalt, and 65% are Oil & Chip. Our highway mileage is 5 times more than the average Township. By statute we are tied to the Townships through certain duties so it is important to know their system as well.

There are 777 miles of Township Roads overseen by 21 Road Commissioners. This averages to 37 miles per Township. Jarvis has the most at 58 miles, and Venice has the least at 4 miles. The County regularly provides aid to the Townships because we have the manpower, equipment, and knowledge to do things they cannot facilitate or fund. While it was mentioned before, a key activity we help the Townships with is inspecting their bridges and structures when we inspect our own. Our Bridge Inspection Team Leader inspects 188 bridges and structures every 2 years. 70 are County owned (37%), 116 are Township owned (62%), and 2 belong to a Railroad. Most of these structures carry a roadway over some sort of waterway.

For a larger comparison, as of 2022, IDOT District 8 maintains 1806 centerline miles and 1,014 bridges. They have 275 Maintenance workers and 130 Engineering and Office personnel.

Fleet and Equipment Info

Not only must we buy materials like road oil and aggregate to oil and chip roads, and culverts to continue drainage, and salt to aid ice and snow removal, we have to have the equipment to aid in the maintenance operations and ability to get our workers where they need to be. The Highway Department has a fleet that consists of: 3 backhoes, 3 excavators, 3 loaders, 1 tracked high-lift, a road grader, chip spreader, breakdown roller, striping truck, forklifts, patching truck, water truck, oil distributor, sign truck, hydro-seeder, tractor/trailer (semi), 15 single axle trucks, 9 tandem axle dump trucks, 9 mowing tractors, and 24 work vehicles. We also stock and maintain a fueling system for our own equipment as well as other County departments.

Outside our main building and yard at IL 143 East of Edwardsville, the Highway Department has 5 satellite locations where we store the various equipment and materials. The largest and most used is called the 'NIKE Base'. This is one of a handful of old NIKE missile bases around the St. Louis area that at one time was constructing and storing NIKE missiles to intercept ICBMs from other countries during the 60s and 70s. Other sites are primarily used to store salt and rock.

Funding Sources

To accomplish all this, each year the County levies around \$5.5 million for the Highway General fund, \$2 million for the County Bridge fund, and \$2 million for the Matching fund. This can vary year to year depending on planned projects but the levied amount is around \$9 to \$10 million. On top of this there are State and Federal funds distributed by formula for the County's highway projects in the amounts of \$6.5 million of Motor Fuel Tax, \$750 thousand of STP-Rural, and \$1 million of STP-Bridge.

These are funds that we count on each year to accomplish our preservation projects and provide the level of service Madison County citizens and visitors have come to expect.