

The Engineering for Major Township Road Improvement Projects

The County Engineer's Design Department staff performs engineering and project management for Township road improvement projects. In many cases, the Engineer's staff prepares the construction documents "in-house" for a contractor to perform the work. On major road construction projects, however, the Engineer usually must hire a consulting engineer to assist with the preparation of the plans, specifications and estimates for construction contracts due to the amount of time required for roadway projects.

Engineering services provided by consultants, while certainly worthwhile, can cost tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars and require a significant investment of time by in-house engineering staff to manage the consultant contract and coordinate work with the township. For this reason, not every request to engineer a township project can be initiated immediately.

Townships seeking to undertake a major construction project, such as road widening, should nominate a representative from the township to contact the Delaware County Engineer and schedule a meeting to discuss the desired project scope. The County Engineer can assist the Township in creating a preliminary scope of work and a budget for the desired project. If a scope of work and project budget is agreed upon by the County Engineer and Board of Trustees, the County Engineer will enter the project into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) at the earliest possible date. The Engineer will schedule the design to be performed by the Design Department staff or will solicit letters of interest for consulting firms to perform the work.

Due to the number of projects programmed in the County CIP plan, it may be several years before engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation can be completed on a particular project. Townships should expect that from initial project commencement to completion of construction may take several years for major projects.