



## Building Bridges, Building Community: One Wicomico

www.WicomicoCounty.org



# Department of Public Works – Roads Division

**MISSION:** To enhance the quality of life of our citizens by striving to plan, construct and maintain the county's public works infrastructure. *The Roads Division* seeks

to provide a safe and efficient transportation network to promote economic development while protecting Wicomico County's beautiful and unique environment.

### DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW OF FUNCTIONS:

The Division is responsible for maintaining nearly 700 miles of roads, 2 ferries, 9 dams and 26 bridges. Its fleet consists of 111 tagged vehicles, 43 pieces of specialty equipment and 35 implements. The division oversees the county's only fuel depot and maintains the fleet of a dozen other departments. The normal workforce is approximately 70 employees, but has recently been scaled back to 38 due to severe budget cuts. The Roads Complex, located on Owens Branch Road, includes an administrative office, shop, equipment shed, storage shed, salt barn, stockpile areas and fuel dispensing area. There are also two borrow pits: one near Powellville and the other near Delmar.

### DIVISION FUNCTIONS:

#### MAINTAINED:

- Emergency Response
- Pothole Repair
- Sidewalk Mntce
- Storm Drain Mntce
- Driveway Culvert Installation
- Signage
- Stormwater Facility Mntce
- Fueling
- Traffic Control
- Inspection
- Accounting
- Inventory Control
- Administration

#### ELIMINATED:

- Herbicide Spraying
- Leaf Collection

#### REDUCED:

- Snow Removal
- Salting
- Limbing
- Mowing
- Sweeping
- Facility Mntce
- Resurfacing

#### PARTIALLY CONTRACTED

- Engineering
- Surveying
- Right-of-way Acquisition
- Street Lighting
- Signalization
- Striping
- Maintenance:
  - Bridge
  - Guardrail
  - Curb
  - Fleet

#### INMATE ASSISTED

- Litter Control
- Ditching
- Dead Animal Removal



For more information please contact:

Lee Outen, Superintendent  
Hours: Mon – Fri, 7am – 3:30pm  
410-548-4872



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### Infrastructure

The Roads Infrastructure is distributed throughout the county and forms the backbone of the transportation network. Some are obvious such as bridges, dams and ferries, while others are more subdued such as borrow pits, storm water facilities and ditches. There's even infrastructure underground including inlets, manholes and pipes. Each plays an important role to the county's transportation network. The division's current infrastructure includes:

Type	Quantity
Roads	693
Buildings	5
Fueling Depot	1
Dams	9
Bridges	26
Ferries	2
Borrow Pits	2
Sidewalks	31,839
Guardrails	32,525
Signals	15
Street Lights	44
Railroad Crossings	4
Stormwater Facilities	1

### Funding

Until recently, the Roads Division was financially self-sufficient with no dependency upon the General Fund. A majority of its funding came from Highway User Revenues (HUR) which is generated by the state gas tax and Motor Vehicle Administration user fees. They are dispersed to counties and municipalities by a complicated formula based upon the number of registered vehicles and miles of roads. The state chose to withhold 90% of these funds in order to balance the state's budget. In turn the county chose to make significant cuts to the Roads Division and subsidize the remainder from the General Fund. Many core functions were reduced or eliminated. Staff, hours of operation and overtime were minimized. Furloughs, layoffs and retirement incentives were initiated for additional savings. The county was forced to shift maintenance of municipal streets back to its five smaller municipalities. The remainder of the Roads Division's funding is generated from fuel reimbursement, tipping fee surcharge and user fees. These sources are anticipated to increase slightly over time.



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