



# COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT

Volume 1, 2008

*A Newsletter for the Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors*

## A Message from the President

Bob Young, IACHES Vice President  
LaPorte County Highway Supervisor

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and you all are enjoying the New Year. How about this weather? In LaPorte County we got from 12 – 16 inches of snow in two (2) days, followed by a 60 degree warm up which resulted in 3-5 inches of rain, which caused flooding and road closures. I know some of you experienced the same thing and some of you had worse flooding than we did. This is what we do, this is a big part of our job and that is why we make the “BIG BUCKS”.

The IACHES Executive Board, Directors and Committees met in Indianapolis at the office of Beam, Longest and Neff on January 18th. I believe we had a great start to the years meetings. Road School and the Summer Conference were among the many things we discussed. **A change was made as to the time of our meeting at Road School, on Thursday the 27th instead of 8:30 we will not meet until 9:00 a.m. We will have a short business meeting and the board is planning for a legislator to speak on the possible new funding bills. So I hope all you are registered and ready for Road School.** We also discussed membership. We figure that out of an estimated 92 counties we have 80 counties who have members in IACHES. If you know of a County who is not a member of our organization please encourage them to join. What needs to be worked on is our Associate Memberships. So remember to talk to your vendors and if they have been enrolled in the past make sure they renew their membership and try to recruit new members also! We are also looking for newsletter sponsors and vendor ads in our newsletters. If you need information on this please contact Cheryl Mencsik @ 260-499-1218. The next thing that needs

to be mentioned is we are in the process of planning the Summer Conference which is June 4 & 5. We are looking for presenters so we can have an interesting and informative Conference. If you are interested in doing a presentation at our conference please contact me at (219)362-2051 or e-mail me at [jpajor@laportecounty.org](mailto:jpajor@laportecounty.org) As I said in the Winter Newsletter the theme is “**Comedy Night**” so anyone who wants to share any humor we will be happy to give you the floor for a few laughs. Well, I think that just about covers it for now. I wish you all good luck with any projects you may be planning and have a safe winter season.

## HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY UPDATE

Bill Williams,  
IACHES Secretary/Treasurer  
Monroe County Engineer

As mentioned by Christopher Koepfel, Administrator, Cultural Resources Section, Office of Environmental Services, Indiana Department of Transportation, at the IACHES meeting at the Indiana Association of County Commissioners Conference, the methodology in which the INDOT and their consultant, Mead and Hunt will use in determining whether or not a bridge will be considered a select bridge or non-select bridge will be made public next month. This information will be made available to all Counties and the public on February 18, 2008 on the INDOT web site, specifically at <http://www.in.gov/indot/6959.htm>.

It is recommended that everyone review the documents on this site and apply the information to your County. Comments are due to the INDOT by March 18, 2008. Feel free to contact any of the committee members Walt Wilson, Fountain County Highway Superintendent, Larry Smith, Morgan County Highway Engineer or Bill Williams, Monroe County Highway Director/Engineer, on this issue if you need additional information.

## INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

Brett Cating,  
WC District Director  
Montgomery County Highway Director

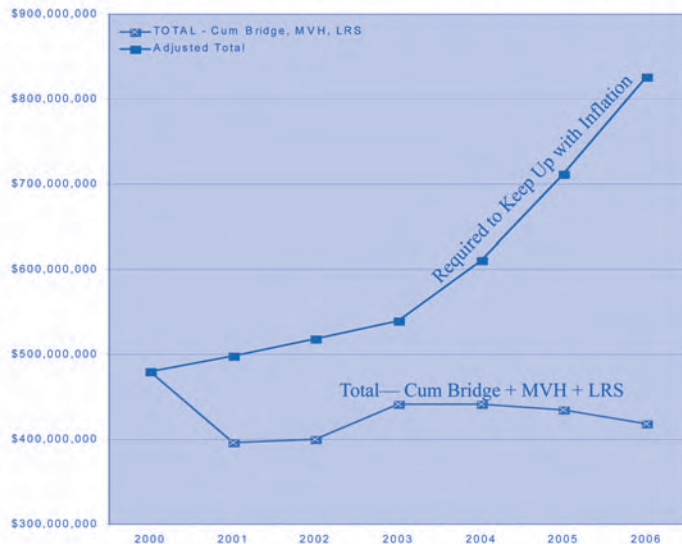
As chairman of the membership committee and West Central District Director for our association I would first like to take a moment to thank you for your past membership. If you have any questions about your job or legislative issues, we as an organization, will be very willing to discuss them and give advice at any time. If you are already a member or associate member, please send your membership dues to Cheryl Mencsik as soon as possible. We also have our new directories for our association. If you would, please send an updated photo and correct phone numbers/email addresses to allow us to keep our directory as accurate as possible. If you could send a digital photo to Cheryl at [iaches@earthlink.net](mailto:iaches@earthlink.net) this would be the easiest way for her to update your photo as well. We also could not be as strong of an organization without our associate members. Please support these businesses and let them know you thank them for their support. Contact Cheryl at 260-499-1218 if you have any questions.

## A FUNDING CRISIS

Bradley Davis, Director,  
Hamilton County Highway Dept.

We've all experienced the ever increasing escalation of expenses and construction costs that has severely eroded the purchasing power of local transportation funds. This graph, prepared by Steve Luther of Beam, Longest & Neff,

TOTAL OF CUM BRIDGE, LRS & MVH AND THE AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR INFLATION



## ATTENTION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bradley Davis,  
Director, Hamilton County Highway Dept.

The IACHES distributes this newsletter to County Commissioners via US mail. To help save some ever increasing printing and postage costs, we would like to distribute the newsletter via e-mail to those of you who have access and are willing to receive it electronically. If you are willing to receive this electronically, please send an e-mail to Executive Secretary, Cheryl Mencsik at [iaches@earthlink.net](mailto:iaches@earthlink.net). Newsletters are also available via our website at [www.iaches.org](http://www.iaches.org).

Also, IACHES would like to invite County Commissioners to contribute to the newsletter with articles that may be of interest to our membership. Please contact Cheryl with any newsletter articles you'd like to submit. For those of you who are electronically "challenged", you can also FAX articles to Cheryl at 260-463-3082.

Thank you for your cooperation.

depicts the severity of the situation. With total revenues less than in year 2000, it is the inflationary effect that has been most damaging. Current revenue will only effectively fund approx. 50% of what it would in year 2000!

With gas tax static on a per gallon basis & without indexing for inflation, we can accurately state that we have a local road funding crisis! As you talk to local officials about road funding, feel free to use this information to quantify the dire situation we are in. Thank you, Steve for taking the time to research and prepare this graph.

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Rick McVay, Engineer,  
Laporte County Highway  
NW District Director  
219-362-2051  
rmcvay@laportecounty.org

First and foremost I would like to say "Thank You" for allowing me the chance to represent the Northwest District. I look forward to working with all of the Counties within the Northwest District and I also look forward to getting more involved with the IACHES Organization. I believe that we have a great group of individuals who are dedicated to making all of our jobs just a little easier and if nothing else, more humorous. Now, having said that, if anybody out there has some input as to what they would like the Northwest Director to do please contact me. Yes, I am somewhat inexperienced in this role. We all know that we tend to learn just as much by talking to other Superintendents and Engineers as we do by attending our various sessions (I am not advocating skipping your classes). At any rate, I look forward to working with all of you this year and I will do my best to try to get as many Counties and Associates involved in our organization as possible.



*Give us a Call...*

**DEBBIE BUCHER – SALES**  
CELL: 765-427-2414

**AMBER DAVIS – SALES**  
CELL: 317-590-3018

P.O. BOX 8 • FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA 47946 • 219-567-9439  
CAROL BUCHER—OWNER FAX: 219-567-2279

Union County Highway Department,  
Wanda Hartman, Supervisor  
765-458-5692 Phone  
765-458-7239 Fax  
uchiway@earthlink.net

## FOR SALE



83 Model 7' 2 way plow  
only \$500.00 or best offer  
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8345-5011 A15-25765 Gradall Grapple W/Thumb Fits a  
1995 Gradall Hydraulic Excavator. \$5,000.00

Please contact Wanda or Holly if interested in any of the  
items for sale.

Opal Kuhl, Executive Director  
Tippecanoe Highway Department  
**BEST PRACTICES COMMITTEE**  
765-423-9210  
okuhl@tippecanoe.in.gov

## **BEST PRACTICES COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT**

The Best Practices Committee exists to collect, assemble, and distribute information that may be of use to the IACHES membership. The Committee was originally called the Standards Committee. It was determined that the name should change to reflect what was needed by the membership. Most members felt that the committee should not tell any county what specific standards they should adopt but instead we should gather the best practices that are out there and then let the individual counties decide what works best for them.

To this end, we are currently gathering information on the following two topics:

1. *Job titles and job descriptions for County Highway Supervisors, Directors, Superintendents, and Engineers.*
2. *Transportation Emergency Procedures – snow, flooding, and other emergencies that can cause road closures.*

We are asking the membership to submit any ordinances, policies, or procedures that you have in your county concerning these two topics. So far I have received very little information from the membership so please send me what you have. You can e-mail or send a paper copy. The committee will be meeting before or after our business meeting during Road School to review the information we have received. Don't put it off! Please send us your information right away.

P.O. BOX 55  
LAGRANGE, IN 46761

