



# NEWS

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## **Franklin County Engineer's Office to Host 5th Annual Central Ohio Miniature Bridge Building Competition**

**[Columbus, Ohio – February 3, 2025]** – Franklin County Engineer, Adam W. Fowler, P.E., P.S., is proud to host the 5th Annual Central Ohio Miniature Bridge Building Competition for the third consecutive year, in partnership with the Central Ohio Association of Bridge Construction and Design, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and The Ohio State University. This year's event will be held on Friday, February 7, 2025, at the Franklin County Engineer's West Maintenance Facility, located at 4444 Fisher Road, Columbus, OH 43215.

Open to students in grades 9 through 12, the competition invites participants to design and build a bridge structure with the highest load-to-weight capacity ratio. This engaging STEM initiative provides students with a hands-on opportunity to explore engineering concepts, foster teamwork, and showcase their creativity.

This year's competition is the largest to date, featuring 175 teams and over 400 students from five counties. Columbus City Schools will be represented by 29 teams from four high schools, highlighting the growing interest and enthusiasm for STEM education in Central Ohio. Teams will receive practice materials to prototype their designs ahead of the event. On competition day, they will have three hours to construct their bridges using identical materials, which will then be tested to failure. Live testing will occur between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

"The Miniature Bridge Building Competition is a remarkable opportunity to inspire the next generation of engineers," said Ed Herrick, Bridge Engineer for the Franklin County Engineer's Office. "We are honored to host this event for the third year in a row and are thrilled by the incredible enthusiasm from students, teachers, and the community."

The competition will kick off at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m. Media representatives and community members are encouraged to attend between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to experience the excitement of live bridge testing. Additional information about the event is available at <https://central-ohio-miniature-bridge.constantcontactsites.com/>.

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*The mission of the Franklin County Engineer's Office is to provide for safe and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place by designing, building, and maintaining Franklin County's roads, bridges, and infrastructure for multiple modes of transportation. We are an agency of action, innovation, and collaboration.*