In 2011 the Road and Bridge Department worked on several projects, some were continued from last year and others started this year.

One of the continuing projects was the Drainage System for the Health and Human Service Building. The Manholes and drainpipe were installed this year. The next part of this project will include the installing of a retaining wall on the South side of the building. Also, a V pan will be installed connecting the manholes allowing the water to drain into the drainage pipes and out to the city’s storm drain. Following this, curb will need to be put in along the sidewalk and finally the parking lot will have to be paved and striped.

Davis Engineering is the firm providing the drawings and specifications for the project.

Costilla County hired ACI Constructors, Inc to pave some of the county roads this year.

A firm was hired to stripe most of the paved roads.

County employees assisted in the demolition of the old Social Service Building. This saved the county money having to pay for a contractor to provide the demolition part of the rehabilitation project.

Davis Engineering was contracted to provide Engineering Services for the rehabilitation of the bridge located at the intersection of CR L7 and CR 21. The drawings and specifications were completed at the end of the year. Construction of the project will be completed in 2012.

Some of the county roads were graveled this year. All

three shops worked together on graveling part of CR X.

Snow Removal in 2011 was done in October, November and December.

Road and Bridge Shops graded their subdivision roads that are reported as maintained in the HUTF Report.

Sign Replacement Project continued with all three districts continuing to replace all non retroreflective signs in order to comply with the new Federal Regulations.

MAJOR WASHOUTS IN 2011

Heavy rains fell in some of the subdivisions causing several washouts. Several roads on the Mesa were washed out and roads on the Sangre de Cristo Ranches subdivisions were also washed out. The worst washout was on Joy road. Here the culvert was washed out completely. A new culvert had to be installed and the road was opened a couple of days after the washout occurred.

Several places on Forbes Road were washed out. Schluter Rd had washouts as did areas around Ryland Rd and Starkweather.

The District Two Shop worked on opening a part of Ryland Rd that had a large rock outcropping sticking out into the road. This bend was dangerous as only one vehicle could travel through it and visibility around the bend was completely blocked. The crew used the dozer and jack hammer attachment to the Bobcat to break up the rock.
Costilla County Road and Bridge Department (District Two), worked on and completed the installation of manholes, drainage grates and piping on the drainage system. The piping was tapped into the Town of San Luis’ Storm Drain.

Davis Engineering provided the elevations for the manholes’ inlet and outlet. Davis Engineering inspected the installation after it was completed.

The materials were ordered on March 17, 2011 and received on April 22, 2011.

Despite several obstacles that arose during the project, the District Two Supervisors and employees did a great job on the project. This saved the county a lot of money that a contractor would have charged to install the pipe and manholes.

The drainage system was completed on 8-9-11.

The next phase involves installation of a retaining wall on the South side of the DSS part of the building.

After the retaining wall the engineers will have to provide elevations for the V Pan to connect the manholes and grates. Some gravel will have to be removed by the county to shape the drainage to the V Pan.

Then once the V Pan is installed, the curb along the sidewalk will have to be done and the parking area will have to be paved and striped.

Some signs will be installed by Valley Wide Health Clinic and possibly by the County Nursing Service and DSS.

Heavy rains came down in August of 2011 causing washouts of none paved roads.

August of 2011 brought much needed moisture to the county. However, several of the storms caused washouts of non paved roads in several subdivisions.

Wild Horse Mesa and Sangre de Cristo subdivisions had the most rainfall and washouts.

Joy Rd had a culvert washed out and a gulley 5 ft deep by 25 ft wide was cut through the road. The road was closed until a new culvert could be installed. Roads off of Joy Rd were washed out and had to be worked on.

Baterman Rd near Joy Rd had washouts that needed to be repaired. Balleroy Rd and roads off of it were washed out as well.

Schleuter Rd and Starkweather Rds were washed out and needed to be repaired.

Some roads on the San Luis Valley Ranches (Arrowhead) were washed out and culverts installed.

Health and Human Service Drainage Project.

WASHOUTS OF COUNTY NON PAVED ROADS

The bridge on CR 21 and CR L.7 required Engineering work to repair several areas on the bridge. Davis Engineering was contracted to provide the drawings and specifications. This was completed in December of 2011 and construction should commence and be completed in 2012.

This will complete the major rehabilitations required on the county bridges. The maintenance issues requiring manual labor and some rip rap was completed by the county.

The CR 18 bridge’s deck was paved this year and will not require sealing the concrete deck.

The bridge on CR P was paved last year and will not require the deck to be

2011 Bridge Inspections

Stantec Consulting performed the 2010-2011 Off-System Bridge Inspections for CDOT. The Final Report and Summary was presented to the county. Overall, Costilla County Bridges rated around the 80th percentile which is very good.

Some bridges needed minor work and most of them needed the guard and approach rails replaced.

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The bridge on CR P was paved last year and will not require the deck to be
The county hired ACI Constructors, Inc. to overlay several roads in 2011.

The county used their dump trucks to help haul the asphalt to the paving sites and ACI credited the county money back for each ton of asphalt hauled. The rate was determined by the miles required to haul from the Fort Garland Pit to the paving sites.

Using county dump trucks, enabled the county to pave more square feet of roads.

The county also assisted in the paving of the Centennial School’s parking area. This hauling was also credited back to the county to use on paving more square feet of roads.

CR P (Hermann Rd) was completed this year. This road is now paved from Highway 159 to Highway 142. The cost for this final paving phase was $75,375.28. CR K.5 was dug up and the clay soil was removed and backfilled with pit run gravel in 2010. A moisture barrier was also installed on the road and it was compacted to be ready to be paved in 2011. The road was overlaid with asphalt at a cost of $84,781.13

CR 21 from the 4 way Stop to the church in San Pablo was overlaid in 2011. The cost for this was $85,467.25

CR 18 from Highway 160 South to CR EE was overlaid in 2011. The cost for this was $266,899.41

Since 2009 to 2010, Costilla County has spent $1,439,459.30 for paving. In addition, the county hopes to spend approximately $400,000 to pave in 2012

In 2012, funds were allocated to start replacing Street Name signs and Traffic Signs that were not replaced in 2011.

Each of the governmental entities were required to start a Sign Replacement Program.

Costilla County chose to use the Block Replacement strategy. The county started the sign replacement in Towns first, then other populated roads such as farm roads, etc.

Next came the remote roads where people have built homes and live in them year round.

By 2018 all Street Signs must meet the new retroreflective guidelines.

A problem the county is experiencing is the shooting of the new signs being put up. This happens especially in remote areas. If anyone witnesses someone shooting the signs, hopefully, they will contact the Sheriff Department.
Costilla County, Colorado is one of Colorado's original counties, formed in 1861. Prior to 1861 any records will be found in Taos County, New Mexico. The county was named for the Costilla River, which means "little rib" in Spanish. San Luis is the County Seat.

Costilla County was the first area of Colorado to be settled by European-Americans, Hispanic settlers from Taos, New Mexico, officially established San Luis on April 9, 1851. Costilla County was one of the original 17 counties created by the Territory of Colorado on November 1, 1861. The county was named for the Costilla River. Although San Miguel was originally designated the county seat, the county government was moved to San Luis in 1863.

The county's original boundaries had the county extend over much of south-central Colorado. Much of the northern portion became part of Saguache County in 1866, and the western portions were folded into Hinsdale and Rio Grande counties in 1874. Costilla County arrived at its modern boundaries in 1913 when Alamosa County was created from its northwest portions.

The Road and Bridge Department is funded through the Highway Users Tax Fund. This tax comes from the gas and diesel purchased in Colorado.

In addition, a tax from the registration of new vehicles brings additional monies to the county.

This tax is called Faster Monies and averages about $50,000 per month. The gas and diesel tax brings the county about 3.2 million dollars per year.

The Faster monies are included in the 3.2 million dollars.

The HUTF money is distributed to each of the counties based on the number of Lane miles that each county reports in the Annual HUTF Report to CDOT.

Costilla County has 56.08 miles of paved roads. The county has 1,618.63 miles of unpaved roads that are eligible for funding through the HUTF program.

Lane miles are calculated at 10 ft wide by 1 mile long. The county has 129,866 paved lane miles and 3,685.5 unpaved lane miles.

In addition the county has 385.33 miles of unmaintained/non funded roads. This breaks down to lane miles that are not funded.

These are subdivision roads where nobody lives. These roads are graded and signs put up when a Road Access Permit is purchased and a home is built or brought on site. The road is then reported as funded in the next year's HUTF Report.

The HUTF Report is submitted by February of the following year and changes cannot be made until the next report is due.

This year two segments of roads were added by a court order. Ute Ave in Jaroso was built and CR G in the Torcido was extended to the Mountain Lake Subdivision boundary per court order. This will allow heirs of the Cielo Vista Ranch access to the ranch to gather firewood.

Lane miles are used to calculate the HUTF money distribution by the State of Colorado.