



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 04  
2088 SOUTH ARLINGTON RD. • AKRON, OH 44306 • 330-786-3100

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **SUM Portage Trail Ext. PID 108084**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 3/18/2021**

**Prepared By: Eric Lopez**

GPD Group

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*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.*

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C2

<b>PID:</b>	108084
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Cuyahoga Falls, City of
<b>ODOT District:</b>	4
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Federal
<b>Private Funding:</b>	No

**Project Description:**

The city of Cuyahoga Falls proposes to improve Portage Trail Extension West from Northampton Road to State Road, a distance of approximately 1.23 miles, in the city of Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County. This project proposes to mill/resurface the existing Portage Trail Extension West pavement from Northampton Road to Albertson Parkway, a distance of approximately 0.41 mile. From Albertson Parkway to State Road, the project proposes to widen Portage Trail Extension West to accommodate a center two-way left turn lane and a dedicated eastbound left turn lane at Albertson Parkway, a distance of approximately 0.78 mile.

Additional improvements proposed by this project include the following:

- Reconstruction of/upgrade the existing traffic signals at the Portage Trail Extension West/Northampton Road intersection and the Portage Trail Extension West/Valley Road intersection;
- Construction of a westbound dedicated right turn lane at the Portage Trail Extension West/Cedar Hill intersection;
- Construction of a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side of Portage Trail Extension West from Albertson Parkway to State Road;
- Construction of an 8-foot wide sidewalk and curb ramps/truncated domes to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards on the northern side of Portage Trail Extension West from Cedar Hill Road to State Road;
- Partial replacement of an existing culvert and headwall;
- Drainage improvements and installation of new manufactured storm water management system;
- Construction of a retaining wall;
- Reconstruction of drive approaches;
- Installation of ditch erosion protection;
- Installation of new traffic signage; and
- Application of new center line/lane line/stop bars/crosswalks/other pavement markings.

Mapping that depicts the project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in Project File/General/Project Information as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf.

Traffic will be maintained using a combination of part-width construction and detours, as follows:

Phase 1 traffic will be shifted to the south side of Portage Trail Extension West onto the existing pavement and temporary pavement. All roadway improvements to the north side of Portage Trail Extension West will be constructed up through the intermediate course and include the Valley Road signal. Left turns to Valley Road will be prohibited and detoured during this construction phase. Valley Road north of Portage Trail Extension West shall be constructed by shifting both northbound and southbound traffic to the center of Valley Road and closing the southbound left turn lane.

Phase 2 traffic will be shifted to the north side of Portage Trail Extension West onto the existing and newly



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constructed pavement. All roadway improvements on the south side of Portage Trail Extension West shall be constructed up through the intermediate course and include the multi-use path, Valley Road signal, however, exclude the northbound outside lane of full depth pavement from Station 125+50 to Station 129+35. Left turns at Valley Road will be prohibited and detoured during this construction phase. Valley Road south of Portage Trail Extension West will be constructed by shifting both northbound and southbound traffic to the center of Valley Road and closing the north bound left turn lane. The contractor will construct all roadway improvements to the eastern and the western sides of Valley Road.

During Phase 3 of project construction, the contractor will close and detour eastbound Portage Trail Extension West traffic for one week. The remaining roadway improvements to the south side of Portage Trail Extension West will be constructed up through the intermediate course from Station 125+50 to Station 129+35.

During Phase 4 of project construction, the contractor will complete the previously suspended curb improvements and widened pavement on the western section of the project from Station 120+79 to Station 122+39 under flagger control during off-peak hours or during night hours.

During Phase 5 of project construction, the proposed traffic signal improvements at the Portage Trail Extension West/Northampton Road intersection shall be constructed by the project.

During Phase 6 of project construction, the contractor will perform pavement planing, place the intermediate course and place final pavement markings throughout the project limits. Traffic will be maintained during pavement marking applications.

Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, residences and businesses for the duration of the project. Construction, lane restrictions/closures and detour information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

A total of 1.27 acres of new permanent strip right-of-way and a total of 2.71 acres of temporary right-of-way from 31 parcels are required to construct the project. See the final right-of-way plans for the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection.

Minor relocations of existing utilities within the project study area will be necessary to construct the project. These minor utility relocations will occur within the existing/proposed new permanent roadway rights-of-way. Utilities will not be permanently removed to construct the project. Coordination with the utility companies affected by the proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.

The project proposes to impact approximately 60 linear feet of an unnamed tributary to Mud Brook to partially replace an existing culvert and headwall. In addition, 1.68 acres of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Federally-listed Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat located within 100 feet of the edge of pavement will be impacted by the project. See the ecological documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

GPD Group environmental personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRMs for the project study area and determined the project is not located within a special flood hazard area. See the floodplains documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

Valley Vista Park is an approximately 7.0 acre publicly owned park located at 2790 Valley Road in the city of Cuyahoga Falls. Valley Vista Park is located at the Portage Trail Extension West/Valley Road intersection and is a Section 4(f) recreational property. To accommodate construction activities associated with the widening of Portage Trail Ext. and the installation of a 10-foot wide multi-use path, 0.153 acre of new permanent strip right-of-way and 0.250 acre of temporary strip right-of-way will be acquired from Valley Vista Park by the project. Project construction will remove 11 parking spaces and various landscape features along Portage Trail Extension West. Access to the Valley Vista Park parking lot will be maintained during project construction except for a one-week closure period necessary to reconstruct the access drive to Portage Trail Extension West. A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form (DRF) for Recreational Properties for the project was submitted to ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) Policy Section. Based upon review



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of the DRF, ODOT OES determined a de minimis impact will occur to Valley Vista Park in accordance with 23 CFR 774. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) regarding the assessment of impacts that are included in the DRF.

See the Section 4(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Reports and Coordination subsections.

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening completed for the project and BUSTR file review information, no further RMR investigations or special material management is warranted for this project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports and Project Information subsections.

See continuation of the project description in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Project Description Continued.pdf.

**STIP Reference #:**

108084: 21-24 STIP.

**Select the appropriate project type:**

(26) Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. *Examples include: Joint or limited use of right-of-way where the proposed use would have minimal or no adverse social (including highway safety), economic or environmental impacts; Installation of new noise walls and other new noise mitigation projects; Construction of highway safety and truck escape ramps; Construction of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, or facilities and trailhead parking that do not otherwise qualify for a C1 designation; Beautification or facility improvement projects (i.e. landscaping, curb and gutter installation and replacement, ADA ramps/curb ramps, installation of park benches, decorative lighting, etc.); Construction of alternative energy facilities (fuel tank farms, wind turbines, etc.)*

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -  
a. Acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way  
b. Residential or non-residential displacements  
c. A Coast Guard, Individual Section 404 and/or a Section 10 permit  
d. A Section 106 finding of Adverse Effect  
e. A Section 4(f) Programmatic or Individual Evaluation  
f. A finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect to Threatened and Endangered Species  
g. Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions  
h. Changes in access control  
i. Floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths)  
j. Construction activities in, across or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers  
k. No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds ( no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination )  
l. If an EJ Analysis Report is required, the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher level document For certification purposes, documentation is required to illustrate no significant impacts will occur to the following environmental resources and that no unusual circumstances exist that would warrant a higher level of NEPA document. Upload all supporting documentation to the project file.

**Waterways:**

Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required

**Waterways Permit Type:**

Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending

**Isolated Wetland Permit**

No



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<b>Endangered Species:</b>	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination</b>	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination Date</b>	10/30/2020
<b>Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted</b>	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
<b>Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:</b>	No
<b>100-Year Floodplain:</b>	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
<b>Section 4(f):</b>	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
<b>Section 4(f) Determination:</b>	
de minimis	
<b>Section 4(f) Determination Date - de minimis</b>	02/11/2021
<b>Section 6(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Cultural Resources:</b>	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect
<b>Cultural Resources Coordination:</b>	Minimum Potential to Cause Effect Appendix B
<b>Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrent Date</b>	03/04/2021
<b>Since no Tribe was interested in this project based on their customized preferences, no further Tribal consultation was conducted.</b>	
Projects that meet C2 criteria are not anticipated to have impacts to the following environmental resources. If resources are present, documentation is only required if there is a potential for impacts.	
<b>Air Quality:</b>	Studies Not Required
<b>Air Quality - Coordination with OES:</b>	No
<b>Noise:</b>	Studies Not Required
<b>Noise Coordination - OES Approval Date:</b>	11/09/2020
<b>Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted</b>	Yes
<b>Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:</b>	02/03/2021



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**Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:**

No Further Studies Warranted

**Farmland:**

Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU and 7 CFR 658

**Scenic Rivers**

No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area

Projects that meet C2 criteria must be in accordance with ODOT's UP Guidance and activities conducted for Public Involvement are commensurate to the project's type and scope of work.

**Underserved Populations**

Does Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria; No UP Analysis Report Required and No UP Issues Raised During Public Involvement

**Public Involvement:**

Minimum PI Requirements Met; No Minor Public or Agency Controversy on Environmental Grounds

**Environmental Commitments**

Yes



## Environmental Commitments

### C2

1) The Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT - INDIANA BAT/NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT: THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE KNOWN HABITAT RANGES OF THE FEDERALLY LISTED AND PROTECTED INDIANA BAT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. NO TREES SHALL BE REMOVED FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. ALL NECESSARY TREE REMOVAL SHALL OCCUR FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31. THIS REQUIREMENT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO THESE SPECIES AS REQUIRED BY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS NOTE, A TREE IS DEFINED AS A LIVE, DYING, OR DEAD WOODY PLANT, WITH A TRUNK THREE INCHES OR GREATER IN DIAMETER AT A HEIGHT OF 4.5 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE, AND WITH A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 13 FEET.

2) The Project Designer shall modify all phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) to avoid tree removal in excess of what is required to safely implement the project. Additionally, the project designer will ensure tree removal is limited to that specified in project plans by clearly marking clearing limits in the plans and ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field.

3) The city of Cuyahoga Falls will obtain all necessary waterway permits prior to any work below the ordinary high water mark of any waterway and all waterway permits conditions shall be incorporated into the project plans as Special Provisions.

4) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

WATERWAY PERMIT COMPLIANCE - ALL PROJECTS INVOLVING JURISDICTIONAL WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (STREAMS, RIVERS, NON-ISOLATED WETLANDS) AND/OR ISOLATED WETLANDS ARE SUBJECT TO REGULATION UNDER SECTIONS 404 AND 401 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT, AND POSSIBLY OHIO EPA ISOLATED WETLAND LAW. THE SECTION 404/401 WATERWAY PERMITS HAVE NOT YET BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR THIS PROJECT. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOT PERFORM ANY WORK IN AND/OR PLACE ANY FILL IN ANY STREAMS, RIVERS AND/OR WETLANDS UNTIL THE FINAL SECTION 404/401 PERMITS ARE VERIFIED FOR THE PROJECT. THE COMPLETE VERIFIED SECTION 404.401 PERMITS WILL BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AND THE WATERWAY PERMIT(S) CONDITIONS SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PLANS AS SPECIAL PROVISIONS. THE PROJECT CONTRACTOR SHALL ADHERE TO THE WATERWAY PERMIT(S) CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION.

5) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

TREE CLEARING ACTIVITY - NO TREE CLEARING ON ANY PART OF THE PROJECT SHALL OCCUR FOR THE PROJECT UNTIL ALL NECESSARY SECTION 404/401 PERMITS AUTHORIZING THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM REGULATORY AGENCIES.

6) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

ACCESS TO VALLEY VISTA PARK SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

7) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION FENCING SHALL BE INSTALLED ALONG PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION LIMITS PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT THE VALLEY VISTA PARK/SECTION 4(F) PROPERTY AND THE PUBLIC.



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8) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE SHALL BE INSTALLED TO ALERT USERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, ACCESS RESTRICTIONS OR CLOSURES, AND TO EFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY DIRECT PEDESTRIANS THROUGH THE NECESSARY DETOURS.

9) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CLOSELY COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE WITH ODOT AND THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.



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### **Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:**

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elopez@gpdgroup.com

**Supporting Form Preparer(s):**

Elizabeth Stober  
Robert Lang

### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	3/18/2021



## Appendix

### General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Project Description Continued.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### Noise

Project Related OES Decision - Noise.pdf

### ESA

Project Related OES Decision - ESA.pdf

### Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

### Ecological

Coordination with ODNR and USFWS.pdf

Ecological Review Form - Ecologically Exempt Project.pdf

USFWS Comments Consult Form SUM-Portage Trail Ext PID 108084.pdf

### Other Resources

Site Specific Resource Mapping.pdf

Sole Source Aquifer Mapping.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

### Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

### Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

### Public Involvement

News Article.pdf

Press Release 2.pdf



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Press Release.pdf

Press Release\_Website Posting .pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter 2.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Stakeholder Contact List.pdf

Stakeholder Notification.pdf

**Permits**

FEMA FIRM.pdf