



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 02
317 E. POE RD. • BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402 • 419-353-8131

Environmental Document for **OTT SR 53 11.67 Grp B- upgrade PID 110859** **Environmental Document Level: C2**

Approved: 9/1/2021

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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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PID: 110859
Project Sponsor: ODOT SPONSORING AGENCY
ODOT District: 2
Funding Source: Federal
Private Funding: No
Project Description:

The Ohio Department of Transportation proposes to improve the intersection of the State Route (SR) 53 (SE Catawba Road) and SR-2 interchange in Portage Township, Ottawa County, Ohio. The project will improve SR 53 from SR 2 to SR 163 to reduce the number and severity of vehicular crashes in the project area. The project proposes to widen SR 53 from SR 2 to SR 163 from 2 lanes to 3 lanes (2 travel lanes with dedicated center left turn lane) and will construct two single lane roundabouts - one at the SR 2 westbound ramps with SR 53 and the second at SR 53 and State Road. Additionally, the project proposes to construct curb, drainage, lighting, and new signing and pavement markings.

Specific detour information will occur in multiple phases and is not finalized at this time; however, no closures are planned to occur from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and access to businesses will be maintained. A closure of SR-53 is expected for 45 to 60 days, however State Road will be maintained as long as possible during that closure. The project will require a full 2-3 week closure of both State Road and SR-53 to complete and finish construction of the intersection.

Permanent R/W will be required at select locations including the westbound off ramp from SR 2 to northbound SR 53, the SR 53/State Road intersection, and at the existing culvert crossing on SR 53. Temporary R/W will be required at select locations for driveway construction and grading work. Impacts to utilities are expected and coordination is on-going.

An ecological survey was completed for the project area. 0.055 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for Threatened & Endangered federal and state bat species was observed in the Study Area. No SWH is present within the proposed construction limits, so there will be no impacts to federal or state bat species. No impact to any other federally or state listed species, or their critical habitats, is expected. All files related to ecological resources can be found in the project file under Ecological. Three wetlands, one seasonal stream, one perennial stream, and one pond are present in the study area. Approximately 0.088 acre of wetland may be impacted by the project. Exact impacts to the wetlands will be known as detailed plans are produced. The two streams located within the study area are expected to be impacted by the project. All necessary permits will be obtained prior to the start of construction. The pond is not expected to be impacted. This project is not located within a special flood hazard area, so there will be no impacts to the floodplain.

Regulated materials review screening was conducted for the properties within the project area for contamination dated July 2021. The screening recommended an investigation of the 250/230 SE Catawba Road property as an Auto service facility and 625 SE Catawba Road property for a PCS plan note due to previous property use as an auto dealer with a service facility. ODOT-OES concurred with these recommendations on July 20, 2021. A PCS plan note has been added.

No other environmental, hazardous materials, Section 4(f)/6(f), cultural resources, or underserved populations impacts will result from this project.

A letter to adjacent residents was sent on March 9, 2020 to inform property owners of the project and necessary environmental field work being done on their property. Business owners located along the SR-53 corridor were contacted and virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams were held on August 6, 2020 with each property representative. Public meeting notification letters were sent to properties within a half-mile radius of the project area to advertise of the upcoming meeting, details on how to join the virtual public meeting, project information and impacts, and how to provide comments. Flyer letters were sent to both businesses within the public meeting notification area and businesses located off of the exit ramps east and west of the project area. The flyer letters included an invitation letter and request to hang an included flyer to advertise for the public meeting. A public meeting was held on December 2, 2020 at 4pm to provide project information and an opportunity to comment on the project. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the



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meeting was held virtually and hosted via the project page on PublicInput.com. The public was able to join via phone or online and submit comments live into the project chat box, or at their leisure until January 2, 2021. Three comments were submitted via voicemail on PublicInput.com, 31 comments were submitted via the live PublicInput.com meeting chat box, 10 comments submitted via phone during the live meeting, 6 comments via the ODOT District website, and 8 comments via direct email and/or comment form to the ODOT project Manager. Responses to these comments were sent on August 24, 2020.

The environmental document and associated studies are being approved using Preliminary Design Plans. A copy of the plans is included in the project file.

Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

STIP Reference #:

110859: 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

Will any wetlands be impacted?

Yes

Endangered Species:

No Impacts to Protected Species and Critical Habitat



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100-Year Floodplain:	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
Section 4(f):	Not present
Section 6(f):	Not present
Cultural Resources:	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect
Cultural Resources Coordination:	Minimum Potential to Cause Effect Appendix B
Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date	07/12/2021
Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:	
The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma was notified of the project on July 12, 2021. The Tribe did not provide any response within the 30 day comment period.	
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.	
Air Quality:	Studies Not Required
Air Quality - Coordination with OES:	No
Noise:	Studies Not Required
Noise Coordination - OES Approval Date:	08/25/2021
Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted	Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:	07/20/2021
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



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Environmental Commitments

Yes



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
OTT-SR53-1 1.67 PID 110859	Wetland A	Isolated	Category 1	0.135	0
	Wetland B	Isolated	Category 1	1.19	0
	Wetland C	Adjacent	Category 1	0.61	0.088

Has an Approved and/or Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination been made by the USACE? No

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.088

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.088

Total acres of isolated wetlands impacted: 0

In accordance with Executive Order 11990 - USDOT Order 5660.1A, this Wetland Finding has been prepared to document that wetlands have been avoided to the extent possible to minimize the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, and to document that there are no practicable alternatives to avoid construction in wetlands.

An analysis of the 'Do Nothing' alternative indicates that it is not practicable because (check all that apply):

It Would Not Correct Safety Hazards.

An analysis of improvements that avoid all wetland impacts indicates that they are not practicable because (check all that apply):

They Will Not Meet the Identified Needs of the Project.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

The project was designed to minimize impacts to wetlands.

All practicable measures have been considered and incorporated into the project design to avoid, minimize, wetland impacts. The wetland impact minimization measures that will be followed for the project are documented in the environmental commitments for the project. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be provided if required by the Clean Water Act or Ohio isolated wetland law, regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA regulations (33 CFR parts 325 and 332 and 4



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CFR part 230, and OAC 3745-01-54), and (ORC 6111.027). No practicable alternatives exist for the proposed construction in wetlands, and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the wetlands that may result from such use.

Remarks:

The project was designed to minimize impacts to wetlands.



Environmental Commitments

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- 1) ODOT will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all Waterway Permit Special Provisions will be noted under Special Provisions in the plans and adhered to during construction.
- 2) A PCS plan note shall be added to the project plans for Baumann Auto Service (625 SE Catawba Road Port Clinton, OH 43452), and Northcoast Marine Specialties, The Lube Connection, Tri-Auto Liquidation (230/250 SE Catawba Road Port Clinton, OH 43452)



Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Phoenix Neal (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	9/1/2021



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Purpose and Need

OES Acceptance - Purpose and Need.pdf

Purpose and Need .docx

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

RMR Screening.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Sole Source Aquifer Mapping.pdf

Well Log Data.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

Address List_ROE Letter 3.9.20.pdf

OES Approval - Public Involvement Plan.docx

Press Release- Preferred Alternative.pdf



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Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Involvement Plan.docx

Public Meeting Comment Form.pdf

Public Meeting Flyer.pdf

Public Meeting Handouts.pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Flyer Letter Mailing List .pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Flyer Letter.pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Mailing List .pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Mailing Map.pdf

Public Meeting Notification.pdf

Public Meeting Press Release.pdf

Response to Public Comments - Email List.pdf

Response to Public Comments - Letter.pdf

Response to Public Comments - Mailing List.pdf

Response to Public Comments- Email.pdf

Response to Public Comments-Email.pdf

Right of Entry Letter.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf