



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12
5500 TRANSPORTATION BLVD. • GARFIELD HGTS., OH 44125 • 216-581-2100

Environmental Document

for

CUY Whitney Road Bridge PID 111574

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 4/29/2022

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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: 111574
Project Sponsor: Strongsville, City of
ODOT District: 12
Funding Source: Federal
Private Funding: No

Project Description:

The City of Strongsville in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to rehabilitate the deficient bridge on Whitney Road over East Branch Rocky River in the City, Cuyahoga County. Work includes removing, rehabilitating, and reinstalling the wooden covered bridge; removing and replacing the bridge deck; and removing and replacing the structural steel. The project is partially located within the Cleveland Metroparks' Mill Stream Run Reservation; and carries the All Purpose Trail. No temporary or permanent right-of-way is required for this project. Utility impacts are anticipated.

Whitney Road and the All Purpose Trail across the bridge will be closed during construction. Traffic will be maintained via a detour.

One stream (East Branch Rocky River) will have approximately 29 linear feet of impact due to the culvert replacement and will require USACE permit. No wetlands will be impacted. Approximately 0.037 acres of suitable wooded habitat for the federally protected Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, and state protected tricolored bat and little brown bat all within 100' EOP will be impacted by the project. The project is located within a Gold USFWS bat buffer zone. The underside of the bridge does not contain areas where bats could feasibly roost. However, the interior of the covered bridge contains many wooden trusses where bats could roost. No evidence was found of bat roosting. The project *may affect not likely to adversely affect* these species. A plan note will be included in the project plans to limit tree clearing to between October 1 & March 31. All bridge work shall occur between October 1 & March 31. Suitable habitat was identified for the state threatened bigmouth shiner. No in-water work should take place from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to the species. The project will not likely impact this species.

There is no suitable habitat for any other federally or state listed species within the project area.

The project is located within a regulated floodplain. Coordination was conducted with the local floodplain administrator on March 29, 2022. The project will be designed to meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The project is located within the Ground Water Protection Area of the city of Berea. A coordination letter was sent to Berea on April 26, 2022.

The project is located within a portion of the Mill Stream Run Reservation, an approximately 3200 acre park owned and operated by Cleveland Metroparks. The park facilities include picnic areas, fishing, ice skating, play areas, swimming, wildlife area, and numerous walking trails, Bridle Trail, and the 9-mile All Purpose Trail. The park was originally part of Rocky River Reservation. Portions of the All Purpose Trail were developed using National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), under Grant #39-0944. Portions of Mill Stream Run Reservation were acquired using NPS LWCF, under Grant #39-0753, 39-0526 & 39-0070. A copy of the LWCF Grant has been uploaded to the Project File.

The project will impact the Mill Stream Run Reservation All Purpose Trail, a Section 4(f) resource. Construction will require closure of a spur or portion of the All Purpose Trail which runs over the bridge between Fair Road and Valley Parkway, for approximately 5 months. A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form (DRF) for Recreational Properties was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on March 17, 2022. Based upon review of the DRF it was



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determined by ODOT-OES Policy Staff the proposed project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. In accordance with 23 CFR 774.13(d), the temporary occupancy of land and/or access will not constitute a use upon the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with the Mill Stream Run Reservation All Purpose Trail. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from Cleveland Metroparks, the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ), in regards to the assessment of impacts that are included in the DRF. This Section 4(f) Temporary No Use Exception Determination by OES was made on April 13, 2022. A copy of ODOT-OES's determination and the DRF for Recreational Properties has been uploaded to the Project File.

The project will impact a portion of the Mill Run Stream Reservation, a Section 6(f) resource. Construction will require the temporary closure of Whitney Road, for approximately 5 months, to replace the existing bridge over the East Branch Rocky River. A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on March 17, 2022. Based upon review of the DRF it was determined that the proposed project can be processed as a Maintenance Type Project in accordance with Section B(1) of the Section 6(f) Memorandum of Understanding executed July 11, 2018. Access to the Section 6(f) property, Mill Stream Run Reservation, will be maintained at all times during construction activities. Furthermore, the type of work is designed to enhance the property and will not change the use of land from recreational to transportation. This Section 6(f) Maintenance Determination by ODOT-OES was made on April 13, 2022. A copy of ODOT-OES's determination, and a copy of the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant listing has been uploaded to the Project File.

Public Involvement Summary has been uploaded to the Project File under the: Public Involvement section. The complete Project Description has been uploaded to the Project File under the General: Project Information section.

The C2 approval is based upon the Stage 1 Plans. Plans are included in the Project File/General/Project Information/Stage 1 Plans.PDF.

STIP Reference #:

111574: 21-24 STIP

Select the appropriate project type:

(28) Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e). **Examples include: Railroad projects that close or relocate at-grade crossings**

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -

1. a. Acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way
2. b. Residential or non-residential displacements
3. c. A Coast Guard, Individual Section 404 and/or a Section 10 permit
4. d. A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. e. A Section 4(f) Programmatic or Individual Evaluation
6. f. A finding of *May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect* to Threatened and Endangered Species
7. g. Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions
8. h. Changes in access control
9. 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)
10. 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



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11. k. No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination)
12. 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?	No
Endangered Species:	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination Date	11/19/2021
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use
EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed:	Yes
NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:	03/29/2022
Section 4(f):	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
Section 4(f) Determination:	
Temporary No Use Exception - 774.13(d)	
Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(d)	04/13/2022
Section 6(f):	Present; No 6(f) Conversion Required



Section 6(f) Determination: Maintenance
Section 6(f) Determination Date: 04/13/2022
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 10/19/2021

Since no Tribe was interested in this project based on their customized preferences, no further Tribal consultation was conducted.

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: 04/27/2022
Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date: 04/27/2022
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 Present; No UPIAR Required, Does Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria, and No Issues Raised During Public Involvement

Identified Underserved Populations

Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income	% Older Adults	% Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
390351861041	1	29	15	12

Underserved Populations Remarks



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The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations or disparate impacts to a Title VI population based upon the table above, the attached mapping, and the answers to the questions above. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice or Title VI populations were raised as a result of public involvement activities conducted as part of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898, FHWA Order 6640.23A and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no further analysis is required.

Public Involvement:

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

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

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- 1) Ensure impacts to the federally listed and protected Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat and the State listed and protected little brown bat and tricolored bat are avoided and minimized. Do not remove trees from April 1 through September 30. Perform all necessary tree removal from October 1 through March 31. Demarcate clearing limits in the field to avoid any unauthorized tree clearing. 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) Ensure impacts to the federally listed and protected Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat and the State listed and protected little brown bat and tricolored bat are avoided and minimized. All bridge work shall occur between October 1 & March 31.
- 3) Ensure that impacts to the state threatened bigmouth shiner are avoided and minimized. No in-water work should take place from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to the species.
- 4) Maintain safe public access to Mill Stream Run Reservation at all times during construction activities using alternative access points as needed.
- 5) The parking area in the northeast quadrant of the bridge will be closed during construction.
- 6) Maintain safe public access to the main All-Purpose Trail (running north/south) and the Bridle Trail.
- 7) Install and maintain temporary construction fencing along the known boundaries of Mill Stream Run Reservation within the project construction limits prior to the start of construction activities.
- 8) Prior to the start of construction activities, install signage approved by the Engineer to alert Mill Stream Run Reservation users of construction activities and access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points.
- 9) The Contractor shall obtain a construction permit from Cleveland Metroparks prior to the start of construction activities within Mill Stream Run Reservation.
- 10) The Contractor shall provide the construction schedule (including temporary access restrictions) to Cleveland Metroparks (Manager of Facility Engineering), ODNR, and the City of Strongsville 30 days prior to the start of construction activities.
- 11) The City of Strongsville will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all applicable waterway permits will be included in the plans and adhered to during construction.
- 12) The City of Strongsville will obtain the floodplain permit or documentation of exemption prior to plan file.
- 13) Multi-Use Path and parking lot will be closed no longer than 5 months.
- 14) Maintain recreational boating access through the project area at all times during construction activities except for the time needed for temporary access restrictions associated with demolition and construction activities.
- 15) If a closure is needed or the project area becomes unsafe for paddlers to pass through at anytime during the project, a portage should be established and marked for safe passage around the construction area.



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- 16) Appropriate signage/buoys/markers shall be placed 300 feet upstream and downstream of the project area to alert paddlers of construction activity and for wayfinding purposes.
- 17) Signage should be placed upstream of the project at Albion Woods and Bonnie Park Picnic Areas cautioning paddlers of the construction activities downstream and providing information as to the status of the East Branch Rocky River in the project area in regards to safe passage for recreational boaters.
- 18) The Project Engineer shall notify the ODNR Trails Administrator (Mark Allen) via email and/or telephone (Mark.Allen@dnr.state.oh.us or 614-265-6575) 14 calendar days prior to the start of construction activities to allow ODNR to post notice of impending project construction on the appropriate ODNR webpages and associated online boating maps. As part of notification efforts, the Project Engineer shall also provide plans that indicate signage location along the waterway and any additional planned notification efforts with ODNR that will take place during or after construction.
- 19) Waterway Permit must be completed prior to advertisement of the project.
- 20) The Asbestos Plan Note must be included in the project plans and the Notification of Demolition Form must be included in the plan package.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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Supporting Form Preparer(s):

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Jessica Stratigakos

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Thomas Sorge (ENV SPEC 3)	4/29/2022



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Stage 1 Design.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Well Log Data.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Section 6(f)

OES Approval - Maintenance.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

Public Involvement Summary.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf