



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

STA US 0062 37.47 PID 113209

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 8/24/2023

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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

Project Information

PID:	113209
Project Sponsor:	Alliance, City of
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal

Project Description:

The city of Alliance proposes to widen and reconstruct Beechwood Avenue and Sawburg Avenue at State Street (U.S. Route 62) and improve traffic signal operation on State Street, west of the Beechwood Avenue/Sawburg Avenue/State Street intersection, within the city of Alliance, Stark County, Ohio. The project will reconstruct/realign/widen approximately 800 linear feet of Beechwood Avenue and widen approximately 600 linear feet of Sawburg Avenue at State Street to improve intersection alignment, lengthen existing northbound and southbound left turning lanes and establish new northbound and southbound right turn lanes. Other proposed intersection improvement includes traffic signal reconstruction, intersection lighting replacement, construction of a new section of sidewalk on the east side of Beechwood Avenue and Sawburg Avenue, and reconstruction of the northernmost strip plaza/Get-Go Station access drive on Beechwood Avenue, thereby limiting vehicle access to right-in/right-out only to improve safety. Moreover, affected storm drainage and driveways will be reconstructed and new pavement markings and traffic control signage will be applied throughout the intersection area project construction limits.

To further enhance safety and operation on State Street, the project will also upgrade existing traffic signals at six (6) signalized intersections, along 1.3 miles of State Street, from west of the Beechwood Avenue/Sawburg Avenue/State Street intersection, ending at the existing State Street/Walmart traffic signal location. Traffic signal upgrades proposed by the project include installation of new uninterruptible power supply/controllers/cabinets/radio interconnect system equipment, and curb ramp reconstruction to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards at the following locations:

- State Street/Kohls/Kia
- State Street/Westwood Street/Aldi's
- State Street/Tanglewood Avenue/Butler Rodman Park
- State Street/Westwood Square
- State Street/Meijer's/Lowes
- State Street/Walmart

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

The project will be constructed in multiple phases using part-width construction techniques to maintain traffic and access. A minimum of one 10-foot lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction on existing pavement or completed pavement. However short duration lane closures will be necessary during working hours when overhead signal work is being performed. Construction and lane restriction/closure information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction and this information will be updated throughout the construction duration. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent side streets, properties, residences, and businesses for the duration of project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

Approximately 0.131 acre of new permanent right-of-way **will be acquired** from four (4) parcels and 0.342 acre of temporary right-of-way will be acquired from ten (10) parcels along Beechwood Avenue and Sawburg Avenue to accommodate the intersection reconstruction. Right-of-way needs for the traffic signal upgrades is not known at this time. Small corner rounding takes may be required to accommodate controller box replacements. Total property takes, structure takes or relocations are not proposed by the project. See the right-of-way plan for the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf*

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/new permanent roadway rights-of-way. Utilities will not be permanently removed to



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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 setting is composed solely of modern commercial development. The literature search determined there are scattered inventoried builds along W. State Street. There is no evidence that inventoried buildings (OHI) or known archaeological sites (OAI) will be impacted by construction. Furthermore, no listed or eligible historic properties are found in the project area or area of potential effects (APE). Due to the commercial setting, modern disturbance, and the absence of recorded resources, no further cultural resource survey was conducted for the project. It has been determined the proposed project is exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/17 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19319). In this case, no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property will be acquired and no contributing element of an historic district will be removed or altered by construction. In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) determined the project is a type of undertaking that has 'minimal potential to cause effects' to historic properties and is not a part of a larger undertaking. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening completed for the project, ODOT OES determined further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports and Coordination subsections.

Additionally, this project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the *Ecologically Exempt STA-62-37.47.pdf* for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection.

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM for the project study areas 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.

The project will not impact any environmentally sensitive resources within the project study areas.

The city of Alliance conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a press release transmitted to local media outlets, affected property owners and local emergency and public services. The press release and other project information was posted to the city of Alliance project website. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. Project information was also published in a Canton Repository newspaper article. As a result of the public involvement performed, a project permit application request was received from the Stark County Engineer's Office and the Canton Repository reached out requesting additional project information. Response information was provided accordingly, and a summary of the additional information provided to the Canton Repository was also posted to the city of Alliance project website. See the public involvement documentation for the project, including the received comments and responses to comments, in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 2 Design plans and right-of-way plan developed for the project. A copy of the Stage 2 Design plans and preliminary right-of-way plans for the project are included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 2 Design.pdf* and *Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf*, respectively. The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis agrees with the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The next phase of the proposed project is listed on the STIP:

Yes

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	
CO	113209: 24-27 STIP
DD	

The current cost estimate is in line with existing federal procedures for Ohio STIP Amendments and Administration Modifications:

Yes

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 I 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 -

1. **a.** Acquisition of more than a minor amount of ROW (exceeds strip takes)
2. **b.** Residential or non-residential displacements
3. **c.** A U.S. Coast Guard permit or an Individual Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act
4. **d.** A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. **e.** Section 4(f) impacts greater than de minimis
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
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.** A full Environmental Justice Analysis Report (EJAR) is required (the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher-level document). If a memo-to-file/letter/IOC-format EJAR Short Report is determined to be the appropriate level of documentation, contact OES regarding NEPA document level.

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.

Ecological

Waterways:

Not Present

Will any wetlands be impacted?

No

Endangered Species:

No Impacts to Protected Species and Critical Habitat

Scenic Rivers

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



Scenic Rivers Remarks

National or state-listed wild and scenic rivers are not present within 1,000 feet of the project limits.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain:

No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM for the project study areas 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.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f):

Present; No Impacts and/or Access
Restrictions

Section 4(f) Remarks

The project is located in proximity of Butler-Rodman Park, a Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resource property. New right-of-way will not be acquired from Butler-Rodman Park to construct the project and access to the park will not be restricted during project construction. See Section 6(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 6(f)/Project Information subsection.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f):

Present; No Impacts and/or Access
Restrictions

Cultural Resources

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

12/22/2022

Cultural Resources Remarks



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The project setting is composed solely of modern commercial development. Literature search determined there are scattered inventoried builds along W. State Street. There is no evidence that inventoried buildings (OHI) or known archaeological sites (OAI) will be impacted by construction. Furthermore, no listed or eligible historic properties are found in the project area or area of potential effects (APE). Due to the commercial setting, modern disturbance, and the absence of recorded resources, no further cultural resource survey was conducted for the project. It has been determined the proposed project is exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/17 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19319). In this case, no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property will be acquired and no contributing element of an historic district will be removed or altered by construction. In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) determined the project is a type of undertaking that has 'minimal potential to cause effects' to historic properties and is not a part of a larger undertaking. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

Environmental Resources Considered

The following environmental resources are present and have been studied for potential impacts:

Regulated Materials

Air Remarks

The project will not impact air quality. Air quality studies or coordination are not needed for this project.

Noise Remarks

The project does not qualify as a Type I project for noise (*i.e.*, not adding capacity, not moving thru travel lanes equal to or greater than 50% closer to noise sensitive areas) and a noise analysis is not required for the project under 23 CFR 772.

**The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA
513 Landfill Authorization:**

Yes - Screening

Regulated Materials Review Screening:

No Further Regulated Materials Review

Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date:

02/01/2023

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening Form completed for the project, ODOT OES determined further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Coordination, Project Information and Reports subsections.

Environmental Justice

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

Environmental Justice Populations

Present; No EJAR Required, Does Not Exceed EJ Guidance Criteria, and No Issues Raised During Public Involvement

Identified Environmental Justice Populations



Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income
391517108005	20	49
391517128002	8	45
391517107003	11	26
391517106001	4	18

Environmental Justice Remarks

The project proposes to widen and reconstruct Beechwood Avenue and Sawburg Avenue at State Street (U.S. Route 62) and improve traffic signal operation on State Street, west of the Beechwood Avenue/Sawburg Avenue/State Street intersection, within the city of Alliance. No changes in access will occur other than a temporary detour route during construction.

A review of the ODOT Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) indicated Environmental Justice (EJ) populations within the proposed project area, including Minority and Low Income populations. No businesses or residences will be acquired or relocated as part of the project.

The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations based upon the table above and the attached mapping. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice 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 and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required.

See the census mapping for the project in the Project File/Underserved Populations/Project Information subsection.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks

The city of Alliance conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a press release transmitted to local media outlets, affected property owners and local emergency and public services. The press release and other project information was also posted to the city of Alliance project website. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. Project information was also published in a Canton Repository newspaper article. As a result of the public involvement performed, a project permit application request was received from the Stark County Engineer's Office and the Canton Repository reached out requesting additional project information. Response information was provided accordingly, and a summary of the additional information provided to the Canton Repository was added/posted to the city of Alliance project website. See the public involvement documentation for the project, including the received comments and responses to comments, in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

No



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Brian Peck
Robert Shenal

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	8/24/2023



Appendix

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

General

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening Intersection.pdf

OES Recommendations - Screening Signal Interconnect.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form - Signal Interconnect Work.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Public Involvement

News Article.pdf

Press Release Notification Email.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Notification Email Contact List .pdf

Project Notification Email.pdf

Project Website Exhibits.pdf

Project Website Snap Shot - Comment and Response Information.pdf

Project Website Snap Shot.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter Mailing Addresses.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Involvement Comments.pdf

Response to Public Involvement Comments.pdf

Permits



FEMA FIRM.pdf

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