



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document for **WIL Iron Horse River Trail PID 111250** **Environmental Document Level: C2**

Approved: 12/29/2022

Prepared By: Jeff Pettit

Davey Resource Group

Phone: 330-673-5685

E-mail: jeff.pettit@davey.com

District Contact: Phoenix Golnick

Phone: 419-373-4329

E-mail: Phoenix.Golnick@dot.ohio.gov

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.

Table of Contents

C2.....	3
Ecological.....	7
Environmental Commitments.....	9
Preparers and Approvals.....	10
Appendix.....	11



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

C2

PID: 111250
Project Sponsor: Montpelier, Village of
ODOT District: 2
Funding Source: Federal
Private Funding: No

Project Description:

The Village of Montpelier is developing a project, in conjunction with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), to construct 1.1 miles of 10-foot wide, shared use trail along the Saint Joseph River, from Montpelier Senior Center to the north terminus of River Street within the Village of Montpelier. Trail construction will be completed entirely on property owned by the Village, with a large section of the proposed trail following the alignment of an existing dirt path. No utility relocations are expected. Additional construction activities include installation of a boardwalk, culvert installation, grading, and signing/markings. The project is located within a floodplain and all NFIP and related public involvement requirements have been met and are in the project file. There will be no impacts to the St. Joseph River, however a USACE Section 404 permit is still required for wetland impacts. Notes have been added to the plans to ensure that the impacts to listed species are minimized. Since there are no historical resources within the project area, the work has minimal potential to impact and historically significant resources. The proposed start date for construction is June 2023. No detours or roadway restrictions are required to complete construction.

The environmental document and associated studies are being approved using Stage 3 Design. A copy of the plans can be found in the project file.

STIP Reference #: 111250: 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.)***

(27) Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. ***Examples include: Lane reduction ("road diet") changes provided traffic analysis is completed; Railroad projects that close at-grade crossings to improve safety or traffic operations.***

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



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

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
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?	Yes
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	12/20/2022
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Copperbelly water snake	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

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:

01/08/2022

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**

12/16/2021

Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:

No comments or objections were received within 30 days

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:

11/12/2021

Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted

No ROW

Hazardous Materials - ODOT Approval Date:

12/13/2022

Farmland:Non-Urbanized Area; No Impacts in
Accordance With the Farmland
MOU, 7 CFR 658, and ORC 929.05**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 PopulationsPresent; 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)
391719503001	12	26	28	0



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

Underserved Populations Remarks

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



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
WIL Iron Horse River Trail	Wetland A	Adjacent	Category 3	3.6	0.003
	Wetland B	Adjacent	Category 1	0.11	0.014
	Wetland C	Adjacent	Modified Category 2	3.0	0.001
	Wetland E	Adjacent	Category 3	0.84	0.058

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

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.076

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.076

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 Existing or Projected Capacity Deficiencies.

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

They Will Substantially Increase Project Costs.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

The proposed project would result in minor, long-term impacts to 0.076 acre of wetlands, including 0.015 acre of impacts to Category 1 wetlands (Wetlands B and C) and 0.061 acre of impacts to Category 3 wetlands (Wetlands A and B). However, impacts to Category 3 wetlands are limited to boardwalk installation only and the shade created over existing wetland vegetation which may inhibit vegetative growth; wetland substrate and wetland hydrology will not be disturbed within these wetlands and very little wetland function will be lost. The impacts to Wetlands A and B are



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

associated with grading and culvert installation. All proposed impacts are quite small in relation to the overall size of each wetland.

This piece of the Iron Horse River Trail will be connecting existing portions of the Iron Horse River Trail and is part of the City of Montpelier's master plan. The layout of this trail has been designed to avoid as many impacts to wetlands as possible while still providing attractive recreation and connectivity.

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, as regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA regulations (33 CFR parts 325 and 332 and 40 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:

It has yet to be determined if mitigation will be required. If it is determined that mitigation is required, it will be purchased prior to the issuance of the final permit.



Environmental Commitments

C2

- 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) The Village of Montpelier 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 in the plans and adhered to during construction.
- 3) Due to the potential for the Copperbelly Water Snake to occur in the project area, workers will be instructed to not harm or kill any snakes and to use caution. If this species is encountered within the construction limits during construction operations, all construction operations will cease, and the USFWS Columbus Field Office be notified immediately (614-416-8993) Activity will not resume until coordination with USFWS has been concluded.



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 111250 WIL Iron Horse River Trail

Approved: 12/29/2022

Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

Jeff Pettit
Davey Resource Group
1500 North Mantua Street, Kent OH 44240
330-673-5685
jeff.pettit@davey.com

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Phoenix Golnick (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	12/29/2022



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

Environmental Database Search Results.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

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf

Statement of Findings.pdf