



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

MAH IR 0680 09.30 Noise Walls PID 110931

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 7/18/2023

Prepared By: Scott Ross

CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 614-865-1874

E-mail: scottross@stoneenvironmental.com

District Contact: Edward Deley

Phone: 330-786-4930

E-mail: Edward.Deley@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.

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Project Information

PID:	110931
Project Sponsor:	DISTRICT 4-PLANNING
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Project Description:	



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The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to construct three noise barriers, Noise Barriers 1, 4 and 7, as referenced in the Type II noise analysis, along the east side of Interstate Route (IR) 680 from 250 feet south of Tara Court to south of Mathews Road (Noise Barrier 1), from 700 feet south of Nova Lane to Thalia Avenue (Noise Barrier 4) and from Thalia Avenue to the intersection of Everett Avenue and Lemoyne Avenue (Noise Barrier 7), respectively. Noise Barrier 1 and the section of Noise Barrier 4 from 700 feet south of Nova Lane to just south of Basil Avenue will consist of the newly recommended 6-foot, 9-inch-tall single-slope concrete noise barrier and be constructed at the edge of the existing paved highway shoulder. Noise Barrier 4 from just south of Basil Avenue to Thalia Avenue and Noise Barrier 7 will be constructed along the existing highway right-of-way line. The project is located in Boardman Township, Mahoning County, Ohio.

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 construction of Noise Barrier 1 and a section of Noise Barrier 4 (Phase 1 of the project) will require the closure of one lane of IR 680. The construction of a section of Noise Barrier 4 and Noise Barrier 7 (Phase 2 of the project) will require no lane closures. Construction and lane restriction/reduction 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.

The project will be constructed within the existing highway right-of-way.

Various utility impacts are associated with all three barriers. Noise Barrier 1 crosses existing storm and sanitary conduits that will be avoided during construction of the drilled shaft foundations for the wall. Noise Barrier 1 crosses an overhead fiber optic line at approximately Station (Sta.) 106+25. Accommodations may be required during construction to avoid damaging the overhead line as the noise wall panels are lifted into place. The line can remain in place once construction is complete. Noise Barrier 4 crosses existing storm conduits that will be avoided during construction of the drilled shaft foundations for the wall. Barrier 4 crosses an existing ditch at approximately Sta. 417+30, that may impede the ditch flow. This will require the existing 30-inch corrugated metal pipe storm conduit to be replaced at this location. Noise Barrier 7 crosses an overhead line just north of Thalia Avenue that will be avoided. Noise Barrier 7 crosses existing storm conduits that will be avoided during construction of the drilled shaft foundations for the wall. Several overhead electric lines cross the wall, including an existing 69kV line at approximately Sta. 705+10, an existing overhead power supply for highway lighting at approximately Sta. 720+00, and an existing overhead electric line at approximately Sta. 724+40. These lines will need to be deenergized and accommodations made during construction to avoid damaging the overhead lines, as the noise wall panels are lifted into place. It is anticipated that the existing overhead power supply for highway lighting at approximately Sta. 720+00 will be removed prior to construction as part of another project, however, if it is still remaining will need to be addressed as described. The proposed wall will be split and constructed in an offset configuration near approximately Sta. 713+55 to accommodate a guy wire for the First Energy transmission pole and allow a gap for maintenance vehicles to access the guy wire anchor.

A Level 1 Ecological Survey was completed for the project. A total of 0.11 acre of wetlands exists within the project study area, including 0.04 acre of emergent wetlands and 0.07 acre of forested wetlands. These wetlands all scored as Category 1 or Category 2 wetlands. One Unnamed Tributary to Yellow Creek (perennial, Class II) exists within the project study area and is 71 feet in length. No wetlands or streams are located within the proposed construction limits and no stream or wetlands impacts are anticipated to construct the project. A total of 7.22 acres of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for Federally listed bat species exists within the project study area. Approximately 7.19 acres of SWH is located within 100 feet of the edge of pavement (EOP) and there is 0.03 acre of SWH beyond 100 feet of the EOP. Approximately 4.93 acres of SWH within 100 feet of the EOP is located in the construction limits. The construction limits do not include any SWH beyond 100 feet of the EOP. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection and the Ecological tab.

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

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 2 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 2 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Stage 2 Design.pdf.

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	On Previous STIP
CO	110931: 24-27 STIP
DD	On Previous STIP



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



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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	12/06/2022
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	Yes
Endangered Species - Other Description:	
Project to remove 4.93 acres of habitat for Federally-listed bat species.	
Scenic Rivers	No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area
Scenic Rivers Remarks	
N/A.	
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 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.	
Section 4(f)	
Section 4(f):	Not present
Section 4(f) Remarks	
N/A.	
Section 6(f)	
Section 6(f):	Not present
Cultural Resources	



Cultural Resources: Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect

Cultural Resources Coordination: Minimum Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix A

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO
Concurrence Date** 05/22/2023

Cultural Resources Remarks

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff using the SHPO GIS online database. No Cultural Resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were identified within and/or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. The undertaking is a type that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. The Records Check can be found in the Project File under Cultural Resources/Project Information.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Air Quality

Noise

Regulated Materials

Air Quality: Studies Not Required

Air Quality - Coordination with OES:

Air Remarks

See the Air Quality documentation for the project in the Project File/Air/Project Information subsection.

Noise: Studies and Coordination Conducted; No Impacts

Noise Coordination: Noise Analysis Completed

Noise Remarks

The project is a Type II Noise Project. A Type II traffic noise analysis was completed for the project study area in July 2017. The noise analysis determined that the three proposed noise barriers would provide a level of noise reduction that would be considered feasible and reasonable and met the criteria of a Type II Noise Mitigation Project.

**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: 05/16/2023

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:



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An RMR Screening was completed for the project. On May 16, 2023, ODOT-OES concluded that the project does not warrant any additional RMR or special material handling. 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
390998113022	14	41
390998119011	12	18

Environmental Justice Remarks

A review of the ODOT Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) indicated Environmental Justice populations within the proposed project area. 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 attached mapping. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required. See Environmental Justice documentation for the project in the Project File/Environmental Justice/Project Information subsection.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks



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For the three recommended noise barriers, aesthetic-specific public involvement activities were conducted. Informational surveys, along with an informational cover letter and project map, were prepared and sent via the U.S. postal service. In addition, the survey was offered via an online format. The surveys were distributed to the property owners and residents identified in the noise analysis as being benefitted by the proposed noise walls. The residents were given three weeks to respond to the survey using one of the four methods:

1. A self-addressed return postal envelope was included in the mailing for physical responses.
2. An online survey link and corresponding QR code was included in the mailing for online responses,
3. An email address was included in the mailing for responses via email.
4. A phone number was included in the mailing for responses via a phone call.

During the three-week response window, questions and comments raised by the property owners and residents were answered. Surveys that were returned to sender, were mailed again as a second attempt to reach the recipient. After responses were received through these outreach efforts, the results were compiled and summarized in accordance with Step 9 of ODOT's Post Noise Analysis Flowchart. At the conclusion of the noise wall survey activities, a post noise analysis public involvement summary letter was prepared on ODOT letterhead and mailed to each benefitted property.

The results of a mail-in/online survey sent to the residents along I-680 in the proposed noise barrier project area indicate that the majority of the residents/property owners are in favor of the natural concrete color and dry stack texture on the residential side of the noise barrier panels as well.

Additional public involvement was completed in March 2023 to notify property owners of a proposed design change to Noise Barrier #1 and the southern portion of Noise Barrier #4. Notification letters were sent to property owners on March 31, 2023. No comments opposing the design change were received.

See the public involvement documentation, including the received comments and responses to comments, for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

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) All identified streams and wetlands are to be demarcated prior to construction. Do not place any temporary or permanent fill within the jurisdictional boundaries of all streams, wetlands, and jurisdictional ditches during construction of this project, including scaffolding or bracing. Do not place any equipment within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway. If debris enters the waterway during construction, remove the debris immediately using equipment staged outside the jurisdictional boundary.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Scott Ross
CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc.
748 Green Crest Drive, Westerville OH 43081
614-865-1874
scottross@stoneenvironmental.com

Supporting Form Preparer(s): Paul Frey
Sean Carpenter
Robert Smith

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	7/18/2023



Appendix

General

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Air

Project Related OES Decision - Air.pdf

Noise

Comment Received - Change of Design Letter.pdf

Noise Related Public Inquiry.pdf

Noise Related Public Involvement - Change of Design Letter.pdf

Noise Related Public Involvement - Post PI Notification.pdf

OES Approval - Change of Design.pdf

OES Approval - Noise Analysis.pdf

OES Approval - Noise Public Involvement Summary.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf