



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

ATB Pymatuning Valley Trail PID 111251

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 9/30/2022

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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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C2

PID:	111251
Project Sponsor:	Ashtabula County Metropark
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No
Project Description:	



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The Ashtabula County Metropolitan Parks District (Ashtabula County Metroparks) proposes to construct approximately 3.54 miles of a 10-foot wide shared-use asphalt trail along an abandoned railroad corridor from Maple Avenue to Leon Road in the village of Andover and Andover and Richmond Townships, Ashtabula County. The trail will be designed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Additional improvements proposed by this project include bridge rehabilitation, culvert replacement, culvert modification, farm crossing construction, well access drive apron construction, rock channel protection placement, timber rail installation, new trail/traffic sign installation and new pavement markings application.

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. A minimum of one 10-foot lane of traffic in each direction shall be maintained on existing roadways within the project limits during project construction. Road closures and detours are not proposed to construct the project. Construction and lane restriction/reduction information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Lane restrictions/reductions shall not be permitted after normal working hours. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

The project will be constructed within the existing roadway rights-of-way and properties owned by Ashtabula County Metroparks. Existing utilities within the project study area(s) will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

Based on the project scope of work, its Path 1 Project Development Process (PDP) Classification and the proposed maintenance of traffic measures, emergency/public services contact activities were not conducted for the project.

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 which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

Subsequently, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project expanded in the vicinity of Leon Road. Therefore, a second Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by the project environmental consultant for the project 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 which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT 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, 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 subsection.

Based on an amended Level 1 Ecological Survey Report (ESR) completed for the project, the project proposes to permanently/temporarily impact a total of 153 linear feet of two streams and permanently/temporarily impact a total of 0.013 acre of two potentially jurisdictional ditches. A total of 0.17 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Federally-listed Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat and the State-listed Little Brown Bat and Tri-colored Bat will also be removed to construct the project. Moreover, limited, marginal habitat for the Federally-listed eastern massasauga is present/adjacent to the project study area present and will be impacted by the project. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection and the Ecological Tab.

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.

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

Ashtabula County Metroparks conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including project notification letters sent to adjacent property owners and a news release posted on the Ashtabula County Metroparks website. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. One public comment was received by Ashtabula County Metroparks as a result of the public involvement activities conducted for the project. See the public involvement documentation, including the received comment and response to comment, for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 3 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 3 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Stage 3 Design.pdf.

The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis agrees with the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2021 - 2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).



STIP Reference #:

111251: 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 -

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?	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	12/10/2021
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Eastern massasauga	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
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 A
Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date	04/05/2022
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:	01/01/2022
Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted	Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:	09/14/2021
Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:	No Further Studies Warranted
Farmland:	Non-Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU, 7 CFR 658, and ORC 929.05



Scenic Rivers

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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

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT - INDIANA BAT/NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT: THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE KNOWN HABITAT RANGES OF THE FEDERALLY LISTED AND PROTECTED INDIANA BAT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. NO TREES SHALL BE REMOVED AT THE PROJECT LOCATION FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. ALL NECESSARY TREE REMOVAL SHALL OCCUR FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL DEMARCATÉ CLEARING LIMITS IN THE FIELD TO AVOID ANY UNAUTHORIZED TREE CLEARING. THIS REQUIREMENT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO THESE SPECIES AS REQUIRED BY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. 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 Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

THREATENED SPECIES HABITAT - EASTERN MASSASAUGA SNAKE: MINIMAL AMOUNTS OF marginally suitable habitat for the federally listed and protected eastern massasauga are present within the project area and will be impacted by the project. Due to the potential for the snakes to occur in the project area, workers will be instructed to not harm or kill the snakes and to use caution, as the eastern massasauga is a venomous species. If this species is encountered within the construction limits during construction operations, all construction operations will cease, and the USFWS Columbus Field Office (614-416-8993) be notified immediately. Activity will not resume until coordination with USFWS has been concluded.

3) The Ashtabula County Metropolitan Parks District 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.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Joyce Marzano
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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Christine Surma
Robert Lang
Angela Tribuzi

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	9/30/2022



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf
County Map.pdf
Project Study Area Map - January 2022 Expansion.pdf
Stage 2 Design.pdf
Stage 3 Design.pdf
USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check - North End.pdf
Section 106 Scoping Request Form.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions
USFWS Comment - signed Consult Form.pdf
USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Sole Source Aquifer Mapping.pdf
Urbanized Census Area Map.pdf
Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf
Well Log Data.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf
Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

Project Website News Release.pdf
Public Comment Received.pdf



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Public Notification Letter.pdf

Public Notification Mailing List.pdf

Response to Public Comment.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf