



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **CUY Shaker Hts VAD Ped Improve PID 113197**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 7/7/2023**

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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**

<b>PID:</b>	113197
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	SHAKER HEIGHTS
<b>ODOT District:</b>	12
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Federal
<b>Project Description:</b>	



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The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) in coordination with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) propose a project to improve pedestrian access at the Van Aken District (VAD) GCRTA station area by adding pedestrian connections from the station to surrounding neighborhoods and for bus riders to access the rapid transit station all in the City of Shaker Heights in Cuyahoga County. There will be no required right-of-way plan as all the project work is within GCRTA controlled right-of-way. During construction, Tuttle Road will be closed to southbound traffic, and Van Aken Blvd shall be closed to eastbound traffic. Access for RTA will be maintained all the time. A desktop assessment of the ecological resources was conducted on 11/11/2022. Due to the highly urbanized surrounding landscape, no potentially jurisdictional ecological resources were identified within the project area, and this project is considered Ecologically Exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the Ecological tab for documentation.

Based on the information in the regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project.

The project is not located within a regulated floodplain; therefore, no coordination is required.

No other environmental, cultural resources, air, noise, Section 4(f)/6(f), or underserved population impacts will result from this project.

One virtual stakeholder meeting via zoom conducted on October 19, 2022, by the City of Shaker Heights. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Van Aken Public Realm project to the stakeholders and share information about the project area context and vision plan, the RTA future layout, design framework, and the proposed site elements. A digital ridership survey with QR code was open for over a month officially ended on November 16, 2022. This virtual meeting has been announced using posted signs and survey on Van Aken Market Hall bulletin board, emails to all Van Aken District and South merchants. The City also conducted two public engagement open house activities on October 25, 2022, and February 8, 2023, respectively. Comments in both events were gathered during the open house. The open house activities were conducted to provide information about the project and to give the opportunity for the public to comment on the project. This public engagement activities have been announced by posting signs and survey at the RTA Rail and busway shelter at Van Aken District. Also, the invitation to the open house activities was posted on the Shaker Heights website and the City Facebook page.

**Public Involvement Conclusion:**

Based on the received comments, below changes to the project have been maintained

- a diversity of native species have been added and integrated more greenspace in the project area.
- reversed direction of lower lot angle-in parking.
- distribution of breadcrumbs as decorative pavers tied back to the shade structure.
- worked with RTA to choose street furniture that better relates to the public realm design.
- using built space to direct people towards crosswalks for safety.

Copy of the summary of the public involvement activities, public comments and the utilized outreach materials are available in the project file.

The environmental document and associated studies are approved using Stage 1 design. A copy of the plans is included in the project file.

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

**Ellis STIP Details**

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	113197: 24-27 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:**



(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 -**

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	The project will not impact any Scenic River.
Floodplains	



**100-Year Floodplain:**

No Encroachment Within a Special  
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

**Floodplain Remarks**

The project is not located within a regulated floodplain, and no coordination is required.

**Section 4(f)**

**Section 4(f):**

Not present

**Section 4(f) Remarks**

The project will not impact any section 4(f) property.

**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 B

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO  
Concurrence Date**

03/08/2023

**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. Therefore, 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 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. NO further coordination required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. 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.

**Noise Remarks**

The project will not cause traffic noise impacts.

**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:**

04/25/2023

**Regulated Materials Review Remarks:**

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form 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.

**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
390351835012	65	40
390351835013	52	26
390351836051	70	28
390351836052	53	12

**Environmental Justice Remarks**

Based on the mapping from the ODOT's TIMS, the minority populations are 52 - 70 percent for the US Census Block Groups located within the project area and 12 - 40 percent of the population is designated as low income. The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations or disparate impacts based upon the table above, the attached mapping, and the answers to the questions above. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice 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, DOT Order 5610.2(a), and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required.

Based on the above findings an Environmental Justice Analysis Report (EJAR) is not required.

The Census mapping may be found in the project file under Environmental Justice.

**Public Involvement**

**Public Involvement:**

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

**Public Involvement Remarks**



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**Environmental Commitments**

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No



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### **Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:** Sumia Mohamed  
Lawhon AND Associates Inc.  
smohamed@lawhon-assoc.com

**Supporting Form Preparer(s):** Libby Rushley  
Sumia Mohamed

### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	7/7/2023



## Appendix

### General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

STIP Listing.pdf

Stage 1 Design.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

### Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Section 106 Scoping Request Form.pdf

### Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

### Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Well Log Data.pdf

### Section 4(f)

Cuyahoga County My Place Parcel Viewer Map.pdf

### Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

### Public Involvement

Open House Visual Preference Survey February 2023.pdf

Open House Visual Preference Survey.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Involvement Summary.pdf

Public Meeting Sign In Sheet.pdf

Stakeholder Meeting Presentation February 2023.pdf



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Stakeholder Meeting Presentation.pdf

Stakeholder Zoom meeting.jpg

**Permits**

FEMA FIRM.pdf