



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **MAH SR 0011 13.30 Noise Wall PID 106325**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 9/19/2023**

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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:** 106325  
**Project Sponsor:** DISTRICT 4-PLANNING  
**ODOT District:** 4  
**Funding Source:** Federal

**Project Description:**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to construct a noise barrier, Nashua-Inglewood Barrier, for Noise Sensitive Areas (NSA) 5 and 7 as referenced in the Type II noise analysis, along the west side of State Route (SR) 11 from approximately 800 feet south of Oakcrest Drive to Mahoning Avenue, allowing a gap for Oakcrest Drive. The proposed barrier extending along approximately 4,301 feet of SR 11 will vary in height up to approximately 16-feet and will be constructed along the existing highway right-of-way line. The project is located in Austintown 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*.

Travel lanes along SR 11 mainline and the Mahoning Avenue entrance ramp shall be maintained at all times throughout construction. No lane restrictions/closures will be permitted. Construction information will be posted within the project 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.

Existing utilities within the project study area will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

The project proposes to impact a total of 3.17 acres of potential roosting habitat for the Federally-listed Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and State-listed Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). All tree clearing will be performed between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species during their summer roosting period. The project also proposes to impact potential roosting habitat (3.17 acres) for the State-listed Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). However, the project is not likely to impact this species. The project initially proposed to impact four (4) streams with impacts totaling 3,453 linear feet. However, based on Stage 2 plan development, no work will be performed below ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of any streams. No wetlands are present in proximity of the project construction limits. See the ecological resource and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports, Project Information and Coordination subsections.

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 is 26.8% greater than the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). However, fiscal constraint is at the Statewide Line Item (SLI) Group level. Therefore, an individual project utilizing a SLI does not require a STIP/TIP amendment.

**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	106325: 24-27 STIP



Phase	Current STIP Reference
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**



<b>Waterways:</b>	Not Present
<b>Will any wetlands be impacted?</b>	No
<b>Endangered Species:</b>	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination</b>	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination Date</b>	11/14/2022
<b>Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted</b>	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
<b>Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:</b>	No
<b>Scenic Rivers</b>	No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area
<b>Scenic Rivers Remarks</b>	N/A.
<b>Floodplains</b>	
<b>100-Year Floodplain:</b>	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
<b>Floodplain Remarks</b>	
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.	
<b>Section 4(f)</b>	
<b>Section 4(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Section 4(f) Remarks</b>	N/A.
<b>Section 6(f)</b>	
<b>Section 6(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	
<b>Cultural Resources:</b>	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect



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**Cultural Resources Coordination:**

Minimum Potential to Cause Effect  
Appendix A

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

08/04/2022

### **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 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. No further coordination is 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:**

Noise

Regulated Materials

### **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 April 2018. The noise analysis determined no barrier options were found to be reasonable considering NSA 5 alone, however, given the proximity and similarity between NSAs 5 and 7, the two NSAs were combined for the barrier analysis and it was determined that a noise barrier, Nashua-Inglewood Barrier, for Noise Sensitive Areas (NSA) 5 and 7 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:**

01/04/2023

### **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
390998126011	35	49
390998126032	9	30
390998126013	0	42

### 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

Aesthetic-specific public involvement activities were conducted for the recommended noise barrier. 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. 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 the mail-in/online survey sent to the residents along NSA 5 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, while the residents along NSA 7 in the proposed noise barrier project area indicated that the majority of the residents/property owners are in favor of the natural concrete color and 'fieldstone' texture on the residential side of the noise barrier panels.

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.



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**Environmental Commitments**

**Environmental Commitments**

Yes



## **Environmental Commitments**

### **C2**

1) The project site is located within the known habitat ranges of the Federally listed and protected Indiana Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tri-Colored Bat. No trees shall be removed at these locations from April 1 through September 30. All necessary tree removal shall occur from October 1 through March 31. 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) Contractor's work shall be completed such that no impacts occur below the ordinary high water mark elevation of streams identified in the project construction plans. This includes Ax Factory Run, Stream 1, Stream 2 and Stream 3 as defined in the plans.



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### **Preparers and Approvals**

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Christy Pirkle  
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### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	9/19/2023



## Appendix

### General

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### Air

District Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

### Noise

Noise Related Public Involvement -Post PI Notification.pdf

OES Acceptance - Petition Results.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