



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document for **ATB SR 0531 13.20 PID 114680** Environmental Document Level: D1

Approved: 5/31/2024

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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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Project Type

Please check all of the following actions that apply (Must check at least one):

(13) Actions described in 23 CFR 771.117 (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) that do not meet the constraints listed in 23 CFR 771.117(e).

(a) Project types that exceed thresholds in Appendix A

(b) Project types that exceed thresholds in Appendix B



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General Project Information

Project, Cost Schedule and Work Limits

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PID: 114680
Project Name: ATB SR 0531 13.20
Project Sponsor: DISTRICT 4-PLANNING
ODOT District: 4
Funding Source: Federal
The next phase of the proposed project is listed on the STIP Yes

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	On Previous STIP
RW	114680: 24-27 STIP
CO	
DD	114680: 24-27 STIP

An Interchange Modification/Justification/Operations Study (IMS/IJS/IOS) was completed No

Project Description:



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The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to protect State Route (SR) 531 from severe Lake Erie coastal erosion that is threatening sections of SR 531 between LaBounty Road and Monday Drive in the village of North Kingsville and Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio. This situation resulted in SR 531 being closed in December 2022 for emergency repairs using sheet-pile retaining walls in various locations along the roadside where failure was imminent, that are still ongoing. The subject project (PID 114680) proposes to construct stone revetment shoreline armor here that will act in conjunction with the previously installed emergency steel sheet piling retaining walls (under PIDs 118426 and 118813) to provide a long-term solution designed to preserve the structural integrity of the roadway and embankment slope and ensure the continued safety of the traveling public. A revetment is an engineered stone structure constructed at the base of the Lake Erie shoreline designed to absorb the impact and energy from the waves of Lake Erie. Additionally, the existing, highly eroded face of slope will be regraded/infilled from the top of the proposed revetment rock up to the roadway/face of retaining walls to achieve a desired minimum 2:1 slope. Approximately 4,360 linear feet of stone revetments are proposed to be built within these identified areas:

Area 1: LaBounty Road to Whitman's Creek - Station (Sta.) 252+50 to Sta. 271+00 = 1,850' of revetment

Area 2: Whitman's Creek to Ridge Avenue - Sta. 276+50 to Sta. 295+35 = 1,885' of revetment

Area 3: Monday Drive/SR531 Intersection Vicinity - Sta. 375+75 to Sta. 382+00 = 625' of revetment

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 environmental document and associated studies are being approved using Stage 1 design plans. A copy of the Stage 1 design plans is located in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 1 Design.pdf*.

Approximately 26 acres of permanent right-of-way from three (3) parcels will be required to construct the project. Most of the required land consists of the wooded and highly eroded fore-slope along the north side of SR 531. One (1) residential structure in the Monday Drive vicinity will be razed to construct the project. Right-of-way plans are available in EnviroNet - file path:

General/Project Information/Final Right-of-Way Plans.

Construction of the revetments will impact 5.92 acres of Lake Erie below the OHWM of 573.4 msl. Approximately 0.018 acre of wetlands will be impacted to construct the project.

The project will require ROW from a property classified as agricultural. Therefore, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (FCIR) Form was completed to determine if land to be acquired was prime or unique farmland and/or was considered to be statewide and local important farmland. The site assessment completed for the proposed project totaled 119 points out of a possible total score of 260 points. Based on the assessment score being below 160, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) determined proposed impacts are not considered significant and do not require mitigation.

No cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (Agreement No. 38503) executed June 29, 2023, ODOT-OES determined a finding of "no historic properties affected" is applicable to the subject project.

The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis is 21.1% greater than the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Based on the estimated total project cost being greater than \$10,000,000 and the additional project cost exceeding 20%, a STIP amendment is necessary for the project.

Limits of Proposed Work:	SR 531 from 13.00 to 16.00
Start (SLM):	12.886
End (SLM):	15.948
Total Work Length (Miles):	3.062

Roadway Character

Route Number: SR00531

Functional Classification: Minor Arterial (Urban)

Current Average Daily Traffic: 2991

Current Average Daily Traffic Year: 2022

Design Year Average Daily Traffic: 2991

Design Average Daily Traffic Year: 2022



Daily Hourly Volume: 3165
Truck %: 2
Setting: Rural
Topography: Level

	Existing:	Proposed:
Design Speed (MPH):	55	55
Legal Speed (MPH):	50	50
Number of Lanes:	2	2
Type of Lanes:	Through Travel lanes	Through Travel lanes
Pavement Width (ft):	22	22
Shoulder Width (ft):	1	1
Median Width (ft):	0	0
Sidewalk Width (ft):	N/A	N/A

No bridge data for PIDs associated with this CE Form

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

A roadway, bridge or ramp closure is required Yes

A temporary bridge or roadway is proposed No

A detour is required for the proposed project Yes

Access for local through traffic will be provided with appropriate signage Yes

Provisions for through-traffic dependent businesses will be incorporated into project design No

Provisions to accommodate any local special events or festivals will be incorporated into project design No

The proposed MOT substantially impacts sensitive environmental resources No

Substantial controversy is associated with the proposed MOT No

Coordination has been initiated and/or completed with local emergency services, schools, public institutions/facilities, etc. Yes

Remarks:

Coastal erosion resulted in SR 531 being closed in December 2022 for emergency repairs using sheet-pile retaining walls in various locations along the roadside where failure was imminent. At the time of this document preparation, the emergency repairs and road closure are still active. All traffic will be maintained in accordance with the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCH) during construction.

Are there any Environmental Commitments? No

Right of Way and Utility Involvement



The project requires Permanent Right-of-Way	Yes
The project requires Permanent Easement(s)	Yes
The project requires Temporary Right-of-Way	No
Number of parcels impacted by Permanent Right-of-Way:	5
Number of parcels impacted by Temporary Right-of-Way:	0
Approximate acreage of Permanent Right-of-Way needed:	26
Approximate acreage of Temporary Right-of-Way needed:	0
Electrical lines, gas lines, water lines, sewer lines, phone lines or other utilities exist in the project area	Yes
Large scale transmission facilities are located within the project area	No
Private utility easements are located within the project area	No
Coordination with identified utilities has been initiated and/or completed	Yes

Remarks:

Based on Stage 1 and Final Right-of-Way plans, the proposed project will acquire approximately 26 acres of permanent right-of-way from 5 parcels.

The following is a list of known utilities within the proposed project area:

An ongoing activity, utility coordination has been conducted through all stages of design and will be completed during the final detailed design phase. The following utilities have been contacted and have been provided plans in each Stage of project design:

- Aqua Ohio
- Dominion Energy Ohio
- Windstream
- CEI Illuminating Company (First Energy) Charter

Minor relocations of existing utilities within the project study area will be necessary to construct the project. These minor utility relocations will occur within the existing and new rights-of-way and include overhead electric, cable and telephone lines. Utilities will not be permanently removed to construct the project. Coordination with the utility companies affected by the proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during the preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.



Purpose & Need

Purpose & Need

Project History:

Lake Erie erosion along State Route (SR) 531 in Ashtabula County has been an ongoing issue for ODOT for over 40 years. ODOT has closely monitored rates of Lake Erie shoreline and bluff recession in various areas of concern, performing repairs at a number of locations along the route. ODOT conducted a comprehensive erosion and planning study in 2008 to evaluate conditions along the route and investigate alternatives along several sections of SR 531. The study investigated numerous alternatives including:

- closing portions of the facility and re-routing SR 531 to parallel local or nearby state route facilities
- revising the roadway profile to lower the elevation of portions of SR 531 and reduce the height of the lake-ward bluffs
- relocating the alignment of portions of SR 531 southward away from Lake Erie to enable the bluffs to continue to erode without impacting the roadway.
- constructing off-shore improvements such as breakwaters and groins to mitigate the erosive forces of Lake Erie on the slope
- constructing revetment shoreline armor in un-protected areas

This project (PID 114680) addresses severe Lake Erie coastal erosion that is threatening sections of State Route (SR) 531 in the village of North Kingsville and Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio. ODOT District 4 has identified several locations along SR 531 between LaBounty Road and Monday Drive where erosion of the shoreward bluff poses a threat to the structural integrity of the SR 531 roadway. More specifically, the primary areas of concern are SR 531 from LaBounty to Whitman's Creek, Whitman's Creek to Ridge Avenue, and SR 531 from 600' west of Monday Drive to 200' east of Monday Drive. ODOT has been closely monitoring these areas of concern for a number of years and found it necessary to construct a sheet piling retaining wall along the roadside in 2019 at a location with substantive erosion near Whitman's Creek to protect the roadway from structural failure. Severe erosion necessitated the closing of SR 531 in this area in December 2022 to construct additional sheet piling walls, under PIDs 118426 and 118813, in areas where structural roadway failure was imminent.

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the transportation improvement is to provide a long-term solution designed to mitigate the impacts of severe Lake Erie coastal erosion along the roadway fore-slope to restore and preserve the structural integrity of SR 531 and ensure the continued safety of the traveling public between LaBounty Road and Monday Drive in the village of North Kingsville and Ashtabula Twp., Ashtabula County, Ohio. The roadway fore-slope is being impacted by the erosive forces of Lake Erie and by poor surface water drainage and groundwater seepage.

Need Element(s):

The lake-ward bluffs and slopes along the north side of SR 531 are undergoing severe erosion and are in various stages of failure due to the erosive forces of Lake Erie - including persistent wave action, storm surge, ice and wind forces, groundwater seepage, and poorly managed surface water drainage. As a result, the structural integrity of the roadway is in danger of being compromised.

Deficiencies include:

- absence of toe of slope protection at lake level resulting in tension cracks and sloughing and failures due to softening, material separation, and material loss at the toe of slope.
- excessive tree growth on the slopes causing potential slope loading
- deteriorating drain pipes and outlets resulting in erosion
- roadway drainage problems including: groundwater saturation and standing water in roadside ditches.

Goals and Objectives:

This is no longer required.

Summary Statement:

This is no longer required.



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Logical Termini and Independent Utility:

The logical termini for the project are established on the basis of the existing deficient and deteriorated conditions along SR 531 between LaBounty Road and Whitman's Creek, Whitman's Creek and Ridge Avenue, and SR 531 approximately 600 feet west of Monday Drive to 200 feet east of Monday Drive. The deteriorated conditions consist of severely eroded fore-slopes, roadside sloughing and tension cracks, unprotected toe of slope, and limits of necessary drainage repairs. These critical areas were identified using monitoring data to track the rate of erosion at specific sites. Critical areas were defined as areas where erosion occurs at a pace of 1 foot or more between site readings.

This long-term shoreline erosion mitigation project is not dependent on any other improvements.



Alternatives

Alternatives

Discuss No Build Alternative:

The No Build Alternative was evaluated for this project. This alternative would not satisfy the purpose and need of reducing/eliminating the impacts of erosion and restoring the structural integrity of the State Route 531 roadway. The No Build Alternative would not address existing slope erosion, unprotected toe of slope areas, drainage deficiencies, and the need for maintenance and repair of the existing sheet pile walls. The No Build Alternative would result in the eventual closure of SR 531 to through traffic as erosion persists to the point of structural failure. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

Was a Feasibility Study completed?

No

Was an Alternative Evaluation Report (AER) completed?

No

Alternatives Considered

Name	Description	Reason Dismissed	Preferred Alternative
No Build	Continue standard maintenance of the existing roadway, pavement, and drainage with no repairs or improvements to address erosion. Fragmented emergency fixes may occur.	This alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need of the project, would lead to the eventual closure of SR 531, and compromises the safety of the traveling public.	No
Realign the Roadway to the south	Reconstruct SR 531 to the south of its current location, effectively moving it out of areas that are at high risk of/actively experiencing erosion. This would involve pavement construction, roadside drainage, and extensive slope grading and earthwork.	Alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need of the project. Substantive ecological impacts including permanent fill of streams and wetlands. Does not solve the underlying issue of erosion, that will continue to move further inland and eventually threaten the relocated road.	No



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Sheet pile wall	Constructing a sheet pile wall parallel to the roadway.	Constructed as a separate project in 2023-2024: ATB-531-13.56, PID 118813 due to urgency of erosion threatening SR 531	No
Revetment with slope grading	Stone revetments will be placed at the shoreline to address erosion from wave action and ice forces. A 2.5:1 graded slope will be maintained above the revetment to the roadway shoulder. Peripheral roadway work will be limited to guardrail construction, drainage improvements, and berm grading. Roadway pavement widening or replacement is not anticipated for this alternative.	Selected Alternative	Yes
Profile Revision	Lower the profile grade of SR 531 to reduce the slope from the edge of the pavement to the shoreline. The horizontal alignment of SR 531 will generally be maintained. This would involve pavement construction, roadside drainage, and extensive slope regrading and earthwork.	This alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need of the project. Substantive ecological impacts including permanent fill of wetlands and impacts to wooded areas would occur. Flatter slope reduces but does not permanently fix the issue of erosion at the lakeshore. A sufficiently flatter lakeward slope may not be attainable at Monday Drive due to the close proximity of adjacent private properties.	No



Reroute to parallel state facilities	Re-designate portions of a nearby existing parallel state route facility, such as US Route 20, to perpetuate the SR 531 alignment. The state route designation will be removed from Lake Road which will be turned over to the Ashtabula County Engineer or Village of North Kingsville for operation and maintenance. This will involve pavement upgrades, roadside drainage, and regrading ditches.	This alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need of the project. Other state facilities will be burdened with increased traffic, local agencies may not be adequately equipped to address the shoreline erosion, eventual closure of Lake Road due to unmitigated erosion is likely. This section of SR 531 would no longer be a Scenic Byway.	No
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Discuss Reasons Alternative Identified as Preferred was selected:

A combination of alternatives 3 and 4 were selected as the preferred alternative to address severe coastal erosion, threatening State Route 531 in the village of North Kingsville and Ashtabula Township. Alternative 3: Sheet Pile Walls parallel to the SR 531 roadway was selected as the initial emergency solution. Sheet Pile Walls were selected because it can be implemented in a short time frame, immediately improve roadway safety, avoids a lengthy regulatory permitting process, extends the service life of the facility in the short-term until the long-term effects of lakeshore erosion are addressed, and has the ability to be incorporated into a permanent solution. Additionally, sheet pile walls have a long service life. This section of the project was completed in 2023/2024 (PID 118426 and 118813) on an expedited schedule by ODOT to preserve the transportation facility.

Alternative 4: Revetment with Grading was selected as the long-term solution as it would permanently mitigate shoreline erosion and has a long service life with periodic maintenance as proven by similar revetments constructed along the Lake Erie Shoreline. Additionally, State Route 531 would not be negatively impacted.



Air

Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs)

Sensitive Areas are located within approximately 500' of the proposed project area Yes

The proposed project is listed as a C1 in ODOT's CE Guidance and/or falls under 40 CFR 93.126 No

The proposed project involves adding capacity, a new interchange, relocating thru lanes significantly closer to sensitive areas, or expanding an intermodal center No

Design Year ADT is <140,000 Yes

Remarks:

The project does not involve adding capacity, adding a new interchange, constructing new road on new alignment, relocation travel lanes closer to sensitive areas, or expanding intermodal center. Further, this project is an Exempt from air quality analysis per 40-CFR 93.126 (Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature).

Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)

The proposed project is in an air quality non-attainment or maintenance area No

Remarks:

Ashtabula County is not located in a PM 2.5 maintenance or non-attainment area, this project is exempt from PM 2.5 analysis per 40-CFR 93.126 (Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location).

Carbon (CO)

The State of Ohio is in attainment for CO at this time and no coordination or analysis is required

Ozone

The proposed project is in an Ozone non-attainment or maintenance area No

The proposed project is listed on the TIP Yes

Remarks:

This project is listed in the STIP and the project design concept and scope, as described in this document does not differ from that described in the STIP. Further, this project is an Exempt from air quality analysis per 40-CFR 93.126 (Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature).

Greenhouse Gas



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A Quantitative Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis is required

No

Remarks:

This Project falls under 40CFR93.126 under "Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature" and is exempt from Greenhouse Gas analysis.

Environmental Commitments

Are there any environmental commitments? No



Noise

Noise

Noise Sensitive Areas located within approximately 500' of the proposed project area	Yes
Noise Analysis conducted	No
The proposed project is a Type I project	No
The proposed project is a Type II project	No

Remarks:

Noise Sensitive Areas (NSAs) are located within 500' of the project however, the project is not a roadway project and no increase in traffic, lanes, or change in distance to the NSAs will occur. The project does not qualify as a Type I project for noise (*i.e.*, not adding capacity, not moving thru travel lanes equal to or greater than 50% closer to noise sensitive areas) and a noise analysis is not required for the project under 23 CFR 772.

Environmental Commitments

Are there any environmental commitments? No



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RMR

Does the project require any Permanent ROW or Easement? Yes

RMR Screening was completed by District Staff: Yes

Date when It was completed: 04/15/2024

Date of RMR Screening IOC from OES: 04/15/2024

Do any sites require a RMR Assessment, RMR Investigation, or plan note according to the IOC from OES? No

Remarks:

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

Landfills

Is a Rule 513 Authorization required? No

Remarks:

The project is not located within 300 linear feet of a regulated landfill facility as defined in OAC Rule 3745-513-02(F).

Are there any environmental commitments? No

According to the IOC from OES does the project require any Environmental Commitments (plan notes and/or other coordination)? No



Cultural Resources

Cultural Properties Present

Please describe all of the efforts made to identify Historic Properties (including lit review, field investigation, etc.):

On 12/7/2023, ODOT District Environmental Staff prepared a Section 106 Scoping Request Form for ODOT-OES review. See **Section 106 Scoping Request Form.pdf** in the project file.

On 12/20/2023, ODOT-OES prepared a summary of literature review and cultural resource investigations submitted to SHPO for review and concurrence. See **Field Review Summary - History Architecture.pdf** in the project file.

Is there an eligible or listed NRHP Historic Property in the Area of Potential Effects Pursuant to 36 CFR part 800? No

OES Approval/OSHPO Concurrence Date: 12/20/2023

Remarks:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (*Agreement No. 38503*) executed June 29, 2023, ODOT-OES has determined a finding of "no historic properties affected" is applicable to the subject project.

No cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the project.

What is the Section 106 effect determination in the OES Transmittal? No Historic Properties Affected

Potential consulting parties were contacted: No

Additional Party Name None

Documentation Date 04/15/2024

Participating No

Archaeological Resource Adverse Effect

History/Architecture Adverse Effect

Tribal Consultation

Since no Tribe was interested in this project based on their customized preferences, no further Tribal consultation was conducted



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Environmental Commitments

Are there any Environmental Commitments? No



Ecological

ESR

ESR Name:	ESR Type:	Coordination Complete Date:
ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty	Level 1	2/12/2024
ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday	Level 1	2/12/2024

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty	W-1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, and 1e	Adjacent	Category 2	9.3	0
	W-2	Isolated	Modified Category 2	0.007	0
	W-3	Adjacent	Category 2	4.92	0
	W-4	Adjacent	Modified Category 2	4.92	0
	W-5	Adjacent	Modified Category 2	0.008	0
	W-6	Isolated	Modified Category 2	0.018	0.018
	W-7	Isolated	Category 1	0.028	0

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

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.018

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0

Total acres of isolated wetlands impacted: 0.018

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 Safety Hazards.

It Would Not Correct Existing Condition and Maintenance Problems.

It Would Result in Serious Impacts to the Traveling Public and the General Welfare of the Economy in the Area.

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.

They Will Result in Unique Engineering, Traffic, Maintenance, or Safety Problems.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

The No Build alternative does not meet the project's Purpose & Need to provide a long-term solution designed to mitigate the impacts of severe Lake Erie coastal erosion along the roadway fore-slope to restore and preserve the structural integrity of SR 531 and ensure the continued safety of the traveling public between LaBounty Road and Monday Drive in the Village of North Kingsville and Ashtabula Twp., Ashtabula County, Ohio. The project footprint has been reduced to the maximum extent practicable. Implementation of additional measures to further reduce each impact footprint is not feasible or warranted based on the purpose and need of the project; the location of the aquatic resource relative to the project location; and the overall minor impacts of the project as currently designed.

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:

Wetland impact minimization efforts have and will be considered during design and construction of the project. See wetlands and other ecological resource impact information in ecological reports and agency coordination provided in the project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

Streams & Rivers

ESR Name:	Stream Name:	National or Scenic Rivers or NRI Streams:	Ohio EPA Aquatic Life Use Designation:	Antidegradation Designation:	Total Impact Length(ft.):
ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty	Whitmans Creek (S-1a and S-1b)	No	WWH	General High Quality Water	0



Total impact length (ft.) to perennial streams: 0

Total impact length (ft.) to intermittent streams: 0

Total impact length (ft.) to ephemeral streams: 0

Remarks:

No streams will be impacted by this project. Whitmans Creek will be avoided, ensuring no impacts occur to this water resource.

Other Surface Waters / Ditches

ESR Name:	Ditch Id:	Total Impact Area(ac.):
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Total impact to all ditches (ac): 0

Other Surface Waters / Other Water Bodies

ESR Name:	Water Body Id:	Hydrologic Connection:	Type:	Designated Function:	Total Impact
ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty	Lake Erie	Adjacent	Natural	Drinking Water Source	4.979
ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday	Lake Erie near Monday Drive	Adjacent	Natural	Drinking Water Source	0.939

Remarks:

Impacts to Lake Erie are necessary to construct the rock revetments to reduce the effects of shoreline erosion along SR-531 and to protect the integrity of the transportation facility. All impacts to Lake Erie will be coordinated and permitted through the agencies with jurisdiction.

Terrestrial Habitats

ESR Name:	Vegetative Communities and Land Cover found within the project study area:	Degree of man induced ecological disturbance:	Unique, rare, or high quality:	Within Project Study Area(s) (ac.):	Alternative Impacts (ac.):
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<p>ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty</p>	<p>Beach-Dune - BD - (Sand Beach or Dune Formed by an Existing Lake and Dominated by Characteristic Grasses and Forbs)</p>	<p>Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>2.386</p>	<p>1.59</p>
	<p>Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay) - Barren Areas of Bedrock, Slides, Sand Dunes, Strip Mines, Gravel Pits AND Other Accumulations of Earthen Material. Generally, Vegetation Accounts for Less Than 15% of Total Cover.</p>	<p>High Disturbance (Dominated by Widespread Taxa Not Typical of a Particular Community)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>5.823</p>	<p>3.928</p>
	<p>Developed, Low Intensity (DL) - Includes Areas with a Mixture of constructed Materials and Vegetation. Impervious Surfaces Account for 20-49% of Total Cover. These Areas Most Commonly Include Single-Family Housing Units.</p>	<p>High Disturbance (Dominated by Widespread Taxa Not Typical of a Particular Community)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>0.251</p>	<p>0</p>
	<p>Developed, Medium Intensity (DM) - Includes Areas with a Mixture of Constructed Materials and Vegetation. Impervious Surfaces Account for 50-79% of the Total Cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.</p>	<p>Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (Dominated by Opportunistic Invaders or Native Highly Tolerant Taxa)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4.218</p>	<p>2.690</p>
	<p>Floodplain Forest - FF- (Floodplain Dominated by Trees)</p>		<p>No</p>	<p>0.061</p>	<p>0</p>
	<p>Developed Open Space - DS - (Mown Right-of-Way, Large-Lot Single-Family Housing Units, Parks, Golf Courses, and Vegetation Planted in Developed Settings for Recreation, Erosion control, or Aesthetic Purposes)</p>	<p>Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (Dominated by Opportunistic Invaders or Native Highly Tolerant Taxa)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4.975</p>	<p>1.609</p>
	<p>Forested Swamp - FS - (Wetland Dominated by Trees)</p>		<p>No</p>	<p>1.401</p>	<p>0.018</p>



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	Marsh - MA - (Wetland Dominated by Submergent, Floating, and/or Emergent Vegetation)	Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)	No	0.203	0
	Open Water - All Areas of Open Water, Generally with Less Than 25% Cover of Vegetation or Soil.	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (Dominated by Opportunistic Invaders or Native Highly Tolerant Taxa)	No	5.448	2.363
	Shrub Swamp - SH - (Wetland Dominated by True Shrubs, and Young Trees in an Early Successional Stage)	Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)	No	0.176	0
	Upland Forest - UF - (Uplands Dominated by Trees)	Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)	No	22.521	8.462
ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay) - Barren Areas of Bedrock, Slides, Sand Dunes, Strip Mines, Gravel Pits AND Other Accumulations of Earthen Material. Generally, Vegetation Accounts for Less Than 15% of Total Cover.	High Disturbance (Dominated by Widespread Taxa Not Typical of a Particular Community)	No	2.003	1.619
	Developed, Medium Intensity (DM) - Includes Areas with a Mixture of Constructed Materials and Vegetation. Impervious Surfaces Account for 50-79% of the Total Cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (Dominated by Opportunistic Invaders or Native Highly Tolerant Taxa)	No	3.614	1.816
	Upland Forest - UF - (Uplands Dominated by Trees)	Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)	No	0.769	0.371
	Beach-Dune - BD - (Sand Beach or Dune Formed by an Existing Lake and Dominated by Characteristic Grasses and Forbs)	Intermediate Disturbance (Dominated by Plants that Typify a Stable Phase of a Native Community that Persists Under Some Disturbance)	No	0.532	0.368



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	Open Water - All Areas of Open Water, Generally with Less Than 25% Cover of Vegetation or Soil.	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (Dominated by Opportunistic Invaders or Native Highly Tolerant Taxa)	No	1.123	0.939
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Remarks:

No unique, rare, or high quality terrestrial habitats will be impacted by this project.

Threatened or Endangered Species / Federally Listed Species

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Indiana Bat	Myotis sodalis	Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project is not located within a USFWS bat buffer. Approximately 8.481 acres of impacts to suitable wooded habitat will occur from this project. This includes 5.59 acres within 100 feet of edge of pavement and 2.89 acres outside 100 feet of edge of pavement. There will be no impacts to SWH within 50' of a perennial stream but outside 100' of EOP. There will be 2.89 acres of impacts to SWH between 100' and 300' of EOP, and not located within 50' of a perennial stream.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project is not located within a USFWS bat buffer. There was no evidence of bats found during the site visit conducted on 11/1/2022. Approximately 0.77 acres of impacts to suitable wooded habitat will occur from this project. All impacted SWH is located within 100 feet of edge of pavement.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project is not located within a USFWS bat buffer. Approximately 8.481 acres of impacts to suitable wooded habitat will occur from this project. This includes 5.59 acres within 100 feet of edge of pavement and 2.89 acres outside 100 feet of edge of pavement. There will be no impacts to SWH within 50' of a perennial stream but outside 100' of EOP. There will be 2.89 acres of impacts to SWH between 100' and 300' of EOP, and not located within 50' of a perennial stream.



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ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project is not located within a USFWS bat buffer. There was no evidence of bats found during the site visit conducted on 11/1/2022. Approximately 0.77 acres of impacts to suitable wooded habitat will occur from this project. All impacted SWH is located within 100 feet of edge of pavement.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Species of Concern

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project is not located within a USFWS bald eagle nest buffer. No bald eagle nests were observed onsite and the Natural Heritage Database had no records of bald eagles within 1 mile of the study area. Therefore, no impacts to bald eagle nests are expected.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The study area is not located within a USFWS bald eagle nest buffer and no bald eagle nests were observed onsite. Therefore, no impacts to bald eagle nests are expected.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Clubshell	Pleurobema clava	Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

Whitmans Creek has a watershed of 7.87 square miles , as well as sand and gravel as its predominant substrate within the project area. However, it is not designated in the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol as a Group 2 or 4 stream and federally listed mussels are assumed to be absent. Project construction will not impact Whitman's Creek. The Clubshell is not known from Lake Erie. This project will not impact this species.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:



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No streams exist onsite, therefore, no impacts to clubshell habitat are expected.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project is not located within an Eastern Massasauga range polygon. 0.018 acres of wetland habitat will be permanently impacted . 0.670 acres of upland forest habitat will be impacted. Based on the project location, it is unlikely the Eastern Massasauga will be affected by this project.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project is not located within an Eastern Massasauga range polygon. No wetland habitat exists onsite.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Piping Plover	Charadrius melodus	Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project area includes impacts to sand and gravel beaches along Lake Erie. This habitat lacks the high, dry dunes preferred by the Piping Plover. The beaches are under the influence of Lake Erie wave action. This project will not impact this species.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The project area includes sand and gravel beaches along Lake Erie; however, these beaches lack the high, dry sections preferred by the Piping Plover. The project area does not include streams or wetlands. 0.368 acres of sand and gravel beach habitat is found in the project area. This area is under the influence of Lake Erie wave action. No upland dune nesting sites are found in the project area.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Round Hickorynut	Obovaria subrotunda	Threatened

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty



Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The Round Hickorynut is not known from Whitman's Creek or Lake Erie. Whitman's Creek will not be impacted by the proposed project. This project will not impact this species.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

No streams or rivers will be impacted by this project. The Round Hickorynut is not known from Lake Erie. This species will not be impacted by this project.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Rufa Red Knot	Calidris canutus rufa	Threatened

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project includes impacts so a narrow sand and gravel beaches which could be suitable migratory stopover habitat for the Rufa Red Knot. As the Rufa Red Knot would only be using the site as a temporary stopping point and can fly away if disturbed, this species will not be impacted by this project.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project includes sand and gravel beaches which are suitable migratory stopover habitat for the Rufa Red Knot. The project will not impact this species.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Snuffbox	Epioblasma triquetra	Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: No Effect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

The Snuffbox is not known from Whitman's Creek or Lake Erie. Whitman's Creek will not be impacted by the proposed project. This project will not impact this species.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: No Effect



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Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

No streams or rivers will be impacted by this project. The Snuffbox mussel is not known from Lake Erie. This species will not be impacted by this project.

Species Common Name:	Species Scientific Name:	Listing Status:
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Effect Determination: May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project will impact 8.841 acres of forest habitat. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 in order to protect these species during their summer roosting period.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Effect Determination: May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

This project will impact 0.77 a cres of forest habitat. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 in order to protect these species during their summer roosting period.

Threatened or Endangered Species / State Listed Species:

No state listed species or suitable habitats are impacted by this project location.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty

Species Common Name: Golden-fruited Sedge

Species Scientific Name: Carex aurea

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Small Fringed Gentian

Species Scientific Name: Gentianopsis procera

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact



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Species Common Name: Balsam Poplar

Species Scientific Name: *Populus balsamifera*

Listing Status: Threatened

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: Yes

Effect Determination: Yes

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

1.59 acres of Lake Erie beach will be impacted. No impacts to wet woods or riverbanks are planned. All planned impacts will occur north of OH-531. EnviroScience biologists surveyed areas of potential habitat north of OH-531 for balsam poplar on November 7, 2023. No balsam poplar was found within the survey area. Although the survey was performed outside the growing season, some individuals still had leaves. All examined seedlings had laterally compressed petioles indicative of eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). In addition to leaf characteristics, balsam poplar can be readily identified year-round by bud characteristics. Poplars examined during the survey were identified as quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and eastern cottonwood.

Species Common Name: Northern Poison-ivy

Species Scientific Name: *Toxicodendron rydbergii*

Listing Status: Endangered

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: Yes

Effect Determination: Yes

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

1.59 acres of beaches and 3.928 acres of Lake Erie bluff will be impacted. EnviroScience biologists surveyed all onsite areas of potential habitat for northern poison-ivy on November 7, 2023. No northern poison-ivy was found within the area surveyed. Although the survey was performed outside the growing season, northern poison-ivy can be identified outside the growing season by its shrubby, non-vining growth form and the absence of aerial roots. All poison-ivy examined during the survey was identified as eastern poison-ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Species Common Name: Little Brown Bat

Species Scientific Name: *Myotis lucifugus*

Listing Status: Endangered

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: Yes

Effect Determination: Yes

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

Based on field reconnaissance approximately 8.48 acres of wooded habitats are located within the construction limits. The area contained suitable habitat for summer roosting and foraging. The study area did not contain rock outcrops. This project should have no impact on this species if trees are cleared between October 1 through March 31. A review of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DOW), Natural Heritage Database (NHDB) Program did not identify any records for this species within a 1-mile radius of the project study area. See the NHDB review letter.

ESR Name: ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday

Species Common Name: Bebb's Sedge



Species Scientific Name: Carex bebbii

Listing Status: Potentially Threatened

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No

Species Common Name: Mitchell's Sedge

Species Scientific Name: Carex mitchelliana

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Wild Lupine

Species Scientific Name: Lupinus perennis

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Slender Willow

Species Scientific Name: Salix petiolaris

Listing Status: Threatened

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No

Species Common Name: Northern Poison-ivy

Species Scientific Name: Toxicodendron rydbergii

Listing Status: Endangered

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No

Species Common Name: Black-tipped Darner

Species Scientific Name: Aeshna tuberculifera

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species



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The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Southern Pygmy Clubtail

Species Scientific Name: Lanthus vernalis

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Lyre-tipped Spreadwing

Species Scientific Name: Lestes unguiculatus

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Hemlock-hardwood swamp plant community

Species Scientific Name: n/a

Listing Status: Not Provided - No impact to this species

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: No

Effect Determination: No Impact

Species Common Name: Little Brown Bat

Species Scientific Name: Myotis lucifugus

Listing Status: Endangered

The species or its suitable habitat will be impacted by this project: Yes

Effect Determination: Yes

Discussion Including impacts to Suitable Habitat:

Based on field reconnaissance approximately 0.77 acre of wooded habitat is located within the construction limits. The area contained suitable habitat for summer roosting and foraging. The study area did not contain rock outcrops. This project should have no impact on this species if trees are cleared between October 1 through March 31. A review of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DOW), Natural Heritage Database (NHDB) Program did not identify any records for this species within a 1-mile radius of the project study area. See the NHDB review letter.



Remarks:

A colony of bank swallows is nesting within the eroded bluffs near Whitman Creek. Bank swallows are known to nest in holes in eroding banks along waterways. In recent years, bank swallow nests at this location have been destroyed as the bluff adjacent to SR 531 erodes. The displaced birds nested in the remaining habitat. While the nests will be impacted by the project, construction will occur outside the nesting period of the bank swallow, to ensure the individual birds are not present during construction. Suitable nesting habitat is abundant along the Lake Erie shoreline, and any displaced bank swallows will likely be able to re-establish in the bluffs in future nesting seasons.

Agency Coordination

Project Coordination:

Project locations for which no agencies are listed are considered ecologically exempt or non-notifying.

The ODNR and USFWS conditions outlined in the Ecological MOA apply to all projects that are not considered ecologically exempt. These conditions have been evaluated for the project locations listed below.

ESR Name:	Agency:	Submitted for Coordination Date:	Coordination Complete Date:	Were project specific comments received?
ATB SR0531-13.20 LaBounty	ODNR	1/19/2024	01/19/2024	Yes
	OEPA	1/19/2024	02/12/2024	No
	USACE	1/19/2024	02/12/2024	No
	USFWS	1/19/2024	02/05/2024	No
ATB SR0531-13.20 Monday	ODNR	1/5/2024	01/19/2024	Yes
	OEPA	1/19/2024	02/12/2024	No
	USACE	1/19/2024	02/12/2024	No
	USFWS	1/5/2024	01/29/2024	Yes

Additional Coordination Considerations:

Are other ecological coordination requirements applicable?: Yes

Details regarding the additional coordination efforts are provided in the Remarks box below.

National scenic river: No

State scenic river: No

Individual Coastal Consistency: No

Jurisdictional Determination: No

Project specific Biological Assessment Verification: No



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Mussel survey:

Yes

Other:

No

Remarks:

Regarding a mussel survey, the following environmental commitment was added to the project: Hire a State permitted malacologist to complete a mussel salvage and relocation in accordance with the most recent version of the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol prior to the initiation of construction activities below the ordinary high water mark of Lake Erie. The mussel survey must occur after May 1 and before October 1 either within the same season as the instream work or the season prior to the instream work. Submit the results of the mussel survey, salvage work, or both to the ODOT District Environmental Coordinator via email to Robert.Lang@dot.ohio.gov. Obtain approval from the Department prior to performing work below ordinary high water mark of Lake Erie.

Are there any environmental commitments? Yes



Other Resources

Farmlands

The proposed project is located within an Urbanized Area	No
The proposed project is located within a Non-Urbanized Area	Yes
The proposed project involves new permanent right-of-way (ROW)	Yes
The proposed project involves temporary ROW	No
The proposed project is a type of action listed below and meets allowable ROW thresholds: Bridge replacement requiring ROW of three (3) acres or less to accommodate bridge piers, wingwalls, and/or approach work Widening requiring linear strip ROW of 10 acres or less per linear mile Intersection improvement requiring ROW of three (3) acres or less	No
Undeveloped land being used for construction purposes is protected by a conservation easement	No
Completion of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (FCIR) Form and subsequent coordination with OES and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is required to determine if land to be acquired is subject to the FPPA.	

OES Concurrence Date 04/10/2024

NRCS Approval Date 04/10/2024

Land being used for the proposed project is part of an Agricultural District No

FCIR Required Completion of the Farmland Conversion Impact Form is required and coordination with
USDA & NRCS is required.

Remarks:

The proposed project will acquire approximately 26-acres of permanent right-of-way. The amount of right-of-way needed exceeds established criteria of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Ohio Department of Transportation for Projects Involving Farmlands (Agreement No. 19552), executed on March 15, 2016. Therefore, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (FCIR) Form was completed to determine if land to be acquired was prime or unique farmland and/or was considered to be statewide and local important farmland. The site assessment completed for the proposed project totaled 119 points out of a possible total score of 260 points. Based on the assessment score being below 160, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) determined proposed impacts are not considered significant and do not require mitigation. No further coordination is required and the proposed project is in accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 and the implementing regulations at 7 CFR 658. See the farmlands documentation for the project in the Project File/Other Resources/Farmlands subsection.

Are there any environmental commitments? No

Drinking Water

The proposed project is wholly or partially located within the USEPA designated boundaries
of a Sole Source Aquifer No



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	Present:	Impacted:
The proposed project is wholly or partially located within the OEPA designated boundaries of a Source Water Protection Area	Yes	No

Specify Source Water Protection Area

Wellhead Protection Area: No

Emergency Management Zone: No

Bellevue Castalia Karst Plain: No

Lake Erie: Yes

Ohio River: No

Other: No

Coordination with the Local Public Water Administrator is required No

	Present:	Impacted:
Residential Wells are present	No	

Remarks:

The Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters mapping tool was used to identify the presence of drinking water resources within the project study area. The map indicates that the only source water protection area near the project is Lake Erie. The Drinking Water Source Protection Area (DWSPA) for a public water system with a Lake Erie intake could be comparable to the area of the Critical Assessment Zone and Potential Influence Zone. However, due to nature of ODOT projects and the probability of a project affecting the water at an intake, the Lake Erie protection zones are generally viewed as supplementary drinking water resource information only. This project is not located in proximity of a Lake Erie drinking water intake. Moreover, there are no recorded drinking water wells within the project limits, per the ODNR Drinking Water Well logs and mapping. Therefore, the project will not impact known drinking water resources.

See the drinking water documentation for the project in the Project File/Other Resources/Drinking Water subsection.

Are there any environmental commitments? No



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Section 4(f)

Section 4(f) Determination

Section 4(f) properties are within and/or adjacent to the proposed project area

No

Identified Section 4(f) Properties

Remarks:

Based on review of available mapping and a field review conducted by consultant environmental personnel, Section 4(f) properties are not located within or adjacent to the proposed project areas.

Are there any environmental commitments? No



Section 6(f)

Section 6(f) Determination

Section 6(f) Determination

	Present:	Impacted:
6(f) Properties:	No	

Remarks:

Based on review of a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Listing Summary Report for Ashtabula County, Section 6(f) properties are not located within or adjacent to the proposed project areas. See the LWCF documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 6(f)/Project Information subsection.

Are there any environmental commitments? No



Community Impacts

Community Impacts

Will the proposed action comply with the local/regional development patterns for the area? Yes

Remarks:

The properties north of SR-531 are zoned industrial, agricultural and residential. The residential properties are threatened by the continued erosion of the Lake Erie shoreline. This project plans to mitigate the effects of shoreline erosion and preserve roadway to provide access to SR-531 to the traveling public. Additionally, this project will slow the rate of shoreline erosion that will benefit the nearby residential properties.

SR-531 connects the cities of Conneaut and Ashtabula. This route provides access to local businesses and community parks located along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Will the proposed action result in substantial negative impacts to community cohesion? No

Remarks:

The proposed project will not create any division of communities or neighborhoods. No negative community impacts will occur with the project. The proposed project will not conflict with any local and/or regional development patterns and will not result in negative impact to the local tax base or affect adjacent property values. The proposed project is aimed at preserving the roadway that will maintain connections between North Kingsville and neighboring communities. Therefore, the construction of this proposed project will likely have a positive impact on the community.

Will the proposed action result in indirect or cumulative impacts? No

Remarks:

The project will not result in indirect or cumulative impacts. The preservation of SR-531 is desired by the community and keeping the existing transportation infrastructure supports the county's goal to improve access to Conneaut and the lakeshore.

Will the proposed action result in substantial impacts on health and educational facilities, public utilities, fire, police, emergency services, religious institutions, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle facilities? No

Remarks:

The project will not have any significant impacts to health and educational facilities, public utilities, fire, police, emergency services, religious institutions, public transportation, pedestrians and bicycle facilities. The preservation of SR-531 will benefit public and emergency service providers.

Will the proposed action displace residents, businesses, institutions or farms? No

Remarks:

The project will result in the removal of a residential structure located at 2995 Lake Road. The house is currently used as a summer home by the owner and is in peril of collapsing into the shoreline. The parcel will be used for construction of rock revetments to repair coastal erosion and necessary grading upslope of the proposed rock revetments will compromise the existing structure. The project will not result in the displacement of residents, businesses, institutions, or farms.



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Will the proposed project result in impacts to Underrepresented Populations (Limited English Proficiency, Older Adults, or Adults with Disabilities) raised during Public Involvement?

No

Remarks:

The project will not result in impacts to underrepresented populations and no public comments were raised regarding community or underrepresented population impacts.

Are there any Environmental Commitments? No



Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice

Identified Environmental Justice Populations

Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income
390070003001	5	31
390070002004	11	16

Are Environmental Justice Populations located within and/or adjacent to the proposed project area? Yes

Are there any relocations? No

Will there be changes to access? No

Will the proposed project result in unanticipated additional impacts to any Environmental Justice Populations? No

Were any concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice Populations or any other unique factors that could result in a disproportionately high and adverse effect raised during public involvement? No

Remarks:

Approximately 26 acres of permanent right-of-way will be acquired from five (5) properties and one residential structure in the Monday Drive vicinity will be razed to construct the project. However, no residential and/or business displacement will occur with the project and the project will not result in any relocation. 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. 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 and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required.

This proposed project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on Environmental Justice populations. It will have positive impacts for these populations by preserving the transportation facility. Based on the above findings an Environmental Justice Analysis Report is not required.

Census mapping is saved in the Project File/Environmental Justice/Project Information subsection.

Are there any Environmental Commitments? No



Public Involvement

Public Involvement

Please provide a summary of the Public Involvement activities that have been conducted for this project. (For example press releases, letters to affected property owners and residents, meetings, special purpose meetings, newspaper articles, etc)

ODOT involved the public and sought input from stakeholders through public mailings, website postings, news releases, and a virtual public meeting.

- ODOT posted information requesting public comments to the ODOT website and the NextDoor public community webpage
- On February 1, 2024, a news article was released on the Yahoo News website
- Project information was posted to the North Kingsville Public Library website
- A virtual open house public meeting was posted from February 1, 2024 - February 29, 2024

Public Meeting

An in-person open house public meeting was considered, but stakeholders recommended a virtual public meeting with no in-person component.

ODOT prepared and posted a virtual open house public meeting via PublicInput.com/SR531Erosion. The purpose of the meeting was to notify the public about the purpose and need for the project, to seek public input and to identify environmental resources within the project area. Mailings were sent to property owners and stakeholders to notify them about the meeting.

See the public involvement documentation for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Is there any substantial environmental controversy on environmental grounds?

No

Please summarize the Public Involvement responses received.

The public comment period was from February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024. Six public comments were received during the comment period. The comments provided support for the proposed project, emphasized the need to mitigate the effects of shoreline erosion, emphasized the need to expedite the process, and expressed concern for the future of the roadway and adjacent shoreline. Commenters also inquired about how the alternative was chosen and if a cost analysis was performed for the proposed improvements.

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

Are there any Environmental Commitments? No



Permits

Waterway Permits

Are Waterway Permits required?	Yes
Is the Waterway Permits Determination Complete?	Yes
Army Corps of Engineers	
Regional General Permit (RGP):	No
Nationwide Permit (NWP):	No
Section 404 Individual Permit:	Yes
Section 10 Permit:	No
Ohio EPA	
Section 401 Water Quality Certification:	Yes
Level 1 General Isolated Wetland Permit:	No
Level 2 Individual Isolated Wetland Permit:	No
Level 3 individual Isolated Wetland Permit:	No
US Coast Guard	
Section 9 Coordination:	Yes
Section 9 Bridge Permit:	No
ODNR	
Shore Structure Permit :	Yes

Remarks:

Based upon the ODOT-OES Permit Determination, dated April 5, 2024, the project will require the following waterway permits:

- USACE Individual 404 Permit
- Ohio EPA Individual 401 Water Quality Certification
- USCG Coordination
- ODNR Shore Structure Permit

All waterway permits will be acquired by ODOT prior to commencing in-water construction activities.

Are there any environmental commitments? Yes

Storm Water Permits



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NPDES Construction General Permit for Stormwater (NOI): Yes

Watershed Specific NPDES Construction General Permit for Stormwater (NOI): No

Remarks:

The proposed project will result in greater than 1 acre of earth-disturbing construction activities, so a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be submitted for this project requesting coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for storm water discharges from Ohio EPA.

Are there any environmental commitments? Yes

Floodplains

The proposed project involves encroachment within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Yes

EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed No

NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date 04/15/2024

Remarks:

ODOT will coordinate with the local floodplain administrator prior to commencing construction activities within the floodplain of Lake Erie.

Are there any environmental commitments? Yes



Environmental Commitments

Ecological

- 1) Hire a State permitted malacologist to complete a mussel salvage and relocation in accordance with the most recent version of the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol prior to the initiation of construction activities below the ordinary high water mark of Lake Erie. The mussel survey must occur after May 1 and before October 1 either within the same season as the instream work or the season prior to the instream work. Submit the results of the mussel survey, salvage work, or both to the ODOT District Environmental Coordinator via email to Robert.Lang@dot.ohio.gov. Obtain approval from the Department prior to performing work below ordinary high water mark of Lake Erie.
- 2) **BAT TREE CUTTING RESTRICTION:** 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.
- 3) Ecological studies identified bank swallow nests in the bluffs near Whitman's Creek. A plan note with restrictions and protections will be developed and implemented in construction to protect bank swallows and their nests.

Permits - Waterway Permits

- 1) ODOT will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all conditions will be noted under Special Provisions in the plans and adhered to during construction.

Permits - Storm Water Permits

- 1) ODOT will obtain an NPDES Construction General Permit prior to construction.

Permits - Floodplains

- 1) The following note shall be incorporated into the plans: THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN A FEMA FLOOD ZONE AND THE PROJECT DESIGNER SHALL ENSURE THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS. APPROPRIATE FLOODPLAIN PERMITTING SHALL BE OBTAINED BY ODOT PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.



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Preparers and Approvals

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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	5/31/2024



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

RMR

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

SHPO Comments

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

Tribal Consultation

Ecological

Level 1 ESR Appendices_ATB-531-13.20_Monday_Drive.pdf

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS Concurrence

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

FCIR Form.pdf

NRCS Approval.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Well Log Data.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

News Article - Yahoo News.pdf

North Kingsville Library Website Posting Snapshot.pdf



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ODOT Project Website Snapshot.pdf

Presic Involvement - Star Beacon E-Paper Snapshot.pdf

Press Release Confirmation Email.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Related ODOT Decision - Public Involvement.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Property Owner Notification Mailing List.pdf

Public Comment Form Exhibit.pdf

Public Comments and Responses - Public Input Website Report.pdf

Public Involvement - NextDoor Social Media Announcement.pdf

Public Involvement - Public Input Website Snapshot.pdf

Public Meeting Presentation Exhibit.pdf

Stakeholder Contact List.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf