



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

ATB SR 0011 22.16 PID 84625

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 8/2/2023

Prepared By: District 4

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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: 84625
Project Sponsor: DISTRICT 4-MAINTENANCE
ODOT District: 4
Funding Source: Federal

Project Description:

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes roadway and structure improvements along 6.88 miles of State Route (SR) 11 from Straight Line Mile (SLM) 22.16 at SR 46 to SLM 29.04 at SR 531 in the city of Ashtabula and Ashtabula and Plymouth Townships. SR 11 in the project area is an interstate-like highway with two lanes in each direction, a grassy median, grassy outside slopes and interchange ramps. Proposed roadway improvements include pavement planing/repairs/resurfacing, shoulder grading, catch basin repairs/replacements, sign replacements, rumble strip installation and pavement markings applications. Proposed improvements to structures include minor maintenance to 17 bridges and 1 culvert. See the bridge/culvert information and the proposed bridge maintenance activities for each bridge in the Proposed Work Table on Structure General Notes Plan Sheet P.21 of the final plans for the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection. Note: proposed maintenance on the ATB-531-9.17 lift bridge over the Ashtabula River was coordinated under ATB-531-9.17, PID 89190 and later added to the plans for PID 84625.

Mapping that depicts the project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf. A minimum of one 10-foot lane of traffic in each direction on SR 11 shall be maintained on the existing pavement or completed pavement during project construction. Closures of up to three nights on ramps are needed for paving on ramps in the SR 11/I-90 interchange, SR 11/Seven Hills Road interchange and the SR 11/US 20 interchange. Construction, lane restriction/reduction and road/ramp closure/detour information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction and this information will be updated/posted prior to each change in construction phase/travel pattern during project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction. Based on the project scope of work and the proposed maintenance of traffic measures, emergency/public services contact activities were not conducted for project stakeholders. However, local elected officials were notified of the project by email. See Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

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.

With the exception of the proposed structure maintenance activities at ATB-11-24.88 and ATB-11-28.39, other proposed construction activities are considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). The proposed culvert maintenance activities and bridge maintenance at ATB-11-24.88 and ATB-11-28.39 will result in a total approximately 102 linear feet of stream impacts from the installation of rock channel protection and dewatering to install spray applied structural liner or invert paving. An assessment of impacts to ecological resources for the proposed culvert maintenance activities and bridge maintenance at ATB-11-24.88 and ATB-11-28.39 are described in two non-notifying Level 1 Ecological Survey Reports. A total of approximately 0.31 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Federally-listed Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat and the State-listed Little Brown Bat and Tri-colored Bat will also be removed to construct the project. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection and the Ecological tab.

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

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

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



Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	
CO	84625: 24-27 STIP
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.)**

(28) Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e). **Examples include: Railroad projects that close or relocate at-grade crossings**

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: Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required

Waterways Permit Type: Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending

Isolated Wetland Permit No

Will any wetlands be impacted? No

Endangered Species: Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect

Endangered Species - Coordination May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Endangered Species - Coordination Date 01/26/2023

Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted

Indiana bat

Northern long-eared bat

Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted: Yes

Endangered Species - Other Description: Tricolored bat

Scenic Rivers The project is within 1000 feet of a National Wild or Scenic River, but no impacts will occur to the river or its tributaries.

Scenic Rivers Remarks

The Ashtabula River in the project limits is a State Scenic River. The project was coordinated with the ODNR Scenic River Coordinator using the Scenic River Field Review (SRFR) form. No comments were provided by the ODNR Scenic River Coordinator. See the ODNR Scenic River coordination for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Coordination subsection.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain: Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use

EO 11988 Compliance Met Yes



NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed

Yes

NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:

07/05/2023

Floodplain Remarks

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study areas and found some of the proposed construction activities are located within a designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone A floodplain at the Ashtabula River. However, the proposed construction activities are considered maintenance and, therefore, are exempt from the normal permit process required for work encroaching on a SFHA. See the floodplain mapping and documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f):

Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required

Section 4(f) Determination:

Temporary No Use Exception - 774.13(d)

Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(d)

06/09/2023

Section 4(f) Remarks

The twin high-level bridges (ATB-11-2515L/R) over the Ashtabula River and Indian Trails Park operated by the Ashtabula Township Park Commission will be maintained by patching the bridge surface and other concrete surfaces, sealing of the concrete, and cleaning out the scupper drain. Woody vegetation will be cut within 15 feet of the bridge inside the right-of-way. The contractor is expected to perform the construction activities from above on the bridges and by accessing the bridge piers from underneath on the ground in Indian Trails Park. They may use a man lift or similar item to access the bridges and perform concrete patching and sealing on the bridge piers using ladders, scaffolding, and similar equipment. The contractor would access the bridges by using an asphalt-paved trail signed as "primitive walking trail" below the bridges in Indian Trails Park. Trail traffic will be maintained with trail user warning signs while the bridge maintenance is performed. ODOT completed Section 4(f) coordination with the Ashtabula Township Park Commission as the Official with Jurisdiction. The measures to minimize harm have been incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments.

The State Scenic Ashtabula River flows through Indian Trails Park under the twin high-level bridges. A review of ODNR Boater Access & Amenities mapping indicates that approximately 2,400 feet upstream of the bridge is a padding access point to the Ashtabula River in Indian Trails Park. Project construction activities will have no impact to the State Scenic Ashtabula River and no restrictions to boaters or any padding access points. See the Section 4(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Coordination subsection.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f):

Not present



Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources:

Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect

Cultural Resources Coordination:

Minimum Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix A

Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date

07/03/2023

Cultural Resources Remarks

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff using the SHPO GIS online database. No Cultural Resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were identified within and/or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. The undertaking is a type that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT determined the project is a type of undertaking that has 'minimal potential to cause effects' to historic properties and is not a part of a larger undertaking. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Air Remarks

Not applicable to the project.

Noise Remarks

Not applicable to the project.

The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA 513 Landfill Authorization: No

Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:

07/03/2023

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



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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
390070012001	1	26
390070011023	10	32
390070007044	4	31
390070005002	3	59
390070005004	9	33
390070003002	15	20
390070003001	5	31
390070005001	18	40
390070004002	7	50
390070004001	11	74

Environmental Justice Remarks

The proposed project will have no changes to access or relocations and no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations. 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, 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

Local elected officials were notified of the project by email; see Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The Project Designer will add notes with the following information to protect recreational assets:

- Access to Indian Trails Park shall be maintained at all times, except for the time needed to temporarily occupy the property, which shall be less than the time needed for construction of the project.
- Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of Indian Trails Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points.
- The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule involving Indian Trails Park with ODOT and the Ashtabula Township Park Commission, as appropriate.
- Canoe traffic on the Ashtabula River shall be maintained throughout construction of the project either through existing river channel or through portage trail approved by the Engineer.
- A plan note alerting the Contractor for the possible presence of boating traffic and requiring the Contractor to be alert to boaters and accommodate safe travel through the project area will be included in the plans.

2) The Project Designer will add the following notes to the plans as Scenic River protections:

The contractor shall not discharge toxic or hazardous materials such as sealants, paint, solvents, cleaning agents, earthen materials, waste-water, fuels or debris of any kind to a scenic river, its tributaries, or drainage ways. If refueling of immobile equipment is necessary within the floodplain or near any tributary drainage ways, ditches, or stream, the contractor shall provide secondary containment with enough capacity to completely contain and collect all potential liquid wastes in the event of a spill.

Any and all construction debris, earthen debris, excess asphalt or concrete, wood debris from clearing, excess fill material, and trash should be disposed of at an approved upland site or land fill above FEMA 100-year flood elevations. Disposal of any such materials within 1000 feet of the Ashtabula River is prohibited.

In accordance with ORC 3750.06, reportable spills must be reported to the local fire department (911), the local emergency coordinator (440-576-9148) and the Ohio spill line (1-800-282-9378).

The contractor shall keep all idle equipment, fuels, lubricants, and any storage for/of potentially toxic or hazardous materials out of the FEMA designated special flood hazard area and not within 1000 feet of the Ashtabula River.

The contractor shall notify the project engineer 40 days prior to work within 1000 feet of the Ashtabula River. The project engineer shall notify the district environmental coordinator 30 days prior to work within 1000 feet of the scenic river. The District Environmental Coordinator shall coordinate with ODNR scenic rivers a minimum of 15 days prior to any work within 1000 feet of the Ashtabula River.

When cutting and clearing of any vegetation within 1000 feet of the Ashtabula River, the contractor shall limit the amount of vegetation being cleared to the absolute minimum necessary to accomplish the goal of the project. Vertical pruning of trees is permitted if any overhanging limbs cause a safety hazard or obstruct view. The contractor shall not use a flail mower for vertical pruning. The contractor must avoid girdling or scuffing tree trunks.



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3) The Project Designer will add the following note to the plans for bats: The project is located within the known habitat ranges of the federally listed and protected Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The contractor shall not remove trees under this project 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.

4) The Project Designer will add this note to the plans to avoid stream impacts as follows: Under no circumstances shall the contractor impact the Ashtabula River. No excavation, grading or filling operations shall be performed in the Ashtabula River. Under no circumstances shall the contractor store or operate construction equipment and/or materials in the Ashtabula River. If debris enters the waterway during construction, the contractor shall remove the debris immediately utilizing equipment staged above the ordinary high water mark.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer

District 4
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Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Mark Andrasik
Robert Lang

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	8/2/2023



Appendix

General

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

ODNR Scenic Rivers Correspondence.pdf

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Public Involvement

Response to Stakeholder Comments.pdf

Stakeholder Notification.pdf

Permits

Correspondence with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

District Determination - No Floodplain Impacts.pdf