



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

STA CR 119 (Robertsville Ave) PID 114325

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 11/21/2023

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The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.

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Project Information

PID:	114325
Project Sponsor:	STARK COUNTY ENGINEER
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Project Description:	



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The Stark County Engineer's Office (SCEO), in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), is proposing this overhead railroad bridge structure removal project in Paris Township, Stark County, Ohio. The existing structure, Structure File Number (SFN) 7633971, is a 42-foot single span concrete arch bridge built in 1926 that is now considered structurally deficient based on recent inspection. Construction activities include removing all of the existing railroad structure (concrete arch, headwall and wingwalls) and the associated earth for the abandoned railroad line to provide adequate sight distance for the roadway. Additionally, the remaining embankment on the west side of the roadway (after the removal of the bridge) and across Black Run (just west of the roadway) will be removed/regraded to accommodate the movement of farming equipment.

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 proposed work will require closure of Robertsville Avenue for a period not to exceed 120 consecutive days. Project work may be performed before and after the closure duration. A detour route will be posted utilizing Lisbon Street to Paris Avenue to Baywood Street to Lincoln Street. Construction, lane restriction, roadway closure and detour information will be posted prior to the start of project construction. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties for the duration of project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

Temporary right-of-way will be required to construct the project. The project will acquire 1.111 acres of temporary right-of-way from one parcel. No permanent right-of-way acquisition is required for the project. See the right-of-way plans for the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection.

Minor relocations of existing utilities within the project study area will be necessary to construct the project, specifically a Telecom aerial line along the west side of the roadway may be relocated during project construction. Coordination with the utility companies affected by the proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.

While one stream, Black Run, and one wetland, Wetland A, are present within the project study area, the SCEO confirmed on 08/02/2023 that those resources shall be avoided during project construction. The project proposes to permanently impact approximately 0.92-acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the federally-listed Indiana, Northern Long-eared and Tricolored bat species, and the state-listed Little Brown bat. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species. 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 Stage 3 Design plans and preliminary right-of-way plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 3 Design plans and the preliminary right-of-way plans for the project are included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 3 Design.pdf* and *Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf*.

The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis is 34.14% greater than the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). However, fiscal constraint is at the Statewide Line Item (SLI) Group level. Therefore, an individual project utilizing a SLI does not require a STIP/TIP amendment.

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

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	On Previous STIP
CO	114325: 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:

(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

08/21/2023

Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted

Indiana bat

Northern long-eared bat

Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:

Yes

Endangered Species - Other Description:

The project also proposes to remove approximately 0.92-acre of SWH for the Tricolored bat.

Scenic Rivers

No National Wild and Scenic River
Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed
Project Area

Scenic Rivers Remarks

National-listed or state-listed wild and scenic rivers are not present within 1,000 feet of the project limits.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain:

No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

The project is located adjacent to a special flood hazard area; Zone A floodplain associated with Black Run. The proposed construction limits are not located within the floodplain; therefore, the SCEO determined on 08/02/2023, that no floodplain coordination would be required for work associated with this project. See the floodplains documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f):

Not present

Section 4(f) Remarks

A review of maps and property ownership did not identify any Section 4(f) properties within proximity to the project construction limits. The project will not impact any Section 4(f) resources.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f):

Not present

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources:

Present; No Finding of Adverse
Effect



Cultural Resources Coordination:

Minimum Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix B

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

07/19/2023

Cultural Resources Remarks

The undertaking is limited to the removal of a railroad overpass bridge in rural Paris Township, Stark County which is located in the southeast line over Robertsville Road. The work will partially remove a section of railroad embankment. All construction activities will focus on the existing line which has not been disturbed by the former transportation corridor. No permanent right-of-way acquisition is anticipated. Furthermore, no buildings will be impacted.

The literature search concluded there are no inventoried buildings (OHI), no known archaeological sites (OAI), and no listed or eligible historic properties. A Type 111N Concrete Arch structure built in 1926. This bridge was previously inventoried as an architectural resource (OHI # STA-2238-20). This structure is listed in the National Register based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The removal of a non-historic bridge is an activity which is not listed in 38503, as long as the project is not within the boundaries of any historic property or National Register district.

In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on June 29, 2023 (Agreement No. 2023-001) for this undertaking that has 'minimal potential to cause effects' to historic properties and is not a part of a larger undertaking.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Farmland

Air Remarks

The project will not impact air quality. Air quality studies or coordination are not required for this project.

Noise Remarks

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.

**The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA
513 Landfill Authorization:**

Yes - Screening

Regulated Materials Review Screening:

No Further Regulated Materials Review

Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date:

08/17/2023

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:



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Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening Form completed for the project and additional information, ODOT OES decided 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/Coordination and Reports subsections.

Farmland:

Non-Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU, 7 CFR 658, and ORC 929.05

Environmental Justice

Projects that meet C2 criteria must be in accordance with ODOT's EJ Guidance and activities conducted for Public Involvement are commensurate to the project's type and scope of work.

Environmental Justice Populations

Present; No EJAR Required, Does Not Exceed EJ Guidance Criteria, and No Issues Raised During Public Involvement

Identified Environmental Justice Populations

Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income
391517130001	1	40

Environmental Justice Remarks

The project will remove all existing railroad structures (concrete arch, headwall, and wingwalls) and the associated earth for the abandoned railroad line located over CR 119 (Robertsville Ave) in Paris Township, Stark County, Ohio. No changes in access will occur other than a temporary detour route during construction.

A review of the ODOT Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) indicated Environmental Justice (EJ) populations within the proposed project area, including Minority and Low Income populations. No businesses or residences will be acquired or relocated as part of the project. The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations based upon the table above and the attached mapping. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice 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.

Based on the above findings an Environmental Justice Analysis Report is not required for the project.

See the Census Mapping 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



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The SCEO and consultant staff conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including mailing property owner notification letters to adjacent property owners, project notification to stakeholders and EMS providers, and a Press Release with project information that was posted on the Stark County Engineer's website. Public comments were requested with all public involvement activities performed for the project. No comments related to this public outreach were received. See the public involvement documentation for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans. **ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT - INDIANA BAT/NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT:** THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE KNOWN HABITAT RANGES OF THE FEDERALLY LISTED AND PROTECTED INDIANA BAT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. NO TREES SHALL BE REMOVED TO CONSTRUCT THE 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.

2) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans. **BLACK RUN AND WETLAND A AVOIDANCE - BLACK RUN AND ONE WETLAND, WETLAND A,** LOCATED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA SHALL BE AVOIDED DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE CONTRACTOR STORE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND/OR MATERIALS IN BLACK RUN AND WETLAND A.



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Preparers and Approvals

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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck
Joshua Sturges
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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	11/21/2023



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

Local Public and Emergency Services Notification.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Notification Letter.pdf

Project Related Email - No Public Comments Received.pdf

Right of Entry Letters - Survey.pdf

Website Snapshot 9-1-2023.pdf

Permits

Coordination with SCEO - Possible Flood Plain Encroachment.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf

Project Related SCEO Decision - Floodplains.pdf