



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace PID 119090

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 5/17/2024

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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.

Table of Contents

C2.....	3
Environmental Commitments.....	10
Preparers and Approvals.....	11
Appendix.....	13



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119090 CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace
Approved: 5/17/2024

C2

Project Information

PID:	119090
Project Sponsor:	CUYAHOGA COUNTY ENGINEER
ODOT District:	12
Funding Source:	Federal

C2 Section

Project Description:



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119090 CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace

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The undertaking is limited to the replacement of a concrete T-beam bridge in the community of Independence, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The bridge carries Schaaf Road over West Creek located 6.5 miles south-southeast of downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Minor approach work may be needed but the new bridge will be placed on the existing line and grade. Proposed work will focus on the existing operational right-of-way. However, minor strip right-of-way will be needed from along the stream channel to install and protect the new bridge abutments and wingwalls. The project area has been disturbed by previous roadway construction. The existing bridge is found within a broad, highly disturbed modern industrial setting. The project will not involve any buildings and no relocations will be required.

The project will require temporary easements (0.462 acre) and permanent right-of-way (0.035 acre). The bridge will be closed during construction, and access to properties and adjacent streets will be maintained at all times during construction via a detour route. Some impact to utilities are expected, including relocation of utility poles, a water line and a gas line. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in Spring 2025 and will last approximately nine months.

The County has engaged property owners and businesses within the project area during the NEPA process to solicit comments or concerns. No concerns have been expressed to the County regarding the environmental resources or impacts of the project. Public involvement activities included project notification letters and a press release. All public involvement materials and documentation have been uploaded to the Project File tab under Public Involvement. No comments were received during the public involvement period.

Ecological investigations identified no wetlands and one stream, West Creek, within the proposed project construction limits. Approximately 140 ft of temporary and permanent stream impacts are expected from the proposed bridge replacement work. There will be minor tree clearing (0.09 acre) along the banks of West Creek. Small amounts of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Federally listed Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and proposed endangered Tricolor Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) will be impacted along the banks of West Creek for the proposed bridge work. No other known populations of other federally listed species, state listed species or Unionid mussels will be impacted by the project. See the ecological documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Coordination and Reports subsections. An environmental commitment has been added requiring the Cuyahoga County of Public Works to secure all necessary waterway permits prior to beginning construction. No impacts to the project from hazardous substances is anticipated based on the information from the RMR screening report.

The project is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area Zone AE. The project engineers initiated floodplain coordination with the local administrator. A No-Rise Certification for the Base Flood Elevation (LD-50) has been received and is located in the project file. A letter of compliance to all federal, state, and local floodplain standards (LD-51) was submitted to the City of Independence for approval. A floodplain permit for the project was issued on 5/2/2024. A copy of the floodplain permit is in the Project File/General/Permit/Floodplain subsection.

Construction Cost Estimate: \$2,347,000.00 80% federal/ 20% local funding

Approval and preparation of this document was done in accordance with the most current approved and adopted guidance per the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Services. All environmental documentation has been reviewed relative to the most recently available plans (Stage 2/3) at the time of this approval. A copy of the Stage 2/3 plans are in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection.

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

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	119090: 24-27 STIP

The current cost estimate is in line with existing federal procedures for Ohio STIP Amendments and Administration Modifications: Yes

Select the appropriate project type:

(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	02/22/2024
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	

Other



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119090 CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace
Approved: 5/17/2024

Indiana bat

Northern long-eared bat

Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted: Yes

Endangered Species - Other Description:

Tricolor Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) SWH (0.09 acre) will be impacted along the banks of West Creek.

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

There is no National Wild and Scenic River within 1000 feet of the proposed project area. Impacts are not anticipated.

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: 05/02/2024

Floodplain Remarks

The project is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area Zone AE. The project engineers initiated floodplain coordination with the local administrator. A No-Rice Certification for the Base Flood Elevation (LD-50) has been received and is located in the project file. A letter of compliance to all federal, state, and local floodplain standards (LD-51) was submitted to the City of Independence for approval. A floodplain permit for the project was issued on 5/2/2024. A copy of the floodplain permit and affiliated documentation is in the Project File/General/Permit/Floodplain subsection.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f): Not present

Section 4(f) Remarks

There are no Section 4(f) properties (publicly owned park and recreation areas that are open to the general public, publicly owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public or privately owned historic sites) located in the project area. Impacts to Section 4(f) properties are not anticipated.

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 06/23/2023

Cultural Resources Remarks

The literature search concluded there are no inventoried buildings (OHI), no known archaeological sites (OAI), and no listed or eligible historic properties found in the project area or in the area of potential effects (APE). The existing bridge (SFN 1830872) is a Type 104N Concrete T-Beam structure built in 1935. This bridge is not considered eligible for the National Register based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The replacement of non-historic bridges and minor roadway widening projects measuring less than the width of a full travel lane are activities which are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/17 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19319), if the project is not within the boundaries of any historic property or N. R. district. If the work should include a street realignment or a significant amount of new right-of-way is needed as a result of roadway widening, the project should be re-coordinated to address the potential for cultural resource impacts.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Air Quality

Noise

Regulated Materials

Air Quality: Studies Not Required

Air Quality - Coordination with OES: No

Air Remarks

The purpose of this project is focused on the replacement of a concrete T-beam bridge in the community of Independence, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The bridge carries Schaaf Road over West Creek located 6.5 miles south-southeast of downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Minor approach work may be needed but the new bridge will be placed on the existing line and grade. Proposed work will focus on the existing operational right-of-way. However, minor strip right-of-way will be needed from along the stream channel to install and protect the new bridge abutments and wingwalls. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

Moreover, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations for vehicle engines and fuels will cause overall MSAT emissions to decline significantly over the next several decades. Based on regulations now in effect, an analysis of national trends with EPA's MOVES2014 model forecasts a combined reduction of over 90 percent in the total annual emissions rate for the priority MSAT from 2010 to 2050 while vehicle-miles of travel are projected to increase by over 45 percent (Updated Interim Guidance on Mobile Source Air Toxic Analysis in NEPA Documents, Federal Highway Administration, October 12, 2016). This will both reduce the background level of MSAT as well as the possibility of even minor MSAT emissions from this project.

Noise: Studies Not Required

Noise - Coordination with OES No

Noise Remarks



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119090 CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace

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The referenced project meets the criteria for a Type III project established in 23 CFR 772. Therefore, the project requires no analysis for highway traffic noise impacts. Type III projects do not involve added capacity, construction of new through lanes or auxiliary lanes, changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway or exposure of noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source. ODOT acknowledges that a noise analysis is required if changes to the proposed project result in reclassification to a Type I project.

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

Yes - Screening

Regulated Materials Review Screening:

No Further Regulated Materials Review

Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date:

04/30/2024

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

No impacts to the project from hazardous substances is anticipated based on the information from the RMR screening report. See the RMR documentation in the Project File/RMR Section for additional information.

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
390351561011	8	7

Environmental Justice Remarks

Based on mapping from TIMS, the minority populations is 8% for the US Census Block Groups located within the project area and 7% of the population is designated as low income.

The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations or disparate impacts based upon the table above and the 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, DOT Order 5610.2(a), and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required.

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

The Census mapping may be found in the Project File under Environmental Justice.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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



Environmental Document Level: C2
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Public Involvement Remarks

The County has engaged property owners and businesses within the project area during the NEPA process to solicit comments or concerns. No concerns have been expressed to the County regarding the environmental resources or impacts of the project. Public involvement activities included a project notification letters and a press release. The press release requesting public comments was posted to the County Website and on LinkedIn for 32 calendar days spanning December 11, 2023 to January 11th, 2024. No comments were received during the public involvement period. All public involvement materials and documentation have been uploaded to the Project File tab under Public Involvement.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) Cuyahoga County will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all applicable waterway permits will be included in the plans and adhered to during construction.

2)
Tree Removal AMM 2(a) (OH PBO: A-1). Time of year restrictions for tree removal when bats are not likely to be present - To avoid impacts to summer roosting bats, SWH will be cleared only between 1 October and 31 March, when the species would not be present. Do not remove trees from April 1 through September 30. For the purposes of this commitment, 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) Asbestos Inspection was completed. Ohio EPA Notification of Demolition and Renovation Form must be submitted by Contractor to Ohio EPA at least 10 days prior to start of demolition.

4) Tree Removal AMM 1: Modify all phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) to avoid tree removal in excess of what is required to implement the project safely.

5) Tree Removal AMM 3. Ensure tree removal is limited to that specified in project plans by clearly marking clearing limits. Ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field.



Environmental Document Level: C2
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Preparers and Approvals

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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Thomas Sorge
Brian Gilhousen

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	5/17/2024



Appendix

ESA

Project Related OES Decision - Asbestos.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Stage 2 Design.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Air

District Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

Noise

District Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

RMR

ACS Group Disposition of OES comments on RMR.pdf

OES Review - Screening.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

Press Release - December 2023.pdf



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119090 CUY Schaaf Road Bridge Replace
Approved: 5/17/2024

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf

Letter of Compliance - ODOT Form LD-51.pdf

Local Floodplain Administrator Approval.pdf

No Rise Certification - ODOT Form LD-50.pdf