



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

STA CR 0219 00.76 (Whipple/4th) PID 118837

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 1/23/2024

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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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C2

Project Information

PID:	118837
Project Sponsor:	STARK COUNTY ENGINEER
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal

C2 Section

Project Description:



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The Stark County Engineer (SCE), in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, proposes to improve three (3) closely spaced intersections along Whipple Avenue (County Road 219) at Emma Street, 3rd Street, and 4th Street in Perry and Canton Townships, Stark County, Ohio. The Whipple Avenue/4th Street intersection is ranked as the 5th highest safety concern within Stark County on the ODOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Proposed work includes addition of dedicated 11-foot wide northbound and southbound left-turn lanes and traffic signal replacement at the intersection of Whipple Avenue and 4th Street. The project will also implement safety improvements at the intersection of Whipple Avenue and 3rd Street by removing the existing traffic signal and limiting traffic movements to right-in/right-out only. Work at the intersection of Whipple Avenue and Emma Street includes drainage improvements and new curb and gutter installation. Additional project work includes reconstruction of driveway approaches/access management, new curb and gutter installation and existing curb and gutter replacement, water line replacement, catch basin and storm sewer conduit adjustment/replacement where needed, installation of new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant curb ramps, new street lighting installation, new traffic control signage installation and new center line/edge line/lane line/channelizing line/stop line/other pavement markings applications.

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.

Temporary lane restrictions and/or closures will be required for the proposed traffic signal work at the respective intersection locations. Lane restriction/closure information will be posted prior to the start of construction. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, businesses and intersecting side streets for the duration of the construction project. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

Minor strip right-of-way takes will be required for the project. However, Right-of-Way plans were not available at the time this document was prepared for the project. Total property takes, structure takes, or relocations are not required to construct the project. See the Stage 1 Plan information in the *Project File/General/Project Information* subsection as *Stage 1 Design.pdf*.

Multiple overhead and underground utilities exist within the project study area. These include electric, water, gas, sanitary and telecommunication utilities. Two waterlines running under the northbound/southbound lanes of Whipple Avenue may be replaced by the city of Canton concurrently with the proposed project or the project may replace water lines within the construction limits. Minor relocations of existing utilities within the project limits will be necessary to construct the project. These minor utility relocations will occur within the existing/new permanent roadway and utility easement rights-of-way. 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 its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.

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

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 1 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 1 Design plans for the project is included in the *Project File/General/Project Information* subsection as *Stage 1 Design.pdf*.

The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis is 1.30% 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	118837: 24-27 STIP
CO	118837: 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:

(26) Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph I of this section. **Examples include: Joint or limited use of right-of-way where the proposed use would have minimal or no adverse social (including highway safety), economic or environmental impacts; Installation of new noise walls and other new noise mitigation projects; Construction of highway safety and truck escape ramps; Construction of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, or facilities and trailhead parking that do not otherwise qualify for a C1 designation; Beautification or facility improvement projects (i.e. landscaping, curb and gutter installation and replacement, ADA ramps/curb ramps, installation of park benches, decorative lighting, etc.); Construction of alternative energy facilities (fuel tank farms, wind turbines, etc.)**

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -

1. **a.** Acquisition of more than a minor amount of ROW (exceeds strip takes)
2. **b.** Residential or non-residential displacements
3. **c.** A U.S. Coast Guard permit or an Individual Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act
4. **d.** A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. **e.** Section 4(f) impacts greater than de minimis
6. **f.** A finding of *May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect* to Threatened and Endangered Species
7. **g.** Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions
8. **h.** Changes in access control
9. **i.** Floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths)
10. **j.** Construction activities in, across or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers
11. **k.** No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination)
12. **l.** A full Environmental Justice Analysis Report (EJAR) is required (the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher-level document). If a memo-to-file/letter/IOC-format EJAR Short Report is determined to be the appropriate level of documentation, contact OES regarding NEPA document level.

For certification purposes, documentation is required to illustrate no significant impacts will occur to the following environmental resources and that no unusual circumstances exist that would warrant a



higher level of NEPA document. Upload all supporting documentation to the project file.

Ecological

Waterways: Not Present

Will any wetlands be impacted? No

The identified Federally Listed Species for the project received an effect determination of No Effect.

Endangered Species Remarks:

This project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). The project will not impact any listed species or environmentally sensitive resources within the project study area. See the *Ecologically Exempt STA-CR 219-0.76.pdf* for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection.

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks N/A

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain: No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks N/A

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** 11/15/2023



Cultural Resources Remarks

The undertaking is limited to minor intersection upgrades to better service traffic at three intersections along Whipple Avenue (CR 219) in the western suburbs of Canton, Stark County, Ohio. Efforts will extend about 1000 feet along Whipple Avenue. Dedicated north and southbound turn lanes will be added at the 4th Street intersection. Access management improvements and curb realignment will also be made at the 3rd Street and Emma Street intersections. Signals will be replaced at 4th Street and signals will be removed at 3rd Street. Roadway reconfiguration will require minor reconstruction of the stormwater drainage system. Construction activities will focus on the existing operational right-of-way at Emma and 3rd streets. However minor temporary and permanent right-of-way will be needed to complete the work at 4th Street. Widening here will only impact areas exhibiting modern paved parking areas. No buildings will be involved in the project and no relocations will be required. The work is limited to only modern paved surfaces.

The literature search documented the absence of archaeological sites (OAI) and inventoried standing structures (OHI) in the surrounding study area. There are no inventoried or eligible National Register historic properties or districts in the project area or the area of potential effects (APE). The work will only involve areas disturbed by relatively modern development. General highway modernization and maintenance projects that require additional highway right-of-way limited to repaving activities, facility upgrades, and in-kind replacement work are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 6/29/2023 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), as long as no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property is acquired and no contributing element of a historic district will be removed or altered by construction.

In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on June 29, 2023 (Agreement No. 38503), ODOT-Office of Environmental Services (OES) 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

Air quality studies or coordination are not required for this project. Project meets 40CFR93.126 as "Projects that correct, improve, or eliminate hazardous locations or features".

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: 12/11/2023

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information contained in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form prepared for the project, further RMR activity or special materials management are not warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports and Coordination subsections.



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
391517116001	5	35
391517116005	18	61
391517134011	9	27
391517011004	4	42

Environmental Justice Remarks

The project will improve three (3) closely spaced intersections along Whipple Avenue (County Road 219) at Emma Street, 3rd Street, and 4th Street in Perry and Canton Townships, Stark County, Ohio. Temporary lane restrictions are anticipated during project construction. However, pedestrian and vehicular access, and access to Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) bus stops within the project area will be maintained at all times during project 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. There are no residential or business relocations. The project will not change access to shopping, schools, jobs, recreational resources, community centers or diminish or completely restrict, either temporary or permanent to Environmental Justice communities. No man-made drivers such as an overpass, bridge, 4-lane or greater roadway or railroad negatively impact the extent to which a community feels connected or cohesive for an Environmental Justice population. Access to or use of the transportation improvement will not be denied to any Environmental Justice population. The proposed project will not result in unanticipated additional impacts to an Environmental Justice population. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice populations or any unique factors that could result in a disproportionately high and adverse effect were raised during public involvement. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required.

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 following public involvement activities were performed for the project on November 3, 2023, by SCEO and Clune Consultant Services (CCS) staff:

- CCS mailed Property Owner Notification Letters to property owners located adjacent to the project area.
- CCS mailed Project Notification Letters to City of Canton, Canton and Perry Township officials, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, and emergency service providers regarding project details.
- SCEO sent a press release with project details to WHBC (local radio), the Canton Repository, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, City of Canton, and Canton and Perry Township officials.
- A project overview and Public Involvement materials were posted to the SCEO website.

Public comments were requested with all public involvement activities performed for the project. As a result of the public involvement activities performed for the project, written comments requesting property-specific design and impact information were received from affected property owners. Requested information was provided by the SCEO, accordingly. The Canton City Water Department also responded to the public involvement activities performed for the project, requesting that they continue to receive information throughout the project development process. Coordination with the Canton City Water Department and other utility companies affected by proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase. See the public involvement documentation for the project, including comments received and responses to comments, in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

No



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Preparers and Approvals

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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck
Joshua Sturges
Brooke Heid
Marcus Moan

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	1/23/2024



Appendix

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Air

District Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

Flow Chart Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

Noise

District Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

Flow Chart Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

Press Release Receipt - Broadcast Report.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Related Email - Public Involvement.pdf

Property Owner Notification Mailing List.pdf

Property Owner and Stakeholder Notification Letters.pdf



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Public Comments Received and Response to Comments.pdf

Public Involvement Comments and Response Documentation.pdf

SCEO Website Snapshot - 11-3-2023.pdf

Stakeholder and Public-Emergency Services Mailing List.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf