



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

POR SR 0059 02.93 PID 118500

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 9/18/2025

Prepared By: Cassandra Austin

Ohio Department of Transportation

Phone: 614-458-8251

E-mail: Cassandra.Austin@dot.ohio.gov

District Contact: Edward Deley

Phone: 330-786-4930

E-mail: Edward.Deley@dot.ohio.gov

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.....	9
Preparers and Approvals.....	10
Appendix.....	11



C2

Project Information

C2 Section

PIDs	118500
Project Sponsor	Kent, City of
ODOT District	4
Funding Source	Federal

Project Description:

The city of Kent, in partnership with the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), proposes various roadway improvements to State Route (SR) 59/East Main Street from Horning Road to SR 261, a distance of 0.88 mile, in the city of Kent and Franklin Township, Portage County. These improvements include road reconstruction to reduce the existing 15-foot/17-foot pavement lane widths to the proposed 10-foot/12-foot pavement lane widths, traffic signal replacement, sidewalk reconstruction, construction of a shared use path, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible curb ramps, pedestrian islands and new crossing beacons. The project will also include curb and gutter and stormwater drainage system reconstruction and modification, new traffic sign installations, existing street light replacements and center line/lane line/channelizing line/stop line/crosswalk line/transverse-diagonal line/other pavement markings applications within the project construction limits.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety, connectivity and mobility along the SR 59 corridor between Horning Road and SR 261. Improvements are needed to provide safe, comfortable access for transportation users of all types; the current facility that serves these users is lacking or deficient.

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*.

During project construction, at least one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained at all times. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, businesses and side roads for the duration of the construction project. Detours are not proposed to construct the project, though temporary lane closures will be necessary. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the late spring of 2027, and last approximately 17 months.

The project will require new right-of-way acquisition. Exact right-of-way acquisition acreages are unknown; however, based on Stage 1 design information, new permanent right-of-way will be needed at the northeast and northwest corners of the SR 59/Ashton Lane intersection. Additional temporary strip right-of-way and corner rounding takes are anticipated within the project limits to facilitate sidewalk and shared use path construction and minor utility line modification/relocation efforts. Total takes, structure takes and/or relocations are not required to construct the project.

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/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 and construction phases.

A Level 1 Ecological Survey Report was completed for the project identifying two (2) ponds and 0.337 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH). No wetlands or other ecological resources were identified within the project limits. The project will remove approximately 0.001-acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the federally-listed Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

species. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Project Information and Reports subsections and the Ecological tab.

The project is located within a source water protection area identified for Kent City Public Water System (PWS) OH6701812. Two records of active water wells exist in proximity to the project study area. Project construction operations shall be performed in an environmentally responsible manner. In compliance with ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) Standard Operating Procedure for Drinking Water Resources, a restriction on refueling/maintenance activities within a drinking water protection area plan note and environmental commitment are required for the project. The contractor shall provide adequate spill prevention control and countermeasures during construction to ensure no impacts occur to drinking water resources. Groundwater resource impacts are not expected, and no additional drinking water coordination is required for the project. Drinking Water Source Protection area mapping and well log data documentation can be found in the Project File/Other Resources/Drinking Water subsection.

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 1 Design Plans. A copy of the Stage 1 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 21.7% greater than the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2026 - 2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and AMATS Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). However, the estimated total project cost is less than \$10,000,000 and the additional project costs do not exceed 30%, therefore, a STIP amendment is not necessary for the project.

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	
CO	118500: 26-29 STIP
DD	118500: 26-29 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.)**

(27) Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. **Examples include: Lane reduction ("road diet") changes provided traffic analysis is completed; Railroad projects that close at-grade crossings to improve safety or traffic operations.**



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves - a. Acquisition of more than a minor amount of ROW (exceeds strip takes) b. Residential or non-residential displacements c. A U.S. Coast Guard permit or an Individual Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act d. A Section 106 finding of Adverse Effect e. Section 4(f) impacts greater than de minimis f. A finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect to Threatened and Endangered Species g. Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions h. Changes in access control 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) 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 k. No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination) l. Substantial Community Impacts (if a Community Impact Assessment is required, contact OES for guidance). 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:

A Level 1 Ecological Survey Report was completed for the project identifying 0.337 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH). The project will remove approximately 0.001-acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat. As less than 0.10 acre of SWH is present within the construction limits, and none of the trees possess roosting habitat for the Indiana Bat or Northern Long-eared Bat, per the OHPBO, this project will have No Effect on these species. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Project Information and Reports subsections and the Ecological tab.

Scenic Rivers

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

National or scenic rivers are not located within 1,000 feet of the project study area.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain:

No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

A review of the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study area determined the proposed construction activities will not impact a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). 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 the project study area.

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

05/02/2025

Cultural Resources Remarks

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed using the SHPO GIS online database to determine if previously recorded cultural resources are located within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), the footprint of the project. The literature search concluded there are no known archaeological sites (OAI), no inventoried buildings (OHI), and no listed or eligible NR properties within the project APE. The occurrence of significant archaeological sites is unlikely given the disturbed nature of the APE and the urban setting unlike to contain significant archaeological resources. Safety upgrades, general highway maintenance, and pedestrian projects are project types exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 6/29/23 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), when they are beyond the boundary of a historic property and as long as no contributing component of the district will be removed or altered by construction.

Therefore, 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-OES has determined that the proposed 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. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma were notified of the "minimal potential to cause effects" determination on May 2, 2025. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma did not respond within the 30-day comment period. See the tribal coordination for the project in the Cultural Resource tab and in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Farmland

Air Remarks



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

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. Additionally, the project is exempt under 40 CFR 93.126 (roadway improvements (safety), no additional travel lanes).

Noise Remarks

Noise sensitive land uses within 500' of the project corridor include residential properties, daycare centers, a library, medical facilities, places of worship, and a school.

The project does not qualify as a Type I project for noise (i.e., not adding capacity, not moving through 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: 06/11/2025

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening 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/RMR/Reports and Coordination subsections.

Farmland: Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU and 7 CFR 658

Public Involvement

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

Public Involvement Remarks



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

The city of Kent conducted various public involvement activities for the project. In spring 2022, the Connecting Communities study was completed for the State Route 59 corridor. Stakeholders that included the city of Kent, Franklin Township, PARTA, AMATS and ODOT. The study found the corridor needed wide, safe, continuous sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders and identified a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative was presented to the community through handouts to bus passengers as well as hosted online through PARTA's website. Feedback was provided online and through comment forms. Feedback was generally in support of the preferred alternative while expressing general concern for pedestrian safety and maintenance.

In late Summer 2025, the city of Kent hosted a 30-day comment period from August 5, 2025, to September 5, 2025. Notification of the comment period included a press release to Courier, Beacon and Portager; a website posting on both the city of Kent's website and ODOT District 4; property owner notification letters and a project notification letter to stakeholders. Two email comments were received during the comment period, one from Flynn Tire & Auto Service and one from Kellie Greene. The city of Kent conducted a meeting with the owners of Flynn Tire & Auto Service on August 12, 2025, to discuss the project and access concerns at the property. Kellie Greene expressed concerns regarding traffic flow and safety. Comment response information was provided to Kellie Greene by the City of Kent Engineering Department on September 16, 2025. See the public involvement documentation, including the comments received and responses during the Connecting Communities Study and comment/response information generated as a result of the August 5, 2025, public involvement conducted for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The project is located within a groundwater protection area (Kent City PWS) Source Water Protection Area OH6701812). The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans. Kent City - Public Drinking Water Source Protection: All refueling operations shall be performed in an environmentally responsible manner. No fuel storage or long-term stockpiling of other potentially hazardous materials is permitted on site. The Contractor shall provide adequate spill prevention control and countermeasures during project construction. The Contractor shall immediately take steps to mitigate any event, such as a spill of fuels, oils, or chemicals, that could threaten to contaminate the drinking water supply. Any spill or event shall be reported immediately to the Kent City Utilities Department by telephone at 330-678-8104 and Non-Emergency Dispatch: 330-673-7732. For Emergencies call 911. Ohio EPA's spill hotline (800-282-9378) shall be used to report emergencies involving the release of any material that impacts public health or the environment, including chemicals, petroleum, manure, fires/explosions, or to make an emergency notification to Ohio EPA as required by law or by permit.



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 118500 POR SR 0059 02.93

Approved: 9/18/2025

Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

Cassandra Austin
Ohio Department of Transportation
400 E William Street, Delaware OH 43015
614-458-8251
Cassandra.Austin@dot.ohio.gov

Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Brian Peck
Lorie Feudner

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	9/18/2025



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

RMR

OES Review - 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

Well Log Data.pdf

Public Involvement

City of Kent Project Specific Website.pdf

Comments Received and Response_Flynn Tire and Auto Service.pdf

ODOT Project Website Snapshot.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Comments Received - Kellie Greene.pdf

Public Comments Response - Kellie Greene.pdf

Public Outreach - Connecting Communities.pdf

Stakeholder Notification and List.pdf

Stakeholder Outreach - Project Update.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf