



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 04
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Environmental Document

for

STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 11 PID 118689

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 4/26/2024

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



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 118689 STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 11

Approved: 4/26/2024

C2

Project Information

PID: 118689
Project Sponsor: Stark County Park District
ODOT District: 4
Funding Source: Federal

C2 Section

Project Description:

The Stark County Park District (Stark Parks) proposes to replace an existing deteriorated 13'-10" long timber bridge structure (Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 11) located on the Sippo Valley Trail between 17th Street NW and Bottoms Park in the City of Massillon, Stark County. The Sippo Valley Trail in proximity to Bottoms Park is an 8-mile stretch of a former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad bed. Construction access to the badly deteriorated bridge structure is available from the east at 6th Street and Bottoms Park, approximately 0.42 mile east of the existing bridge location.

The project will install a new concrete bridge structure and reconstruct or armor/protect an existing underground sanitary sewer line that runs under the bridge and repair/replace access trail, safety bollards and trail signage impacted during project construction. Stark Parks is the project sponsor and construction will be administered by Stark Parks and ODOT.

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*.

City street restrictions/closures/detours are not proposed to construct the project. The Sippo Valley Trail section extending from the Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 11 east to 6th Street, and trail access from Bottoms Park, will be closed for approximately 60 consecutive days. Access to Bottoms Park and the remainder of the Sippo Valley Trail will remain open during project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected to construct the project.

Based on the project scope of work and location and its Path 1 Project Development Process (PDP) Classification and the proposed maintenance of traffic measures, emergency/public services contact activities were not conducted for the project.

All work will be performed within an existing Sippo Valley Trail Easement which includes Bottoms Park, owned by the City of Massillon. No new right-of-way will be acquired to construct the project.

Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 11 carries the Sippo Valley Trail over a City of Massillon sanitary sewer line. The project may reconstruct or armor/protect the underground sanitary sewer line within the existing trail easement area. No relocations of utilities is anticipated for the project. Utilities will not be permanently removed to construct the project. Coordination with utility companies affected by proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue throughout the project detailed design phase.

The project proposes to impact approximately 70 linear feet of an unnamed ephemeral tributary of West Sippo Creek. No impacts will occur to jurisdictional wetlands with the project. See ecological resource information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Report and agency coordination documentation provided in ecological resource tab and the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

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 available information in the Stage 2 Design plans. A copy of the Stage 2 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 2 Design.pdf*.

The estimated project construction cost specified in Ellis is 9.6% greater than the project construction cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Fiscal constraint is at the Statewide Line Item (SLI) Group level. 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
CO	118689: 24-27 STIP
CO	118689: 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



Environmental Document Level: C2
 PID 118689 STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 11
 Approved: 4/26/2024

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

Isolated Wetland Permit No

Will any wetlands be impacted? No

The following Federally Listed Species received an effect determination of May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect:

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Listing Status	Most Recent Coordination Date
Indiana Bat	Myotis sodalis	Endangered	04/16/2024
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	04/16/2024
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered	04/16/2024

The following Federally Listed Species received an effect determination of No Effect:

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Listing Status	Most Recent Coordination Date
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Species of Concern	04/16/2024
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened	04/16/2024

Endangered Species Remarks:

The project is expected to impact approximately 0.1 acres of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for federal and state listed bat species. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species during their summer roosting period. This project is anticipated to have no impact on other federal and state listed species. See ecological resource and threatened and endangered species information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Report and agency coordination documentation provided in ecological resource tab and the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

There are no National or State Wild and Scenic Rivers within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area. No further coordination is required.

Floodplains

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

EO 11988 Compliance Met No

NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed No

Floodplain Remarks



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 118689 STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 11

Approved: 4/26/2024

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study areas and determined the project encroaches onto designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone A floodplain established for the West Sippo Creek and its tributaries. The project will be designed to avoid any impacts to the 100-year floodplain and comply with all applicable Local, State and Federal floodplain protection standards. See the floodplain 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:

de minimis - Recreational

Section 4(f) Determination Date - de minimis - Recreational

04/25/2024

Section 4(f) Remarks

Based upon review of the Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form (DRF) for Recreational Properties prepared for the project, ODOT-OES determined a *de minimis* impact will occur to the Sippo Valley Trail and Bottoms Park in accordance with 23 CFR 774. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Officials with Jurisdiction (OWJs) regarding the assessment of impacts that are included in the DRF. The following measures to minimize harm will be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments in the environmental document:

1. Access to the Sippo Valley Trail section extending from the existing Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 11 east to 6th Street, including access at Bottoms Park, will be restricted for the duration of construction activities due to safety concerns and lack of a feasible and safe trail detour.
2. Access to Bottoms Park and the remainder of the Sippo Valley Trail, shall be maintained at all times during the project construction duration.
3. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed at public access points along the proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities, as needed, to protect Section 4(f) properties and the public.
4. Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert park and trail users of construction activities, trail access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary trail access points.
5. The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with Stark Parks, the City of Massillon Parks and Recreation Department and ODOT prior to the start of construction activities.

See Section 4(f) resource documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Coordination, Project Information and Reports subsections.

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



Approved: 4/26/2024

Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO
Concurrence Date

04/26/2024

Cultural Resources Remarks

All work will be performed within existing Sippo Valley Trail Easement. The trail alignment will be accessed from Lincoln Bottoms Park, owned by the City of Massillon. No buildings will be involved in construction and no relocations will be required for the project. A literature search concluded there are no inventoried buildings (OHI), no known archaeological sites (OAI), and no listed or eligible historic properties found in the area of potential effects (APE).

ODOT-OES Cultural Resource Section Personnel determined Bridge #11 along the Sipo Valley Trail does not meet National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility criteria as an outstanding example of bridge construction under Criterion C. Bridge #11 is likely a post WWII example of a simple timber bridge. The railings and abutments have been altered with modern timber material in recent years and no known associations with a prolific bridge builder/designer or landscape plan were identified in ODOT-OES's investigation. Based on Transportation Research Council's *A Context for 50 Most Common Bridge Types (Oct 2005)*, the circa-post-WWII, short-span, timber stringer, pedestrian bridge does not possess a level of significance for NRHP consideration based on the following:

Timber stringer bridges have a relatively low level of significance within the context of this study. Very old (pre-twentieth century) examples would possess significance as an early representative example of the type if they retain integrity. Character-defining features include the longitudinal beams (or, stringers) and often the pile bents. Railings and abutments may or may not be considered character[1] defining features. Intact examples in parks are also significant as they generally have scenic values and often possess additional significance for their association with parks and/or Depression-era federal work programs. If a stringer bridge could be identified as having been built according to the standard plans of the state transportation departments, it would also be considered significant within the context of this study. One problem with timber stringers and integrity, often maintenance results in the loss of the structure's materials to a point where little will remain of the historic fabric.

Non-historic bridge replacement and bridge repair work projects are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the June 29, 2023, Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), when the work locations are not within the boundaries of any historic property or N.R. (National Register) district. See the cultural resources coordination and documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection and 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:

03/12/2024

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 118689 STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 11

Approved: 4/26/2024

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Forms 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 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
39151739001	14	41

Environmental Justice Remarks

A review of the ODOT Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) indicated Environmental Justice populations within the proposed project area. 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 attached mapping and 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. 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

Stark Parks conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a news release and website posting. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. No public comments were received as a result of the public involvement activities conducted for the project. 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 is located within a FEMA flood zone and will be designed to comply with all applicable Local, State, and Federal floodplain protection standards. Appropriate floodplain permitting shall be obtained prior to the start of construction.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Measures to minimize harm to the Section 4(f)/6(f) resources have been established for the project and are project environmental commitments. The following measures shall be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments: 1) Access to the Sippo Valley Trail section extending from the existing Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 11 east to 6th Street, including access at Bottoms Park, will be restricted for the duration of construction activities due to safety concerns and lack of a feasible and safe trail detour; 2) Access to Bottoms Park and the remainder of the Sippo Valley Trail, shall be maintained at all times during the project construction duration; 3) Temporary construction fencing shall be installed at public access points along the proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities, as needed, to protect Section 4(f) properties and the public; 4) Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert park and trail users of construction activities, trail access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary trail access points; and 5) The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with Stark Parks, the City of Massillon Parks and Recreation Department and ODOT prior to the start of construction activities.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Brian Peck
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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	4/26/2024



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Project Related OES Decision - Cultural Resources.pdf

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Site Specific Resource Mapping.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Location Map.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

News Article.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Website Screenshot 3-5-2024.pdf

Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

Coordination with Project Sponsor - Flood Plain Permitting.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf