



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

D12 MNT FY2025 Tree Removal PID 120364

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 4/4/2024

Prepared By: District 12

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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: 120364
Project Sponsor: ODOT SPONSORING AGENCY
ODOT District: 12
Funding Source: Non-Federal

C2 Section

Does this project require a Federal permit or approval? No

Project Description:

General tree and brush clearing throughout the District, 51 different locations in in Geauga, Cuyahoga and Lake Counties. This project only involves the removal of trees that pose a hazard to the traveling public along county roads along with general shrub clearing for visibility. All of the trees are located within the current roadway right-of-way and no excavation will occur. Stage 2 plans list how many acres of trees are slated for removal at each location.

100% State funding \$412,000.00

C2 is based on Stage 2 Design Plans and can be found in the Project File/General/Project Information.

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

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	120364: 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 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	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	04/04/2024
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	04/04/2024
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered	04/04/2024

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	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Species of Concern	04/04/2024



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Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Listing Status	Most Recent Coordination Date
Eastern Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Threatened	04/04/2024
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered	04/04/2024
Round Hickorynut	<i>Obovaria subrotunda</i>	Threatened	04/04/2024
Rufa Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	04/04/2024
Salamander Mussel	<i>Simpsonia ambigua</i>	Proposed Endangered	04/04/2024
Snuffbox	<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Endangered	04/04/2024

Endangered Species Remarks:

Due to the possible disruption of the Low Serviceberry (*Amelanchier humilis*) and Large-leaved mountain rice (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*), a survey of the proposed project area will be conducted by ODOT staff prior to construction. ODOT-Office of Environmental Services will contact Jeff Gordon (ODNR ODOT Program Manager, 614-265-6386) if the species are found. A species specific survey will be completed in the summer of 2024. If the species is found, species specific coordination with an updated species effect determination will be sent to ODNR for comment. Any comments from ODNR will be added to the project and addressed.

Scenic Rivers

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

No work within 1000-ft of the Scenic Grand River.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain:

No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

The project will cut trees and will not involve fill or excavation within a FEMA designated Floodplain.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f):

Not present

Section 4(f) Remarks

Tree cutting will occur with ODOT Right-of-way. Tree removal will not restrict access to Section 4(f) projects.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f):

Not present

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources:

Not Present



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

03/26/2024

Cultural Resources Remarks

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff using the SHPO GIS online database. No Cultural Resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were identified within and/or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. The undertaking is a type which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. The Record Check can be found in the Project File Under Cultural Resources/Project Information.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Air Remarks

The project type of 'planting, landscaping, ect.'" is considered insignificant from an air quality conformity perspective, as per 40 CFR 93.126. Therefore, the project is exempt from air quality coordination.

Noise Remarks

The project is not a Type I project for noise, add an auxiliary lane or does not add capacity a new highway on new location. The project will not significantly change the horizontal or vertical alignment. Therefore, a noise analysis is not required.

The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA 513 Landfill Authorization: No

Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date: 03/29/2024

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

The project will not require any further RMR or special material management.

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
Lake County	8.7	9
Cuyahoga County	48.5	16.4
Geauga County	5.1	6.5

Environmental Justice Remarks



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Based on mapping from TIMS, the minority populations are 5.1% - 48.5% for the US Census Block Groups located within the project area and 6.5% - 16.4% 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 based upon the table above, the attached mapping, and the answers to the questions above. 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, 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 is not required.

The proposed new tree removal project will not impact pedestrian or public transportation facilities.

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

Public Involvement Remarks

The District 12 Public Information Office coordinates the yearly construction schedule and lane closures in press releases.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

- 1) 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.
- 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) No work within 1000-ft of the Scenic Grand River.
- 5) Due to the possible disruption of the Low Serviceberry (*Amelanchier humilis*) and Large-leaved mountain rice (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*), a survey of the proposed project area will be conducted by ODOT staff prior to construction. ODOT-Office of Environmental Services will contact Jeff Gordon (ODNR ODOT Program Manager, 614-265-6386) if the species are found.
- 6) A species specific survey will be completed in the summer of 2024. If the species is found, species specific coordination with an updated species effect determination will be sent to ODNR for comment. Any comments from ODNR will be added to the project and addressed.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer

District 12
Contact: Thomas Sorge
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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Thomas Sorge

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	4/4/2024



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Appendix

Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions