



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 8 PID 118692**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 10/23/2025**

**Prepared By: Brian Peck**

ODOT DISTRICT 4

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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

#### C2 Section

<b>PIDs</b>	118692
<b>Project Sponsor</b>	Stark County Park District
<b>ODOT District</b>	4
<b>Funding Source</b>	Federal

#### Project Description:

The Stark County Park District (Stark Parks) proposes to replace an existing 6-span timber bridge structure (Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 8) located on the Sippo Valley Trail between 17th Street NW and Bison Avenue NW in the City of Massillon, Stark County. The existing deteriorated trail timber bridge structure will be replaced with a prefabricated single-span steel truss bridge on pile-supported concrete abutments, and the project will repair/reconstruct adjacent trail approaches to tie into the new bridge structure.

The Sippo Valley Trail in proximity of the bridge is an 8-mile stretch of a former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad bed. Construction access to the badly deteriorated bridge structure is available from 17th Street NW and Bison Avenue NW, east and west of the existing bridge location, respectively. The project will also 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 the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Stark Parks.

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 between 17th Street NW and Bison Avenue NW will be closed for approximately 90 consecutive days. Access to 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 owned by the City of Massillon. No new right-of-way will be acquired to construct the project.

Utilities will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

The project proposes to impact approximately 80 linear feet 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 3 Design plans. A copy of the Stage 3 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 3 Design.pdf*.

The estimated Stage 3 project construction cost estimate specified is 5.7% lower than the project construction cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2026 - 2029 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



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Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	118692: 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:**

(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 - 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:** 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

**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	10/23/2025
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	10/23/2025
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered	10/23/2025

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



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Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Listing Status	Most Recent Coordination Date
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Species of Concern	10/23/2025
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened	10/23/2025

**Endangered Species Remarks:**

The project is expected to impact approximately 0.06 acre 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**

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**

08/27/2025



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**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 in accordance with 23 CFR 774. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) 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 17th Street NW and Bison Avenue NW 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 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.
6. Contractor shall restore the trail, if damaged by equipment, to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to this project.

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:**

No Historic Properties Affected

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

04/08/2025

**Cultural Resources Remarks**



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The proposed project calls for the replacement of Bridge #8 on the Sippo Valley Trail in the City of Massillon, Stark County. This structure crosses West Sippo Creek and is the first bridge to the west of the 17th Street Sippo Valley Trail trailhead. It is an 84 foot long, six span timber beam structure with timber deck and railings. The deck width is 9-10" between rails. The timber beams are supported on timber pier bents and timber abutments. The work will take place within the existing trail right-of-way. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is limited to the footprint of the bridge and its adjacent work areas. 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 Nation Register of Historic Place (NRHP) listed or eligible historic properties are found in the APE.

ODOT-OES Cultural Resource Section Personnel determined that the timber bridge replacement will not affect any NRHP-qualified properties. The timber structure is rotting to the point of failure and has been altered mostly in the 1970s, diminishing any historic meaningfulness and integrity. Therefore, it does not qualify for NRHP criteria evaluation. No other pre-1976 properties will be altered by the work, and the presence of intact archeological deposits is unlikely based on the streambank deposits and previous construction disturbances. The APE is limited to the bridge and adjacent work areas, which is essentially within the existing right-of-way. Therefore, in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (Agreement No. 38503) Stipulation V. C(2)(a) and 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1) ODOT-OES determined that No Historic Properties Affected is the finding for the multiuse trail bridge crossing safety improvement. See the cultural resources coordination and documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection and Cultural Resources Tab.

**Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:**

Tribal consultation was conducted for the project based on the Tribes' individual preferences detailed in either the Tribal Profile Manager in EnviroNet or documented in previous communications. The Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and Shawnee Tribe do not object to the project Section 106 effect determination. See the Tribal consultation documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination 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:** 03/05/2025

**Regulated Materials Review Remarks:**

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project. See RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports 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 17th Street NW and Bison Avenue NW 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 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.
  - 6) The Contractor shall restore the trail, if damaged by equipment, to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to this project.



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### Preparers and Approvals

**Form Preparer:** Brian Peck  
ODOT DISTRICT 4  
330-786-4931  
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**Supporting Form Preparer(s):** Brian Peck

### Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	10/23/2025



## Appendix

### General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### RMR

Environmental Database Search Results.pdf

### Cultural Resources

SHPO Comments

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation - Correspondence List and Example.pdf

### Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

### Other Resources

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

### Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

### Public Involvement

Press Release.pdf

Project Related Decision - No Public Comments Received.pdf

Project Website Snapshot.pdf

### Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

District Determination - Floodplain Impacts.pdf

District Determination - Floodplain Self Compliance.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf

Floodplain Correspondence with Stark Parks.pdf