



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **POR TH 254 00.45 (Pioneer Tr) PID 119000**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 11/12/2024**

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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

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>PID:</b>             | 119000                  |
| <b>Project Sponsor:</b> | PORTAGE COUNTY ENGINEER |
| <b>ODOT District:</b>   | 4                       |
| <b>Funding Source:</b>  | Federal                 |

### C2 Section

#### Project Description:

The Portage County Engineer (PCE) proposes to replace an existing structurally deficient twin corrugated metal plate structure Bridge No. AUR-164-T254B; Structure File Number (SFN) 6730329 located on Pioneer Trail/TH 254 over the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River in the city of Aurora, Portage County, Ohio. The project will install a new 4-sided concrete box structure. The project also proposes bridge approach slab replacements, abutting approach roadway pavement replacement, rock channel protection placement, guardrail replacement, sealing of exposed concrete surfaces with an epoxy-urethane sealer, new center line/edge line pavement markings applications and traffic sign installation within the project construction limits.

The project is located in a residential and public-park setting. Land uses near the project include undeveloped forest, public park, and residential properties. To the south, Sunny Lake Park is located adjacent to the project and Aurora Sanctuary State Nature Preserve is located northwest of the project area. The Aurora Branch, a perennial stream, flows beneath the existing structure. Impacts to the Aurora Branch were minimized during the project development process. All waterway impacts will be coordinated with the appropriate regulatory agencies prior to construction.

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*.

The proposed bridge replacement operations will require closure of Pioneer Trail for approximately 45 consecutive calendar days with work being performed before and after the road closure duration. Traffic will be detoured utilizing Chamberlain Road, Mennonite Road and Page Road. Detour information will be posted in advance of the bridge closure. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties for the duration of the project. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected with the project.

The proposed project will be completed within the existing right-of-way, no new permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required to complete this project.

Minor relocations of existing utilities will be necessary to construct the project. These minor utility relocations will occur within the existing roadway right-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 proposes to impact approximately 70 linear feet of the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River, a perennial stream. While wetlands were identified within the project study area, wetlands are not present within the proposed construction limits. The project will not result in impacts to wetlands. See ecological resource information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Report and agency coordination documentation provided in the Ecological tab and the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

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 for the project. Stage 1 Design plan information 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 11.2% higher 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   | 119000: 24-27 STIP     |
| CO    | 119000: 24-27 STIP     |
| DD    | 119000: 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:

(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

**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             | <i>Myotis sodalis</i>         | Endangered          | 09/06/2024                    |
| Northern Long-eared Bat | <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> | Endangered          | 09/06/2024                    |
| Eastern Massasauga      | <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>    | Threatened          | 09/06/2024                    |
| Tricolored Bat          | <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>   | Proposed Endangered | 09/06/2024                    |

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 | 09/06/2024                    |
| Mitchell's Satyr    | <i>Neonympha m. mitchellii</i>  | Endangered         | 09/06/2024                    |
| Northern Monkshood  | <i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>   | Threatened         | 09/06/2024                    |

**Endangered Species Remarks:**

Ecological survey identified approximately 1.7 acres of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the federally listed Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and state-listed Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) species within the project study area. Approximately 0.4-acre of SWH may be removed within the project construction limits. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect bat species during their summer roosting period.

See the ecological resource and threatened and endangered species information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Report and agency coordination documentation provided in the Ecological 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**

The Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River is a State-listed Scenic River from the State Route 82 bridge crossing, approximately 1 mile north of the project study area, extending for a distance of 12 miles downstream to the confluence with the main stem of the Chagrin River.

National-listed or state-listed wild and scenic rivers are not present within 1,000 feet of the project limits.

**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**

The project is located within a special flood hazard area. The Project Designer shall ensure the project is designed to comply with all applicable Local, State, and Federal floodplain protection standards. The PCE shall obtain any required flood plain permit(s)/approval(s) prior to project construction. See the floodplains documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

**Section 4(f)**

**Section 4(f):** Present; No Impacts and/or Access  
Restrictions

**Section 4(f) Remarks**

The project is located in a residential and public-park setting. To the south, Sunny Lake Park is located adjacent to the project study area and Aurora Sanctuary State Nature Preserve is located northwest of the project area. The proposed project will not restrict access to and/or permanently incorporate land into a transportation facility or temporarily occupy land from the Sunny Lake Park and/or the Aurora Sanctuary State Nature Preserve properties. Section 4(f) coordination is not required in accordance with 23 CFR 774 and the OES Section 4(f) Manual.

**Section 6(f)**

**Section 6(f):** Present; No Impacts and/or Access  
Restrictions

**Cultural Resources**

**Cultural Resources:** Present; No Finding of Adverse  
Effect

**Cultural Resources Coordination:** Minimum Potential to Cause Effect  
Appendix A

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO  
Concurrence Date** 10/23/2024

**Cultural Resources Remarks**



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The undertaking is limited to the replacement of a steel or corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert near the community of Aurora, Portage County, Ohio. A review of OSHPO data and online mapping concluded there are no inventoried buildings (OHI), no known archaeological sites (OAI), and no listed or eligible historic properties found in the project area or in the area of potential effects (APE). No permanent or temporary right-of-way will be needed to execute the project. The project will not involve any buildings, and no relocations will be required. The existing CMP was installed in 1988. The rehabilitation, reconstruction, and replacement of non-historic culverts made of modern materials is an activity which is exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 6/29/23 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503, page 30), as long as the project is not within the boundaries of any historic property or National Register district.

The POR-TH 254-0.45 (Pioneer Tr) project is not a part of a larger undertaking and is a project type that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on June 29, 2023 (Agreement No. 38503), therefore, no further coordination is required for the project. See cultural resources 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:**

**10/03/2024**

#### **Regulated Materials Review Remarks:**

The project involves deep excavation for the removal of the existing structure and the installation of a new culvert. A regulated materials review screening was performed. One SPILLS record is located within the 899 Page Road property (Sunny Lake Park). Since the SPILL incident is more than 5,000 feet from the project area, and appears to have been contained within a pond near the spill and does not have a direct connection to the Aurora Branch, no further RMR or special material management is warranted for this project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Project Information and Reports 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 |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| 391336003023         | 5          | 11           |

**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 project will not change access to shopping, bus stops, schools, jobs, recreational resources, community centers or diminish or completely restrict, either temporary or permanent to Environmental Justice communities. No man-made dividers 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 have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations based upon the table above and attached mapping. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice populations 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**

The Portage County Engineer conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including mailing project notifications to adjacent property owners and a press release that contained roadway closure and detour information that was also posted on the Portage County Engineer's website. Additionally, the Portage County Engineer emailed the press release to local public officials and emergency/public services that contained roadway closure and detour information. Public comments were requested with all public involvement activities performed for the project. No comments related to this public outreach were received 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 proposes to remove suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the federally-listed Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and/or Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), proposed federally-listed Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and state-listed Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). The project designer shall incorporate the following environmental commitment plan not information 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 UNDER THIS 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.

2) The project designer shall incorporate the following wetlands avoidance note into the plans.  
WETLANDS AVOIDANCE - WETLANDS ARE PRESENT IN PROXIMITY OF THE AUR-164-T254B BRIDGE (SFN: 6730329) OUTSIDE OF THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION LIMITS. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SHALL BE EMPLOYED TO AVOID IMPACT TO WETLANDS LOCATED IN PROXIMITY OF THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION LIMITS. A QUANTITY OF ITEM 832 CONSTRUCTION FENCE AND A QUANTITY OF ITEM 832 PERIMETER FILTER FABRIC FENCE HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY. THE CONSTRUCTION FENCE AND PERIMETER FILTER FABRIC FENCE SHALL BE INSTALLED ALONG THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION LIMITS AT THE BRIDGE LOCATION BY THE CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE LIMITS AND ADJACENT AREA, INCLUDING ANY NECESSARY CLEARING AND GRUBBING ACTIVITIES. THE CONSTRUCTION FENCE AND PERIMETER FILTER FABRIC FENCE SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE CONTRACTOR THROUGHOUT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AND SHALL BE REMOVED BY THE CONTRACTOR UPON PROJECT COMPLETION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE CONTRACTOR IMPACT ANY WETLANDS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE CONTRACTOR STORE EQUIPMENT AND/OR MATERIALS WITHIN OR IN PROXIMITY TO WETLANDS.

3) 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 project construction.



**Environmental Document Level: C2**  
PID 119000 POR TH 254 00.45 (Pioneer Tr)  
Approved: 11/12/2024

### **Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:** Michael Naymik  
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Carlyn Rocazella

### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

| <b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b> | <b>Approval Date:</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)                  | 11/12/2024            |



## Appendix

### General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### RMR

OES Review - Screening.pdf

### Cultural Resources

Project Related OES Decision - Cultural Resources.pdf

Records Check.pdf

### Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS Comments

USFWS Concurrence

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

### Other Resources

Census Map Urban Area Map.pdf

### Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

HUD Resources.pdf

### Public Involvement

Aurora City Schools Notification.pdf

Emergency and Public Services Contact List.pdf

News Media Notification.pdf

PCEO Website Snapshot 10-24-2024.pdf

PCEO Website Snapshot.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Acknowledgement - City of Aurora Schools.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf



**Environmental Document Level: C2**  
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Public and Emergency Services Notification.pdf

**Permits**

District Determination - Floodplain Impacts.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf