



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

POR Newton Falls Bridge (CR177) PID 119501

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 2/10/2025

Prepared By: Marcus Moan

Clune Consulting Services

Phone: 330-275-7204

E-mail: marcus@cluneconsult.com

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.....	12



C2

Project Information

PID: 119501
Project Sponsor: PORTAGE COUNTY ENGINEER
ODOT District: 4
Funding Source: Federal

C2 Section

Project Description:

The Portage County Engineer (PCE), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), proposes to replace the bridge carrying Newton Falls Road/County Road 177 over the West Branch of the Mahoning River in Paris Township, Portage County, Ohio. The existing 103-foot single span steel through pony truss bridge with asphalt-filled corrugated metal deck on reinforced concrete stub gravity abutments, Structure File Number 6732569, was built in 1970. The proposed bridge is a 90-foot single span prestressed concrete box beam bridge with composite reinforced concrete deck on semi-integral reinforced concrete abutments supported by drilled shafts socketed into bedrock. The proposed bridge deck will be 2 feet-7.5 inches wider than the existing bridge deck to better accommodate the approach roadway curve and replaced on the same alignment.

Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2026 and be completed in Autumn 2026.

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 bridge replacement will require closure of Newton Falls Road for approximately 120 days. Traffic will be detoured via State Route 225 to Griffith Road to McClintocksburg Road. Construction and bridge closure/detour information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties for the duration of the project. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

Permanent and/or temporary right-of-way will be required to construct the project. However, right-of-way plans were not available at the time this document was prepared for the project. Total property takes, structure takes or relocations are not required to construct the project.

Overhead and/or underground utilities exist within the project area. Utilities impacted by the project will need to be relocated prior to project construction. The PCE will conduct the necessary utility coordination throughout the development and construction of the project.

Based on the Level 1 Ecological Survey Report, the project will impact up to 43 feet of the West Branch Mahoning River. The project will also impact approximately 0.02 acre of suitable wooded habitat for the Federally listed Endangered Indiana bat and Endangered Northern long-eared bat and the proposed Federally listed Endangered Tricolored bat.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 1 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 1 Design 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 agrees with the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

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

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	119501: 24-27 STIP



Environmental Document Level: C2
 PID 119501 POR Newton Falls Bridge (CR177)

Approved: 2/10/2025

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	119501: 24-27 STIP
DD	119501: 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	11/29/2024
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	11/29/2024
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered	11/29/2024

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	11/29/2024
Eastern Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Threatened	11/29/2024
Mitchell's Satyr	<i>Neonympha m. mitchellii</i>	Endangered	11/29/2024
Northern Monkshood	<i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>	Threatened	11/29/2024

Endangered Species Remarks:

See the USFWS coordination, dated November 29, 2024, in the Ecological tab.

Scenic Rivers

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

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 (SFHA) Zone A floodplain associated with the West Branch Mahoning River. 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):

Not present



Section 4(f) Remarks

A review of maps and property ownership did not identify any Section 4(f) properties within proximity to the project construction limits. The project will not impact any Section 4(f) resources.

Though boating facilities exist upstream and downstream of the project area, the West Branch Mahoning River is not a designated water trail, and is a non-Section 4(f) resource. Non-Section 4(f) recreational boating coordination with ODNR was completed on December 19, 2024. An environmental commitment will be added to the plans regarding river traffic restrictions and recreational boating coordination during construction. See the recreational boating information for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Reports subsection.

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 10/31/2024

Cultural Resources Remarks

The undertaking is limited to a bridge replacement carrying Newton Falls Road (County Road 177) over the West Branch of the Mahoning River in Paris Township, Portage County, Ohio. The bridge is located 2.7 miles southwest of Newton Falls, Ohio. The existing steel pony truss bridge will be replaced by a single span prestressed concrete box beam bridge with composite reinforced concrete deck on semi-integral reinforced concrete abutments supported by drilled shafts. The new bridge will be placed on the existing line and grade. The proposed bridge deck will be wider than the existing deck to address the horizontal curve at the bridge. The project will require approach work, and new guardrails. Minor permanent right-of-way will be needed from along the stream channel to install a wider structure, provide access during construction, and install rock channel protection along the stream banks. The project will not involve any buildings, and no relocations will be required.

The literature search 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). The review did not include a field inspection since the proposed strip right-of-way will only be taken from areas previously disturbed by highway embankment construction and disturbance from stream channelization. This existing bridge (SFN 6732569) is a Type 310N Steel Warren Welded Pony Truss structure built in 1970. TIMS mapping indicates the bridge is not historic and the structure is not considered eligible for the National Register based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The replacement of non-historic bridges requiring additional right-of-way and minor rural widening project where the natural soil deposits has been removed are activities that are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 6/29/23 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), if the project is not within the boundaries of any historic property or N. R. district.

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.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Air Quality



Noise

Regulated Materials

Farmland

Air Quality: Studies Not Required

Air Quality - Coordination with OES: No

Air Remarks

The project will not impact air quality. Air quality studies or coordination are not required for this project.

Noise: Studies Not Required

Noise - Coordination with OES No

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: 11/01/2024

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information contained in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, ODOT District 4 determined further RMR activity 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: Non-Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU, 7 CFR 658, and ORC 929.05

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
----------------------	------------	--------------



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119501 POR Newton Falls Bridge (CR177)

Approved: 2/10/2025

Environmental Justice Remarks

As of January 21, 2025, EO 12898 was revoked. Therefore, no discussion and/or analysis specific to Environmental Justice Populations (Minority & Low-Income) will be provided in the Environmental Analysis. Instead, any potential impacts will be addressed through the Public Involvement Process.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks

The PCE conducted the following public involvement activities for the project:

- May 31, 2024: A press release was published to notify the public that repair work on the bridge has completed and that the bridge was scheduled for replacement.
- August 2, 2024: A press release was emailed to local public officials and emergency/public services regarding details of the project and notice of a vehicular detour.
- August 6, 2024: The press release was posted on the PCE website.
- August 7, 2024: Property owner notification letters (also serving as right-of-entry) were mailed to property owners located adjacent to the project area.
- August 7, 2024: Project notification letters were mailed to local public officials and emergency/public services regarding details of the project and notice of a vehicular detour.
- January 27, 2025: PCE initiated contact with the property owner from which permanent right-of-way will be required for the project.

Paris Township also posted the August 2, 2024, press release to the township website on August 5, 2024.

A news article about the project was published in the Ravenna Record-Courier, a local media publication, on August 9, 2024.

Comments were requested by each of the 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 and the Project File/General/Maintenance of Traffic subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

- 1) 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.
- 2) The project is within a FEMA flood zone and will be designed to comply with all applicable Local, State, and Federal floodplain protection standards. The Portage County Engineer's Office will obtain all appropriate floodplain permits (NFIP) and complete all Local Floodplain Coordination prior to any work within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).
- 3) Mussels are present within project area and may be impacted by the project. A relocation of the mussels shall be conducted prior to the start of in-stream construction activities in the West Branch Mahoning River in accordance with the most recent version of ODNR's Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol.
- 4) The Contractor shall not perform any work within the jurisdictional boundaries of any waterway, including wetlands, until the necessary waterway permit(s) are obtained by the Portage County Engineer. This includes the placement of any temporary or permanent fills.
- 5) The Contractor shall not work below the ordinary high water mark of the West Branch Mahoning River, or install, modify, or remove any existing fills during the ODNR instream work restriction period of April 15 to June 30 unless a waiver is approved by ODNR and verified by the USACE.
- 6) The Contractor shall place appropriate signage/markers at the closest upstream and downstream access points to the project area to alert paddlers/boaters of construction activity and river closures.
- 7) The Project Engineer or Contractor shall notify ODNR at kyla.maunz@dnr.ohio.gov, 14 calendar days prior to the start of construction activities to allow ODNR to post notice of the impending project construction on the appropriate ODNR webpages and associated online boating maps.
- 8) The Contractor shall closely coordinate the construction schedule (including access restrictions) with the Portage County Engineer's Office and ODNR prior to the start of construction activities.
- 9) If on-the-water law enforcement is needed during any portion of the construction activities, the Project Engineer or Contractor shall contact the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft Law Enforcement Supervisor (Lt. Scott Stauffer at Scott.Stauffer@dnr.ohio.gov or 440-812-3208).



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119501 POR Newton Falls Bridge (CR177)
Approved: 2/10/2025

Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Marcus Moan
Clune Consulting Services
330-275-7204
marcus@cluneconsult.com

Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck
Christine Surma
Brett AllerdinCurfman
Brooke Heid

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	2/10/2025



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Air

Flow Chart Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

Noise

Flow Chart Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

RMR

ODOT 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

Public Involvement

Local Emergency and Public Services Email Notification.pdf

Local Emergency and Public Services Mail Notification.pdf

Local Emergency and Public Services Mailing List.pdf

News Article - Record Courier 8-9-2024.pdf

Press Release - Bridge Project 8.2.24.pdf

Press Release - Bridge Project 8.7.24.pdf

Press Release - Bridge Reopening 5.31.24.pdf

Property Owner Notification - Right-of-way Take Location.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter Mailing Addresses.pdf



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 119501 POR Newton Falls Bridge (CR177)
Approved: 2/10/2025

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Website Posting - Paris Township.pdf

Website Posting Snapshot - PCEO Website.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf