



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

POR US 224/SR 303 8.29/19.51 PID 121535

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 12/12/2025

Prepared By: 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.

Table of Contents

C2.....	3
Ecological.....	9
Environmental Commitments.....	11
Preparers and Approvals.....	12
Appendix.....	14



C2

Project Information

C2 Section

PIDs	121535
Project Sponsor	District 4-Planning
ODOT District	4
Funding Source	Federal
Project Description:	



The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to replace an existing 116-foot long 7'-11" x 12'-6" corrugated metal pipe conduit (Bridge No. POR-224-8.290; SFN: 6703844) on US Route 224 in Randolph Township, Portage County, and perform maintenance at Bridge No. POR-303-19.51 (SFN: 6704506) in the Village of Windham, Portage County.

The POR-224-8.290 conduit structure, which conveys a Branch of the Congress Lake Outlet (perennial stream), will be replaced with a new 12-foot by 12-foot precast concrete box structure with half height concrete headwalls. The project also proposes to replace approach roadway pavement and guardrail, seal exposed concrete surfaces of the structure with an epoxy-urethane sealer, install rock channel protection and new structure identification signage, and apply new center line/edge line pavement markings applications within the project construction limits.

The project also proposes to repair scour damage at the State Route 303 Bridge (POR-303-19.51; SFN: 6704506) spanning the South Fork of Eagle Creek in the Village of Windham, Portage County. Embankment scour is occurring at the rear right bridge wingwall and along adjacent roadway embankment at an exposed 12-inch steel natural gas utility line. The project will excavate the structure embankment slope and install dump rock protection (12"-18" rock) over an aggregate rock filter layer (1"-2 1/2" rock). The project also proposes to regrade/stabilize/reseed reconstructed 2:1 embankment slope area above the newly placed dump rock and replace guardrail within the project construction limits.

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*. POR-224-8.290 structure replacement operations will result in the closure of US Route 224 between State Route 44 and New Milford Road for a duration of approximately 21 consecutive days. Though traffic detoured using State Route 44, Interstate Route 76, State Route 14 and State Route 183. Structure maintenance operations on State Route 303 will require road closure between Horn Road and Snow Street for maximum duration of 14 consecutive days. Traffic will be detoured using State Route 88 and State Route 82. Construction, lane restriction/road closure and detour information will be posted at each location prior to the start of project construction. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties and intersecting side streets during project construction.

Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected to construct the project.

The project will be constructed within existing roadway rights-of-way.

Temporary relocation of existing utilities may be necessary to construct the project. Relocations will occur within the existing roadway rights-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 will result in impacts to approximately 361 linear feet stream channel and eliminate approximately 0.007-acre of wetlands. All proposed stream and wetlands impacts are associated with proposed maintenance operations. See the stream and wetlands information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Reports and agency coordination documentation in the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.

The project will not impact other environmentally sensitive resources within the project study areas.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using Stage 3 design plans developed for the project. Stage 3 plan information for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection and *Stage 3 Plan.pdf*.

The estimated project construction cost specified in the design estimate is approximately 21% 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

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	On Previous STIP
CO	121535: 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? Yes

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	10/06/2025
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	10/06/2025
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered	10/06/2025

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	10/06/2025
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened	10/06/2025
Mitchell's Satyr	Neonympha m. mitchellii	Endangered	10/06/2025
Northern Monkshood	Aconitum noveboracense	Threatened	10/06/2025

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 at the POR-224-8.290 bridge location. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species during their summer roosting period.

A record for mountain brook lamprey is present in proximity of the POR-303-19.51 bridge location. Anticipated impacts to open water area are minimal, both streams present at this location are perennial, and it is unlikely this species would be stranded in an isolated pool or be unable to vacate the area of construction.

This project is anticipated to have no impact on or is not likely to impact any other federal and state listed species. See ecological resource and threatened and endangered species information for the project in the Level 1 Ecological Survey Reports 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 Wild and Scenic Rivers within 1,000 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

Yes

NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed

Yes

NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:

07/16/2025

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 Areas (SFHAs) Zone A floodplains established for the Branch of Congress Lake Outlet at Bridge No. POR-224-8.290 and the South Fork of Eagle Creek at Bridge No. POR-303-19.51.

The replacement of the POR-224-8.290 bridge will not increase or decrease in water surface elevations. Proposed maintenance at the POR-303-19.51 bridge will not change the alignment, grade, or hydraulic capacity of the existing structure. Because of this, the project is exempt from the normal permit process required for work encroaching on a SFHA. 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):

Not present

Section 4(f) Remarks

No Section 4(f) coordination is required for the project in accordance with 23 CFR 774 and the OES Section 4(f) Manual.

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

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO
Concurrence Date** 08/26/2025

Cultural Resources Remarks

The project undertaking will be constructed within existing US Route 224 and State Route 303 operational rights-of-way, no buildings will be involved in construction, and no relocations will be required. The area of potential effects (APE) consists of the POR-224-8.290 bridge replacement and the POR-303 bridge and roadway embankment reconstruction work areas. A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed for the project areas using the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) GIS database. No inventoried buildings (OHI), no known archaeological sites (OAI), and generally no listed or eligible historic properties were found at the individual construction areas or in the area of potential effects (APE). The undertakings are not located within a historic district.

Bridge rehabilitation will only involve a modern corrugated metal pipe culvert structure based on information found in Ellis. The POR-303-19.51 bridge will not be impacted/altered by the project. TIMS mapping indicates the POR-224-8.29 and POR-303-19.51 bridges are not historic nor considered eligible for the National Register (N.R.) based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The rehabilitation of a non-historic and non-contributing bridge, even those within a N.R. historic district, where no new right-of-way is required are construction activities which are exempt from further cultural resource consideration 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 the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information 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 through travel lanes equal to or greater than 50% closer to noise sensitive areas) and a noise analysis is not required for the project by 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:

03/31/2025

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

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.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks

ODOT District 4 conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a news release, website posting, project maintenance of traffic/schedule information electronic mailed to local emergency/public services in the project vicinity and project notification letters mailed to affected/abutting property owners. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. One written comment was received on April 11, 2025, inquiring about exits on the Ohio Turnpike in Windham Township. The Ohio Turnpike is operated by the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission. Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission contact information was provided, accordingly. No other comments or questions were received as a result of the public involvement performed for the project. See public involvement documentation for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
POR-303-19.51	Wetland A	Adjacent	Category 3	500	0.003

Has an Approved and/or Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination been made by the USACE? No

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.003

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.003

Total acres of isolated wetlands impacted: 0

In accordance with Executive Order 11990 - USDOT Order 5660.1A, this Wetland Finding has been prepared to document that wetlands have been avoided to the extent possible to minimize the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, and to document that there are no practicable alternatives to avoid construction in wetlands.

An analysis of the 'Do Nothing' alternative indicates that it is not practicable because (check all that apply):

It Would Not Correct Existing Condition and Maintenance Problems.

An analysis of improvements that avoid all wetland impacts indicates that they are not practicable because (check all that apply):

They Will Substantially Increase Project Costs.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

The No Build alternative does not meet the project's Purpose & Need to improve deteriorated and deficient bridge structure conditions. The project footprint has been reduced to the maximum extent practicable based on discussions with the project designer. Implementation of additional measures to further reduce the impact footprint is not feasible or warranted based on: the purpose and need of the project; the location of the aquatic resource relative to the project location; and the overall minor impacts of the project as currently designed.

All practicable measures have been considered and incorporated into the project design to avoid, minimize, wetland impacts. The wetland impact minimization measures that will be followed for the project are documented in the environmental commitments for the project. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be provided if required by the Clean Water Act or Ohio isolated wetland law, as regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA regulations (33 CFR parts 325 and 332



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 121535 POR US 224/SR 303 8.29/19.51
Submitted for Approval Printed 12/12/2025

and 40 CFR part 230, and OAC 3745-01-54), and (ORC 6111.027). No practicable alternatives exist for the proposed construction in wetlands, and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the wetlands that may result from such use.

Remarks:

See wetlands and other ecological resource impact information in ecological reports and agency coordination provided in the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.



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*) at the POR-224-8.29 bridge location. The project designer shall incorporate the following environmental commitment plan note information into the plans.

ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT - INDIANA BAT/NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT - POR-224-8.29 BRIDGE LOCATION: THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE KNOWN HABITAT RANGES OF THE FEDERALLY LISTED AND PROTECTED INDIANA BAT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT AT THE POR-224-8.29 BRIDGE LOCATION. NO TREES SHALL BE REMOVED AT THE POR-224-8.29 BRIDGE LOCATION 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) Mussels are present within the POR-303-19.51 bridge project area and may be impacted by the project. A relocation of the mussels shall be conducted prior to the start of instream construction activities in the South Fork of Eagle Creek and/or Stream 1 in accordance with the most recent version of ODNR's Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol. The mussel survey must occur after May 1 and before October 1 either within the same season as the instream work or the season prior to the instream work and ODOT shall obtain approval from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources prior to the contractor performing any work below the OHWM of the South Fork of Eagle Creek and Stream 1.

3) In-water work restriction dates are applicable to this project at the South Fork of Eagle Creek and Stream 1 at Bridge No. POR-303-19.51 (SFN: 6704506). In-stream work restricted shall be provided in the Waterway Permit Conditions (WPC) and provided in the plan package as Special Provisions.

4) 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.



Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer

District 4
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Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Brian Peck
Craig Kerscher

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	12/12/2025



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Project Related OES Decision - Ecological.pdf

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Site Specific Resource Mapping - Drinking Water.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing Map.pdf

Public Involvement

Correspondence with Stakeholders.pdf

Emergency and Public Services Notification Email.pdf

Emergency and Public Services Notification List.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Website Snapshot.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter Mailing Addresses.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

District Determination - Floodplain Impacts.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 121535 POR US 224/SR 303 8.29/19.51
Submitted for Approval Printed 12/12/2025

Hydrologic and Hydraulic Report - POR-224-8.29.pdf

Letter of Compliance - ODOT Form LD-52 - Portage County.pdf

Letter of Compliance - ODOT Form LD-53 - Portage County.pdf

Letter of Compliance - ODOT Form LD-53 - Windham.pdf