



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 04
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Environmental Document

for

STA Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 1 PID 118691

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 1/30/2026

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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

PIDs	118691
Project Sponsor	Stark County Park District
ODOT District	4
Funding Source	Federal

Project Description:

The Stark County Park District (Stark Parks) proposes to replace an existing 15-foot-long steel beam/timber trail bridge (Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 1) located on the Sippo Valley Trail approximately 0.4-mile east of Alabama Avenue NW, in Tuscarawas Township, Stark County. The project is located on City of Massillon property along a former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad bed. The Sippo Valley Trail in proximity to the project is an 8-mile stretch of a former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad bed. Bridge No. 1 is a post WWII steel beam bridge supported on timber abutments and piles. The structure is overall in poor condition and must be replaced.

The project will install a new pre-cast, 14' long by 16' wide 4-sided concrete box structure and repair/reconstruct the adjacent trail approaches to tie into the new structure. This project also proposes repair of any trail surface damage and replace all damaged/removed safety bollards and trail signage impacted during project construction.

Stark Parks is the project sponsor, and construction will be administered by ODOT (Traditional LPA Project / ODOT Administered 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*. Street restrictions/closures/detours are not proposed to construct the project. The Sippo Valley Trail section extending from the Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 1 east to Alabama Avenue will be closed for approximately 60 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.

Investigation determined no utilities are present within the project construction limits. No relocations of utilities is anticipated for the project.

The project proposes to impact approximately 65 linear feet of an unnamed tributary (UNT) of West Sippo Creek and result in elimination of approximately 0.001-acre of jurisdictional wetlands. 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 2 Design plans. A copy of the Stage 2 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 2 Design.pdf*.

The estimated project construction cost specified in Ellis is equal to 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
CO	118691: 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	10/31/2025
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	10/31/2025
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered	10/31/2025



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	10/31/2025
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened	10/31/2025

Endangered Species Remarks:

The project is expected to impact approximately 0.002-acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) with potential roosting habitat 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:

No Encroachment Within a Special
 Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study area and determined the project does not encroach onto designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). 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

12/30/2025

Section 4(f) Remarks



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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 Alabama Avenue NW to Ben Fulton 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 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 and trail access closures.
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. All impacted trail areas disturbed by the project will be fully restored and returned to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to the 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: Minimum Potential to Cause Effect Appendix A

Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date 12/30/2025

Cultural Resources Remarks

The undertaking is limited to the replacement of a 15-foot-long bridge (Sippo Valley Trail Bridge No. 1), with its newer/modern steel beam and treated-timber decking and railing, located on the Sippo Valley Trail in Tuscarawas Township, Stark County. The project is located on City of Massillon property along a former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad bed and all work will be performed within an existing Stark County Park District's Sippo Valley Trail Easement.

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed using the SHPO GIS online database to determine if previously recorded cultural resources are located within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), the footprint of the project. 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 project is not in proximity of a N.R. (National Register) district. Non-historic bridge replacement and bridge repair work projects are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the June 29, 2023, Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), when the work locations are not within the boundaries of any historic property or N.R. district. The undertaking is a type that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and therefore, no further coordination is required. See the cultural resources coordination and documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection and 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: 12/30/2025

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

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



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
Sippo Valley Trail Bridge 1	Wetland A	Adjacent	Modified Category 2	10	0.001

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

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.001

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.001

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.

They Will Not Meet the Identified Needs of the Project.

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. The scope of the project was designed to minimize impact to Wetland A. 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



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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 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 the ecological report and agency coordination provided in the Project File/Ecological/Reports and Coordination subsections.



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) 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 Alabama Avenue NW to Ben Fulton 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 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 and trail access closures.
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. All impacted trail areas disturbed by the project will be fully restored and returned to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to the project.

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.**



Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Brian Peck
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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	1/30/2026



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Site Specific Resource Mapping.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Public Involvement

Press Release.pdf

Project Related Decision - Public Involvement.pdf

Stark Parks Website Snapshot - Upcoming Project Alert.pdf

Stark Parks Website Snapshot.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf