



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

POR SR 0043 12.74 (Kent) PID 121376

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 6/4/2026

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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	121376
Project Sponsor	Kent, City of
ODOT District	4
Funding Source	Federal

Project Description:

The city of Kent proposes roadway improvements to North Mantua Street/State Route (SR) 43 between Needham Ave and just north of the Davey Tree entrance in the city of Kent with a project length of approximately 0.5 mile. The proposed improvements include:

- pavement resurfacing/reconstruction,
- traffic signal upgrade at Roosevelt High School,
- new 5-foot-wide sidewalks,
- new 10-foot-wide shared use path,
- street lighting,
- curb ramps to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, storm sewers, and
- a one-lane roundabout at the junction of SR 43 with the relocated access drive to Davey Tree Headquarters to the west and the Davey Tree SEED Campus and Arboretum access drive to the east.

Mapping that depicts the proposed project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Maps is included in Project File/General/Project Information as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf. Lanes will be reduced to allow the construction contractor a safe work zone. One vehicular travel lane in both the northbound and southbound directions along SR 43 will be maintained at all times, by utilizing temporary, existing and proposed pavement. Access will be maintained to adjacent properties at all times during project construction.

For the most part, the sidewalk and shared use path will be installed within the existing SR 43 right-of-way, but new right-of-way will be required at parcels owned by the Kent City School District and The Davey Tree Expert Company. A total of 3.375 acres of new permanent right-of-way will be acquired from 6 parcels to construct the project. Total takes and/or relocations are not proposed to construct the project. See the right-of-way plan information for the project in the General/Project Information/Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf.

Existing utilities within the project study area will be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

The city of Kent conducted various public involvement activities, including property owner notification letters, a press release resulting in a news article in The Portager and a public meeting conducted on February 15, 2025. A total of 71 individuals attended the meeting. A total of four comments were received at the meeting and subsequently these were responded to by the Kent City Engineer. All public involvement materials are in the Project File under Public Involvement/Project Information.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 2 Design plans for the project. 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 total project cost specified in Ellis agrees with the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2026 - 2029 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
CO	121376: 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:

(26) Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph I of this section. **Examples include: Joint or limited use of right-of-way where the proposed use would have minimal or no adverse social (including highway safety), economic or environmental impacts; Installation of new noise walls and other new noise mitigation projects; Construction of highway safety and truck escape ramps; Construction of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, or facilities and trailhead parking that do not otherwise qualify for a C1 designation; Beautification or facility improvement projects (i.e. landscaping, curb and gutter installation and replacement, ADA ramps/curb ramps, installation of park benches, decorative lighting, etc.); Construction of alternative energy facilities (fuel tank farms, wind turbines, etc.)**

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: Not Present

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	08/22/2025
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	08/22/2025
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered	08/22/2025



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	08/22/2025
Eastern Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus	Threatened	08/22/2025
Mitchell's Satyr	Neonympha m. mitchellii	Endangered	08/22/2025
Northern Monkshood	Aconitum noveboracense	Threatened	08/22/2025

Endangered Species Remarks:

Bat habitat consisted of mixed deciduous forest. Nine potential roost trees observed within the project study area. Based on general observations during the ecology survey, 34.07 percent (12.52 acres), of the project survey area contained potential summer habitat for the listed bat species. According to the ODNR response dated 10/3/2024 there are no Myotis species capture records or any records of hibernacula within a 1-mile radius of the project study area. According to the USFWS Bat Buffer correspondence received 10/24/2024, the project is not located within a bat buffer. Suitable woodland habitat consisted of a climax upland hardwood community. Species include sugar maple, red maple, American elm, Norway spruce, black cherry, boxelder, green ash, eastern cottonwood and white pine. There is a mix of large mature trees with diameters ranging from 12 to 42 inches at breast height with younger trees and saplings with various diameters at breast height. Approximately 3.59 acres of Suitable Wooded Habitat is to be impacted by the project. All tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species during their summer roosting period.

Response from USFWS states that the project is not located within an eastern massasauga range polygon. No individuals of the species were observed during the field survey and disturbance within the marginal habitat areas present in proximity of the project would likely preclude these areas from providing suitable habitat. Therefore, the species' suitable habitat is not likely to be impacted.

Suitable habitat for Mitchell's Satyr and Northern Monkshood was not present in the project study area.

Scenic Rivers

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks

No National Wild and Scenic River occurs within 1000 feet of the proposed project study area.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain:

No Encroachment Within a Special
 Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

The FEMA Firmette for the area shows that the entire project area is in an area of minimal flood hazard. This Firmette is in the Project File under Permits/Floodplain.

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

04/13/2026

Section 4(f) Remarks

The project will have minor impacts on the John Davey Arboretum, a city of Kent park. However, the only impacts would be to mowed lawn areas to construct walk/trails and minor grading for the paths. Concurrence was sought and received from the Kent Parks & Recreation Department, the officials with jurisdiction. A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form (DRF) for Recreational Properties was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on 4/8/2026. Based upon review of the DRF, it was determined a de minimis impact will occur to the John Davey Arboretum 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. No further Section 4(f) coordination is required at this time. The Section 4(f)/6(f) DRF for Recreational Properties is in the Project File under Section 4(f)/Reports. The OES Recreational Section 4(f) determination, dated April 13, 2026, is in the project File under Section 4(f)/Coordination.

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

04/21/2026

Cultural Resources Remarks

On April 14, 2026, a Cultural Resources memo-to file was prepared for the project by ODOT OES. That memo concluded: "The project will not affect a National Register listed or eligible history/architecture resource. The adjacent 1958-1965 high school will retain its existing location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, and use. Pedestrian and vehicular access and safety will be enhanced by the project. Based on the scope of the undertaking and results of the records check, no further history/architecture investigations are warranted." The memo-to-file is in the Project File under Cultural Resources/Project Information.

As stated in an e-mail correspondence, dated May 1, 2026, it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that no historic properties will be affected as a result of the proposed project. See SHPO correspondence for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection.

Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:

ODOT-OES sent copy of the Section 106 Effect Determination on April 21, 2026, to the Delaware Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Shawnee Tribe. No comments or objections to the project were received within the 30-day coordination time frame.



Environmental Resources Considered

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

Air Quality

Regulated Materials

Noise

Farmland

Air Quality:

Studies Not Required

Air Quality - Coordination with OES:

Air Remarks

The project is not in a PM2.5 nonattainment or maintenance area, therefore PM2.5 is not an air quality concern. The project is listed in the STIP/TIP or included via statewide line item (SLI) therefore, ozone is addressed. This project will not add capacity, a new interchange, relocate thru lanes significantly closer to sensitive areas, add an auxiliary lane of significant length, or include any expansion to intermodal. Therefore, this project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria -pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

A Determination that No Air Analysis is required for the project is included in the Project File/Air/Coordination subsection.

Noise:

Studies Not Required

Noise - Coordination with OES

Noise Remarks

Although there are noise sensitive areas within ~ 500' from the project study area, the project does not involve the construction of a highway on new location, does not involve alteration of an existing highway which significantly changes either the horizontal (i.e. 50% closer to receptor) or vertical alignment, does not increase the number of through-traffic lanes, does not add an auxiliary lane, does not negatively affect the shielding of an existing roadway, does not restripe existing pavement for an added through lane or auxiliary lane, does not add or substantially alter a weigh station, rest stop, rideshare lot or toll plaza, and does not cause a major change in vehicle mix. A Determination that No Noise Analysis is required for the project is included in the Project File/Noise/Coordination subsection.

**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:

10/28/2025



Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

OES stated "No further RMR or special material management is warranted for the project. However, if the plans change and additional ROW and/or deep excavation is needed, further RMR may be required." See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/RMR/Coordination and Reports subsections.

Farmland:

Urbanized Area; No Impacts in
Accordance With the Farmland MOU
and 7 CFR 658

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks

A preliminary Public Meeting was performed for the project in 2023. A Property Owner Notification Letter was sent out on August 12, 2024. A Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed by asking those who attended the first public meeting if they would like to be a part of the committee; other members were added as time went on. In addition, a public meeting was held for the project on February 12, 2025. The meeting was announced in the local media. A total of 77 individuals attended the meeting. Several comments were received at the meeting and subsequently and some were responded to directly by the Kent City Engineer. The City presented and reviewed all comments at the next CAC meeting. All public involvement materials, including the received public comments and responses to comments, are in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information 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/Tri-colored Bat: The project site is located within the known habitat ranges of the federally listed and protected Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat and Tri-colored Bat. No trees shall be removed at this location 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) No aquatic resources will be impacted by the project. However, Aquatic resources adjacent to the project will be indicated on the plans, and the Contractor shall demarcate all aquatic resources in the field per SS 832. Areas marked for avoidance will not be impacted. In riparian areas, only the minimum amount of vegetated buffer necessary for work will be removed. Temporary and permanent fill materials will consist of suitable materials (excluding broken asphalt) free from toxic contaminants in other than trace quantities. Chromated Copper Arsenate and other pressure treated lumber shall not be used in structures placed within aquatic resources. An oil spill kit shall be located within 150 feet on any equipment working in an aquatic resource and shall be maintained for the life of the project.
- 3) Access to the John Davey Arboretum, mimicking the existing conditions, will be maintained during construction. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing Section 4(f) property and the public. Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of John Davey Arboretum of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points. The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and the City of Kent prior to the start of construction activities.



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 121376 POR SR 0043 12.74 (Kent)
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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	6/4/2026



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Air

Consultant Determination - No Air Analysis Required.pdf

Noise

Consultant Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

RMR

OES Review - Screening.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

SHPO Comments

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

Tribal Consultation

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Section 4(f)

Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties.pdf

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Public Involvement

CAC Meeting Presentation.pdf

CAC Meeting Sign-in Sheet.pdf

News Article 2.pdf

News Article.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Project Web Page.pdf

Property Owner Notification Right of Entry Letter.pdf



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Public Comments and Responses.pdf

Public Meeting Exhibit - Roll Plot.pdf

Public Meeting Handouts.pdf

Public Meeting Notification and Mailing List.pdf

Public Meeting Sign In Sheet.pdf

Right of Entry Letter Mailing List.pdf

Social Media Post.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf