



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 02
317 E. POE RD. • BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402 • 419-353-8131

Environmental Document

for

WOO SR 281 11.97 Structure Repl PID 113085

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 8/4/2025

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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

PID: 113085
Project Sponsor: District 2 Engineering
ODOT District: 2
Funding Source: Federal

C2 Section

Project Description:

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to replace the bridge (SFN 8706158) that carries State Route 281 (SR 281) over Creps Ditch in Liberty Township, Wood County, Ohio. The existing continuous reinforced concrete slab structure on reinforced concrete substructure will be replaced with a single span, prestressed concrete box beam structure with three steel tube railing. The new bridge will utilize semi-integral abutment substructures with spread footing foundations on scour resistant rock. The project also includes guardrail replacement, approach pavement replacement, and rock channel protection as an erosion measure.

The project is necessary to address current bridge deficiencies. The bridge is in fair condition however it has reached its load-carrying capacity. The existing SR 281 bridge over Creps Ditch is a three-span with 16'-20'-16' span configuration for a total length of 52'. The current bridge was built in 1955 and rehabilitated in 2006.

Mapping that depicts the project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in Project File/General/Project Information as *USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf*.

A full roadway closure of SR 281 will be needed. A local traffic detour will be established to maintain access for emergency and public services, and access to adjacent properties will be maintained. It is anticipated that the detour route will utilize SR235 to US6 to SR25. The project will not require right-of-way acquisition. Utility impacts may occur; however, no utilities will be removed as a result of the project. Coordination with the utility companies in proximity to the proposed construction activities is on-going and will continue during the detailed design phases. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2027 and last approximately 6 months.

The project will not impact any environmentally sensitive resources within the project study area as detailed in the narrative below and the resource-specific subsections and tabs.

A Level 1 Ecological Survey Report was completed for the project. Creps Ditch, a potentially jurisdictional ditch, and swallow nests were identified during the reconnaissance survey. No suitable forested bat habitat was identified in the project area. The project will impact approximately 0.02-acre of potentially jurisdictional ditch and 70 linear feet of Creps Ditch resources. No other ecological resources are present within the project construction limits. See the ecological documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Project Information and Reports subsections and the Ecological tab.

There are no active or sealed water wells located within the project area. Well log data and documentation can be found in the Project File/Other Resources/Drinking Water subsection.

The project is not located in an urbanized area, however there is no right-of-way acquisition. Therefore, the project meets the Farmland MOU Criteria, and coordination of the Farmland Impact Conversion Rating (FCIR) Form (CPA-106) is not required. See the Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map in Project File/Other Resources/ Farmlands subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 2 Design Plans. A copy of the Stage 2 Plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection.

The estimated total project cost specified in Ellis is lower than the total project cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2024 - 2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), however because the difference does not exceed \$1.5 million, a STIP amendment is not required.

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	113085: 26-29 STIP
DD	

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



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Waterways Permit Type:

Permit Determination and/or Permit
Application Approval Pending

Isolated Wetland Permit

No

Will any wetlands be impacted?

No

The identified Federally Listed Species for the project received an effect determination of No Effect.

Endangered Species Remarks:

No suitable forested bat habitat was identified in the project area. The project will not impact suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the federally listed Indiana bat, northern long-ear bat, and tricolored bat or habitat for the state listed little brown bat. See the threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports 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-listed wild and scenic rivers within 1,000 feet of either project area. The project will not impact any scenic river.

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:

06/16/2025

Floodplain Remarks

A review of the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study area found the proposed construction activities are located within a designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) floodplain. A Hydrologic Analysis found that the project will not create an increase to the floodplain. An LD-51 Letter of Compliance was sent to the floodplain coordinator on June 16, 2025. See the floodplain mapping, report, and coordination, including No-Rise Certification, 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 the Wood County Auditor's website and available mapping did not identify any recreational resources within the project study area. Section 4(f) coordination is not required for the project.

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** 06/04/2025

Cultural Resources Remarks

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed using the SHPO GIS online database to determine if previously recorded cultural resources are located within the projects' 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. Additionally, the existing bridge (SFN 8706158) was built in 1955 but is not considered eligible for the National Register based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). Therefore, in accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed June 29, 2023, Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 38503), ODOT OES determined the project is a type of undertaking that has "minimal potential to cause effects" to historic properties and is not part of a larger undertaking. No further cultural coordination is required. See the cultural documentation, including coordination, for the project in the Cultural Resource tab.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Farmland

Air Remarks

The project is an exempt project per 40 CFR 93.126 [Exempt projects, Air Quality: Widening narrow pavements or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes)]. The project will not impact air quality. No air quality studies, or coordination are needed for this project.

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: 05/02/2025

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:



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Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening Form 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/RMR/Reports subsection.

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
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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

ODOT District 2 solicited public comments through a project notification letter with comment form and a project specific website. Notification letters and emails were sent on April 21, 2025, to nearby property owners, residents, and stakeholders. Comments were accepted until May 21, 2025. One comment was received during the public involvement activities regarding fire district response times and was responded to on an individual basis. See the public involvement documentation, including the received comments and responses to comments, for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) Ecological studies identified swallow nests on the bridge that carries State Route 281 (SR 281) over Creps Ditch (SFN 8706158). If construction activities will occur between May 1 and August 31 on this structure, inspect the structure for evidence of an active bird nest containing an egg or chick prior to starting work. Provide written confirmation of the inspection, including a statement whether an active nest was found, to the Engineer. If no nests are encountered during the inspection, or if only inactive nests that do not contain an egg or chick are encountered, proceed with construction activities. The Contractor may remove and destroy inactive nests. The Contractor may install exclusion measures between August 31 and May 1 to prevent migratory birds from nesting on the structure. Projects performing construction activities between the dates of September 1 and April 30 do not require an inspection for migratory birds or avoidance measures. If an active nest containing an egg or chick is encountered, avoid impacts to the nest until all developing birds are able to independently fly from the nest. If an active nest containing an egg or chick cannot be avoided, contact the Engineer at least 4 weeks prior destroying an active nest so the ODOT can obtain a Depredation Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Contractor shall be responsible for all costs and completing all tasks related to obtaining the Depredation Permit except for direct coordination with the Migratory Bird Regional Permit Office. Do not proceed with activities that will impact an active nest until ODOT confirms the Depredation Permit is received.

2) The Ohio Department of Transportation District 2 will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any construction work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all applicable waterway permits to be included in the plans and adhered to during construction.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Phoenix Meek (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	8/4/2025



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.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

Well Log Data.pdf

Public Involvement

Project Notification Letter and Mailing List.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

Stakeholder Email Notification and Mailing List.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf

Floodplain Impacts.pdf

Letter of Compliance - ODOT Form LD-51.pdf

Letter of Notification - ODOT Form LD-52.pdf

No Rise Certification - ODOT Form LD-50.pdf