



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12
5500 TRANSPORTATION BLVD. • GARFIELD HGTS., OH 44125 • 216-581-2100

Environmental Document

for

CUY IR 071 05.34 Ramp Safety PID 122099

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 11/14/2025

Prepared By: District 12

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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	122099
Project Sponsor	ODOT Sponsoring Agency
ODOT District	12
Funding Source	Federal

Project Description:

Install traffic signals and modifications to the exit ramp from IR-71 north to Pearl Rd in the city of Middelburg Heights, Cuyahoga County. Work will remove the right turn slip ramp.

All work within existing ROW.

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff Megan Romanchok, Environmental Specialist 2, using the online OSHPO ArcMap Resource Map using the Ohio State Preservation Office GIS Data website. No Cultural Resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the proposed project area. The undertaking is a type which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. No further coordination is required. The Records Check can be found in the Project File Under Cultural Resources/Project Information. District approval date 9/25/2025.

This project is not located in a Special Hazard Flood Area.

Project activities are not exempt from OAC Rule 3745-513, however, there are no landfills within 300' of the project area. Project will require deep excavation. A copy of the RMR Screening Form can be found in the project file.

The Project is within a drinking water protection area, the Berea Corridor Management Zone. An environmental commitment to include a plan note is included.

No work in streams, wetlands, or pollinator initiative sites. There will be 0.04 acres of tree/shrub removal. Within those 0.4 acres, only three trees have a DHB greater than three inches. None of those three trees contained cracks, crevices, peeling bark, snags, broken limbs, or other features that would qualify them as suitable wooded habitat.

A press release was published on ODOT's website on 6/82/2025 and included a 30-day public comment period. Five PONLs letters were sent to the surrounding property owners and the Mayor of Middleburg Heights on 5/28/2025 and included a 30-day comment period. The Project was covered in an article titled *Proposed changes to I-71 exit ramp, looks to reduce crashes in Middleburg Heights* by 19News on 6/2/2025. A copy of the article is uploaded in the EnviroNet Project File under Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information.

Fifty-eight (58) comments were received during the public comment period involving: traffic-light timing, questions about the design choices, traffic concerns, visibility, and pedestrian safety. All comments were responded to and are uploaded to the EnviroNet Project File. After all comments were received and considered, no significant changes were made to the design of the project and no plan notes were added to the plan sheets. ODOT will proceed with the project as designed.

PE Environmental: \$210,257.00; 100% State

Construction: \$958,573.00; 90% Federal, 10% State

C2 approval is based on Stage 2 Plans.

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	122099: 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:

(27) Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. *Examples include: Lane reduction ("road diet") changes provided traffic analysis is completed; Railroad projects that close at-grade crossings to improve safety or traffic operations.*

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

Endangered Species Remarks:

There will be 0.04 acres of tree/shrub removal. Within those 0.4 acres, only three trees have a DHB greater than three inches. None of those three trees contained cracks, crevices, peeling bark, snags, broken limbs, or other features that would qualify them as suitable wooded habitat.

This project will not impact any other threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

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

Scenic Rivers Remarks The Project is not within 1000' of a Scenic River.



Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain: No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks Not within a SHFA.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f): Not present

Section 4(f) Remarks

There are no 4(f) properties within the study area.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f): Not present

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources: Not Present

Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date 09/25/2025

Cultural Resources Remarks

Appendix A minimum potential to cause effect.

Environmental Resources Considered

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

Regulated Materials

Air Remarks

Project is not a type that will result in air impacts.

Noise Remarks

Project is not a type that will result in noise impacts.

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: 09/25/2025



Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Project activities are not exempt from OAC Rule 3745-513, however, there are no landfills within 300' of the project area. Project will require deep excavation.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Public Involvement Remarks

A press release was published on ODOT's website on 6/8/2025 and included a 30-day public comment period. Five PONLs letters were sent to the surrounding property owners and the Mayor of Middleburg Heights on 5/28/2025 and included a 30-day comment period. The Project was covered in an article titled *Proposed changes to I-71 exit ramp, looks to reduce crashes in Middleburg Heights* by 19News on 6/2/2025. A copy of the article is uploaded in the EnviroNet Project File under Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information.

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Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

- 1) Inform stakeholders of updates to the construction schedule.
- 2) Minimize the potential for release in the Berea Corridor Management Zone.



Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer

District 12
Contact: Thomas Sorge
216-584-2086
Tom.Sorge@dot.ohio.gov

Supporting Form Preparer(s): Megan Romanchok

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Thomas Sorge (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	11/14/2025



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Public Involvement

News Article- 19 News- June 2, 2025.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf