



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## Environmental Document

for

**POR US 224/VAR 18.67/VAR PID 116747**

Environmental Document Level: C1

**Approved: 3/25/2026**

**Prepared By: District 4**

**Brian Peck**  
**Phone: 330-786-4931**  
**E-mail: [Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov)**

*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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## C1

<b>PID</b>	116747
<b>Project Sponsor</b>	District 4-Planning
<b>ODOT District</b>	4
<b>Funding Source</b>	Federal

### Project Description:

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to perform pavement and bridge maintenance operations on State Route (SR) 14, SR 225 and U.S. Route 224 in Deerfield and Palmyra Townships, Portage County. Pavement milling/repair/resurfacing operations are proposed at the following locations:

- US Route 224 from the Deerfield Circle (US Route 224/SR 14/SR 225 Junction) east to the Mahoning County Line, in Deerfield Township.
- SR 14 from the Portage/Mahoning County Line north to the Deerfield Circle in Deerfield Township; and
- SR 225 from the SR 14/SR 225 junction, north of the Deerfield Circle, to approximately 0.3-mile north of the Interstate Route 76/SR 225 interchange in Deerfield and Palmyra Townships.

Pavement maintenance operations also include partial depth pavement repairs, manhole/curb inlet/catch basin/monument box replacements and adjustments to grade, curb ramp adjustments to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, pavement drop off, and new center line/edge line/channelizing line/stop line/dotted line/other pavement markings applications.

Maintenance is proposed on four (4) bridge structures located within the project pavement maintenance limits. The project proposes to replace the approach slabs, elastomeric compression joint seals, expansion joints and a portion of the abutment wingwalls; repair and seal the concrete bridge piers, pier caps, abutments, deck underside and deck edges; and repair erosion at all four corners behind the wingwalls of the POR-14-26.501 (SFN: 6701000) bridge spanning Berlin Lake (Mahoning River). Moreover, the project will remove silt and vegetation buildup and restore/clean out the existing structure at the POR-225-7.406 (SFN: 6704205), POR-225-7.641 (SFN: 6703984) and POR-225-8.967 (SFN: 6704026) bridge locations.

Moreover, the project proposes to reconstruct the existing SR 14 shoulder pavement east of the POR-14-26.501 bridge spanning Berlin Lake to provide a parking lot area with three (3) designated parking stalls. The newly constructed parking area will be operated and maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources via long term maintenance agreement.

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 minimum of one ten-foot lane will be maintained in each direction on SR 14, SR 225 and U.S. Route 224 during pavement and bridge maintenance operations. Road closures and detours are not proposed to construct the project. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties and intersecting side streets for the duration of the project. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

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

Based on the project scope of work, 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.

The proposed POR-US 224/VAR-18.67/VAR project pavement and structure maintenance, and SR 14 shoulder reconstruction activities will be performed within the existing SR 14, SR 225 and U.S. Route 224 operational rights-of-way in Deerfield and Palmyra Townships, Portage County. All work areas are considered to have been previously disturbed by the existing modern roadway facilities. 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. The search concluded that the proposed project is located in proximity of the Palmyra Center Hotel National Historic Listing, on State Route 225 (NRHP# 76001514). The project will not remove or alter any buildings or features of NRHP/NRHP-eligible properties. Moreover, the bridges with proposed maintenance activities are of a type and date of construction determined not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP pursuant to the 2009 Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The POR-US 224/VAR-18.67/VAR project is not a part of a larger undertaking and is a project type that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on



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June 29, 2023 (Agreement No. 38503), therefore, no further coordination is required. See cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

The proposed construction of a small parking lot on existing SR 14 right-of-way east of the POR-14-26.501 bridge will occur in proximity of Berlin Lake and the Berlin Lake Wildlife Area. Moreover, the construction contractor may use a barge at the POR-14-26.501 bridge to access, repair and seal the concrete bridge piers, pier caps, deck underside and deck edges over Berlin Lake. Berlin Lake and the Berlin Lake Wildlife Area are protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966, which affords protection to publicly-owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. While Berlin Lake is not a designated water trail in proximity to the project, Berlin Lake is navigable for motorized and non-motorized boats. The project will not impede boating/paddling access. While it will be necessary to restrict access at each bridge pier location during active construction, boat access shall be maintained under the POR-14-26.501 bridge during the entire construction duration. The project will maintain access to Berlin Lake and the Berlin Lake Wildlife Area at all times during project construction. In accordance with 23 CFR Part 774, the POR-US 224/VAR-18.67/VAR project undertaking will not result in the use of a Section 4(f) resource. See Section 4(f) determination and other documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Project Information and Report subsections.

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

Proposed maintenance operations will require removal of Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests on the POR-14-2650 bridge, and the contractor may need to use a barge with scaffolding to perform concrete repair work on pier caps and the underside of the bridge deck. An environmental commitment has been established to ensure the nests will be impacted when they are unoccupied by eggs or birds.

Based on project scope and field review performed by ODOT District 4 Environmental Staff, proposed project activities will not impact Unionid Mussels, bridge structures over water that have evidence of roosting bats, suitable habitat for Federal and State species that would result in an effect or impact to the species, and/or place temporary or permanent fills in streams, wetlands or other waters of the United States. Moreover, no intentional take of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will occur with the project. Project activities are considered ecologically exempt. See ecological documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection.

The project will not impact any environmentally sensitive resources within the project study area.

Proposed construction activities will be performed within designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) flood plain areas.

However, work proposed by the project is considered maintenance that will not change the alignment, grade or hydraulic capacity of Berlin Lake/Mahoning River and/or any other streams and, therefore, is exempt from the normal permit process required for work encroaching on a special flood hazard area. See the floodplains mapping and coordination documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 3 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 3 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Stage 3 Design.pdf*.

The estimated Stage 3 project construction cost estimate is 17.2% lower than the total project construction cost specified in the ODOT State Fiscal Years 2026 - 2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Project 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	116747: 26-29 STIP

**The current cost estimate is in line with existing federal procedures for Ohio STIP Amendments and Administration Modifications:** **Yes**

**Cultural Resources Coordination:** Minimal Potential to Cause Effect  
Appendix A

**Cultural Resources Coordination Date:** 03/19/2026



Since no Tribe was interested in this project based on their customized preferences, no further Tribal consultation was conducted.

Supporting documentation has been uploaded to Project File:

Yes

Select the appropriate project type (more than one can be selected):

(3) Construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities. *Examples include: Walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and facilities, small passenger shelters, (i.e. construction of a bike path on an existing railroad bed, designations of certain highways as bike routes, painting of existing paved shoulders as bike lanes, ADA ramps, etc.) provided that no new disturbance will occur.*

(8) Installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, and railroad warning devices where no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption will occur. *Examples include: The installation or maintenance of signs, pavement markings/raised pavement markers/sensors, traffic calming activities, and/or new or replacement fencing (right-of-way, vandal, etc.); General pavement marking or "line painting" projects.*

(22) Projects, as defined in 23 U.S.C. 101 that would take place entirely within the existing operational right-of-way. Existing operational right-of-way refers to right-of-way that has been disturbed for an existing transportation facility or is maintained for a transportation purpose. This area includes the features associated with the physical footprint of the transportation facility (including the roadway, bridges, interchanges, culverts, drainage, fixed guideways, mitigation areas, etc.) and other areas maintained for transportation purposes such as clear zone, traffic control signage, landscaping, any rest areas with direct access to a controlled access highway, areas maintained for safety and security of a transportation facility, parking facilities with direct access to an existing transportation facility, transit power substations, transit venting structures, and transit maintenance facilities. Portions of the right-of-way that have not been disturbed or that are not maintained for transportation purposes are not in the existing operational right-of-way. *Examples include: Tower lighting within the existing operational right-of-way; Guardrail installation and replacement (including median cable barriers) where roadway ditches and backslopes will not be relocated; Improvements to existing ODOT/County maintenance facilities; Construction of new ODOT/County maintenance facilities within existing operational right-of-way; Environmental mitigation activities within existing operational right-of-way; Work on pedestrian and vehicle transfer structures and associated utilities, buildings, and terminals within existing operational right-of-way; Construction of alternative energy facilities (fuel tank farms, wind turbines, etc.)*

Environmental Commitments:

Yes



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## **Environmental Commitments**

**C1**



1) The proposed reconstruction of the existing SR 14 shoulder pavement east of the POR-14-26.501 bridge and maintenance operations performed on the POR-14-26.501 bridge will take place in proximity of Berlin Lake and the Berlin Lake Wildlife Area. The following plan note information will be provided in the project construction plans to ensure the Construction Contractor provides advance notification to USACE and ODNR, and that precautions are taken to protect Berlin Lake, the Berlin Lake Wildlife Area, and the public during project construction.

BRIDGE NO. POR-14-26.501 (SFN 6701000) - USACE BERLIN LAKE OFFICE PROJECT NOTIFICATION -

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CLOSELY COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE, ANTICIPATED USE OF BOATS/BARGES AND ANY PLANNED ACCESS RESTRICTIONS WITH USACE BERLIN LAKE OFFICE A MINIMUM OF 14 CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

USACE BERLIN LAKE OFFICE  
7400 BEDELL ROAD, BERLIN CENTER, OH 44401-9714  
(330) 547-3781

DOCUMENTATION OF ALL NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION EFFORTS SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE ODOT PROJECT ENGINEER.

BRIDGE NO. POR-14-26.501 (SFN 6701000) - PROTECTION OF PUBLIC/RECREATIONAL USE OF BERLIN LAKE -

BERLIN LAKE AND THE ADJACENT BERLIN LAKE WILDLIFE AREA ARE UTILIZED FOR PUBLIC RECREATION PURPOSES INCLUDING FISHING AND WATERCRAFT USE. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A SAFE OPEN CHANNEL UNDER THE POR-14-26.501 BRIDGE AT ALL TIMES DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AND TAKE ALL PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT BERLIN LAKE, THE BERLIN LAKE WILDLIFE AREA AND THE PUBLIC DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION.

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CLOSELY COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE (INCLUDING ACCESS RESTRICTIONS) WITH ODNR PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. THE PROJECT ENGINEER OR CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY ODNR AT KYLA.MAUZ@DNR.OHIO.GOV, 14 CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO ALLOW ODNR TO POST NOTICE OF THE IMPENDING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ON THE APPROPRIATE ODNR WEBPAGES AND ASSOCIATED ONLINE BOATING MAPS.

THE PROJECT ENGINEER OR CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY ODNR AT KYLA.MAUNZ@DNR.OHIO.GOV, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE WHEN RESTRICTIONS LASTING LONGER THAN A DAY WILL OCCUR.

THE USE OF FLAGGERS OR OTHER MEANS WILL BE USED TO ALERT PADDLERS/BOATERS WHEN SHORT-TERM RESTRICTIONS (E.G. 15-30 MINUTES INTERVALS) ARE NEEDED.

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PLACE APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE/BUOYS/MARKERS AT THE NEAREST ACCESS POINTS EAST AND WEST OF THE PROJECT AREA TO ALERT PADDLERS/BOATERS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AND FOR WAYFINDING PURPOSES.

IF ON-THE-WATER LAW ENFORCEMENT IS NEEDED DURING ANY PORTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE PROJECT ENGINEER OR CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT THE ODNR DIVISION OF PARKS AND WATERCRAFT LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR, LT. SCOTT STAUFFER (SCOTT.STAUFFER@DNR.OHIO.GOV OR 440-812-3208).

DOCUMENTATION OF ALL NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION EFFORTS SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE ODOT PROJECT ENGINEER.



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2) Proposed maintenance operations at the POR-14-26.501 bridge (SFN: 6701000) will require removal of Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests to perform concrete repair work on pier caps and the underside of the bridge deck. The nests will be impacted when they are unoccupied by eggs or birds. The following protective plan note will be provided in the final project construction plans to prevent intentional take of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

CLIFF SWALLOW - BRIDGE NO. POR-14-2650 - THIS STRUCTURE IS KNOWN TO PROVIDE NESTING HABITAT FOR THE CLIFF SWALLOW (*HIRUNDO PYRRHONOTA*), A BIRD PROTECTED BY LAW UNDER THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT. THE UNDERSIDE OF THE BRIDGE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF NESTS. CLIFF SWALLOWS CONSTRUCT GOURD-SHAPED NESTS MADE OF MUD PELLETS WITH A SMALL ENTRANCE TUNNEL ON ONE SIDE. NESTS ARE TYPICALLY FOUND ON A VERTICAL SURFACE UNDER AN OVERHANG. TO AVOID IMPACTING THE SPECIES AT THE BRIDGE LOCATION, ANY WORK THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE DISTURBANCE OR REMOVAL OF A CLIFF SWALLOW NEST MUST BE CONDUCTED AFTER AUGUST 15 AND BEFORE APRIL 30, WHEN THE BIRDS ARE NOT USING THE NESTS FOR EGG LAYING OR BROOD REARING. IF OCCUPIED NESTS ARE FOUND ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE BRIDGE, THE ODOT DISTRICT 4 ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION SHOULD BE CONTACTED OR PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE CONTRACTOR HARM NESTING BIRDS.



### Preparers and Approvals

**Form Preparer**

District 4  
Contact: Brian Peck  
330-786-4931  
Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov

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

### Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	3/25/2026



## **Appendix**

### **General**

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### **Cultural Resources**

Records Check.pdf

### **Ecological**

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Project Related OES Decision - Ecological.pdf

### **Section 4(f)**

Project Related OES Decision - Recreation Section 4(f).pdf

### **Permits**

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator - LD 53.pdf

District Determination - No Floodplain Impacts.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf