



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **GEA BUNDYSBURG ROAD BRIDGE PID 94371**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 10/15/2020**

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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 June 6, 2018, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.*

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**C2**

**PID:** 94371  
**Project Sponsor:** GEAUGA COUNTY ENGINEER  
**ODOT District:** 12  
**Funding Source:** Federal  
**Private Funding:** No

**Project Description:**

The proposed project, sponsored by the Geauga County Engineer's Office, will realign Bundysburg Road (County Highway 38) in order to improve a geometrically deficient intersection with Swine Creek Road (Township Road 119) and construct a new bridge over Swine Creek immediately south of an existing historic bridge, thereby bypassing the bridge. The historic bridge, named the Bundysburg Road Bridge, is functionally obsolete and eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Bundysburg Road intersects with Swine Creek Road, which roughly parallels the Swine Creek River in a northwest-southeasterly direction. Bundysburg Road and Swine Creek Road intersect at an angle of 50 degrees (40 degrees from the preferred 90-degree angle for an intersection). The skew of this intersection is largely due to the location of the Bundysburg Road bridge, which traverses Swine Creek approximately 200 feet south and 100 feet west of the intersection. As a result, Bundysburg Road follows an S-curve through the Swine Creek Road intersection with curves rated at less than 25 mph. 15 mph intersection advisory signs are posted.

Bundysburg Road Bridge: The Bundysburg Road Bridge traverses Swine Creek approximately 200 feet south and 100 feet west of the Bundysburg/Swine Creek Road intersection. The bridge is an 83-foot single span closed spandrel arch constructed in 1930. The existing bridge (SFN 2831511) was designed by the Luten Bridge Company of Indianapolis, Indiana, and was constructed by the Hereth Construction Company. It has been determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The project will avoid the existing bridge and it will remain in use for pedestrian and horse-drawn buggies.

Due to repeated impacts to the parapets, from southbound semi-trucks having difficulty negotiating the S-curve onto the bridge deck, in 2013 a portion of the parapets were found in the streambed of Swine Creek below. Emergency repairs were made resulting in the narrowing of the bridge deck to 19 feet and posting it as "One Lane Only".

The Bundysburg Road Bridge is designated a "One Lane Bridge For 2-Way Traffic" with a deficiency rating of "Functionally Obsolete" in its latest bridge inventory, conducted in October 2016.

Project Area. The project area is located in the very northeastern portion of Parkman Township, roughly 3 miles southeast of the city of Middlefield, in Geauga County. The project area is less than 500 feet west of the Trumbull County border. Geauga County is noted as the fourth largest Amish community in Ohio with over



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15,000 Amish living here. The project is located within the unincorporated settlement of Bundysburg, which is primarily settled by Amish families. The settlement is a mix of residential, agricultural and small Amish businesses including a sawmill and shoe repair. The Old Order Amish do not drive cars or motorized farm equipment. Horse-drawn buggy, bicycles/scooters and pedestrian are the Amish forms of transportation along local roadways. Furthermore, the properties within the project area fall within a US Census block group of 47% low income, low income being an Underserved Population, per the 1994 Presidential Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

#### Addendum Area

In January of 2020 the Geauga County Engineer's office notified ODOT District 12 that the project limits would be revised to include the section of Bundysburg Road north to County Line Clark Road. The area was needed to construct bio-swales for stormwater controls. The limits can be viewed in the Project Description / Cultural Resource / Project Information / Site Specific Resourced Mapping - Ditch.pdf. Updated ecological, cultural resource and RMR reports were performed for this area. The reports are uploaded in EnviroNet.

Review of LWCF Grant List, no Section 6(f) sites are in the project area, therefore, no impacts.

#### Environmental Commitments:

Gauga County will obtain the required waterway permit prior to advertisement of the project.

To avoid impacts to federally endangered bat species, tree removal will only be allowed between October 1st and March 31st when bats will not typically be roosting in the trees.

The existing historic bridge over Swine Creek will remain open for pedestrian and horse-drawn buggy use during construction and after construction is complete.

No in-stream work is allowed between April 15th and June 30th, per ODNR recommendations.

The project area features rolling topography with the Swine Creek riverbed forming the lowest elevation and Bundysburg Road climbing at approximate rate of 5% as it leaves the river's floodplain.

The environmental document and associated studies are being approved using Stage 3 Design. A copy of the plans can be found in the project file

#### STIP Reference #

2018stipID0739FDCO

#### 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 (e) 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***



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*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.)*

(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 right-of-way b. Residential or non-residential displacements c. A Coast Guard, Individual Section 404 and/or a Section 10 permit d. A Section 106 finding of Adverse Effect e. A Section 4(f) Programmatic or Individual Evaluation 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. If an EJ Analysis Report is required, the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher level document 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.

<b>Waterways:</b>	Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required
<b>Waterways Permit Type:</b>	Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending
<b>Isolated Wetland Permit</b>	No
<b>Endangered Species:</b>	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination</b>	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
<b>Endangered Species - Coordination Date</b>	08/31/2020
<b>Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted</b>	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
<b>Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:</b>	No
<b>100-Year Floodplain:</b>	Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use
<b>EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed:</b>	Yes



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<b>NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:</b>	12/07/2018
<b>Section 4(f):</b>	Present; No Impacts and/or Access Restrictions
<b>Section 6(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Cultural Resources:</b>	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect
<b>Cultural Resources Coordination:</b>	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date</b>	04/15/2020
<b>Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:</b>	No Tribal comments were received.
Projects that meet C2 criteria are not anticipated to have impacts to the following environmental resources. If resources are present, documentation is only required if there is a potential for impacts.	
<b>Air Quality:</b>	Studies Not Required
<b>Air Quality - Coordination with OES:</b>	No
<b>Noise:</b>	Studies Not Required
<b>Noise Coordination - OES Approval Date:</b>	10/15/2020
<b>Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted</b>	Yes
<b>Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:</b>	10/15/2020
<b>Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:</b>	No Further Studies Warranted
<b>Farmland:</b>	Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU and 7 CFR 658
<b>Scenic Rivers</b>	No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area
Projects that meet C2 criteria must be in accordance with ODOT's UP Guidance and activities conducted for Public Involvement are commensurate to the project's type and scope of work.	
<b>Underserved Populations</b>	Does Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria; No UP Analysis Report Required and No UP Issues Raised During Public Involvement
<b>Public Involvement:</b>	Minimum PI Requirements Met; No Minor Public or Agency Controversy on Environmental Grounds
<b>Environmental Commitments</b>	Yes



## Environmental Commitments

### C2

- 1) Maintenance of Traffic: During construction, the existing historic bridge over Swine Creek will remain open for pedestrian and horse-drawn buggy use.
- 2) Waterway Permit: The Geauga County Engineer will be responsible for attaining all necessary waterway permits prior to the start of construction. Conditions of these permits will be provided in the contract as Special Provisions. The Geauga County Engineer will provide the waterway permits to the Contractor prior to the start of construction. The Contractor is responsible for following all the Special Provisions of the waterway permits throughout the duration of the contact.
- 3) Ecological: The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW) recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat.
- 4) Modify all phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) to avoid tree removal in excess of what is required to implement the project safely.
- 5) Ensure tree removal is limited to that specified in project plans by clearly marking clearing limits. Ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field.
- 6) The following Endangered Bat Habitat Removal Plan note shall be incorporated into the project plans:  
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 UNDER THIS 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.
- 7) The historic bridge will remain in use permanently for pedestrian and horse-drawn buggy use.



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**Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:**

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**Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	10/15/2020



## Appendix

### General

Aerial Map.pdf

### Cultural Resources

Consulting Party Coordination\_Holth.pdf

Consulting Party Request Acknowledgement.pdf

Consulting Party Request Acknowledgement\_email.pdf

### Ecological

Coordination with ODNR and USFWS.pdf

Coordination with ODNR.pdf

Coordination with USFWS.pdf

### General

County Map.pdf

General Photographs.pdf

### Ecological

ODNR Comments.pdf

### Cultural Resources

OES comments on Section 106 RFR.pdf

SHPO Comments

SHPO Concurrence.pdf

SHPO Concurrence\_No Adverse Effect .pdf

SHPO Coordination\_Effect.pdf

### Other Resources

Site Specific Resource Mapping.pdf

### Cultural Resources

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination Re-evaluation

Tribal Consultation

### Other Resources

Urban Mapping .pdf

### Ecological



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USFWS Comments Consult Form GEA-Bundysburg Road PID 94371.pdf

USFWS Comments.pdf

**General**

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

**Underserved Populations**

Census Mapping.pdf

**Public Involvement**

Correspondence with Stakeholders.pdf

**Section 4(f)**

Geauga response to 4(f) Alt Analysis.pdf

**Permits**

Local Floodplain Administrator Approval.pdf

**Section 6(f)**

LWCF Grant Listing.pdf

**Section 4(f)**

OES Cultural Resources 4(f) Determination.pdf

**Section 4(f) 6(f)**

OES Decision on Structure Type Study.pdf

**Public Involvement**

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Involvement Summary.pdf

**Underserved Populations**

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf