



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document for **SUM East Exchange St PID 102701** Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 10/12/2021

Prepared By: Robert Lang

ODOT DISTRICT 4

Phone: 330-786-4975

E-mail: Robert.Lang@dot.ohio.gov

District Contact: Edward Deley

Phone: 330-786-4930

E-mail: Edward.Deley@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.

Table of Contents

C2.....	3
Environmental Commitments.....	7
Preparers and Approvals.....	8
Appendix.....	9



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St

Approved: 10/12/2021

C2

PID:	102701
Project Sponsor:	Akron, City of
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No

Project Description:

The city of Akron proposes 0.841 mile of roadway, traffic signal and utility improvements along East Exchange Street between Broadway Street and Fountain Street in the city of Akron, Summit County, Ohio.

This project is a Complete Streets project located in a highly urbanized setting adjacent to the University of Akron. Proposed improvements include full depth pavement replacement, curb/sidewalk repairs, new drainage structure installations, new pavement marking applications and new traffic sign installations. A 5-foot bike lane will also be established along each side of the street. Two through lanes in each direction with exclusive left-turn/right-turn lanes at various intersections are proposed along East Exchange Street by the project except from west of Spicer Street to Fountain Street where only one through lane with exclusive left-turn/right-turn lanes at various intersections will be delineated in the eastbound direction. Additional improvements proposed by this project include creating additional on-street parking spaces along the southern side of East Exchange Street from Arc Drive toward Grant Street, from Sumner Street to Allyn Street from Kling Street toward Brown Street, from Kim Street toward Spicer Street and from Spicer Street to Goodkirk Street, re-aligning 257.29 feet of an existing University of Akron access drive at Sumner Street, replacing traffic signals, installing a new interconnected traffic signal system, repairing storm and sanitary sewers and manholes, replacing curb ramps to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, installing new light fixtures and planting trees/perennial plants.

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.

Two lanes of traffic in each direction shall be maintained on the existing/completed pavement during project construction. Road closures and detours are not proposed to construct the project. Construction and lane restriction/reduction information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, businesses and intersecting side streets during project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction. A total of 0.1788 acre of new permanent right-of-way is required from the University of Akron to construct the project. See the right-of-way plan information for the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf.

Minor relocations of existing utilities within the project study area will be necessary to construct the project. These minor utility relocations will occur within the existing/proposed new permanent street right-of-way. Utilities will not be permanently removed to construct the project. Coordination with the utility companies affected by the proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.

A cultural resources literature search determined there are no inventoried buildings (OHI) or archaeological sites (OAI) in the immediate area. No listed or eligible historic properties are found in the construction area or



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St

Approved: 10/12/2021

the area of potential effects (APE). Minor pedestrian enhancement projects, and general safety upgrades are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/2017 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19139) as long as no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property will be acquired and no contributing element of an historic district will be removed or altered by construction. In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT-OES determined the project is a type of undertaking that has 'minimal potential to cause effects' to historic properties and is not a part of a larger undertaking. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

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.

Additionally, this project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the Ecologically Exempt New ESR 1.pdf for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection. ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM for the project study area and determined the project is not located within a special flood hazard area. See the floodplains documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

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

Akron conducted various public involvement activities for the project. In 2017-2018, Akron engaged the community with project alternatives through open house events and installing temporary pavement markings and signs in the innovative 'Hands On Exchange' outreach effort. The preferred alternative was part of additional outreach efforts in 2021, including a news release, a website posting and project notification mailings. Multiple news articles were published about the project on local media/university communications websites. Several public comments were received from the 2021 public involvement activities conducted for the project. Commenters generally supported the project and expressed concerns about the proposed bike lanes. The city of Akron responded to the received comments by e-mail correspondence. 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.

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 2021 - 2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

STIP Reference #:

102701: 21-24 STIP.

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 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,***



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St

Approved: 10/12/2021

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 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.

Waterways: Not Present

Will any wetlands be impacted? No

Endangered Species: No Impacts to Protected Species and
Critical Habitat

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

Section 4(f): Not present

Section 6(f): Not present

Cultural Resources: Present; No Finding of Adverse
Effect

Cultural Resources Coordination: Minimum Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix B

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrent
Date** 06/04/2021

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

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.

Air Quality: Studies Not Required

Air Quality - Coordination with OES: No

Noise: Studies Not Required

Noise Coordination - OES Approval Date:

Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted Yes

Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date: 07/28/2021



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St

Approved: 10/12/2021

Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:

No Further Studies Warranted

Farmland:

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

Scenic Rivers

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.

Underserved Populations

Does Not Exceed UP Guidance
Criteria; No UP Analysis Report
Required and No UP Issues Raised
During Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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

Environmental Commitments

No



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St
Approved: 10/12/2021

Environmental Commitments



Environmental Document Level: C2

PID 102701 SUM East Exchange St

Approved: 10/12/2021

Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

Robert Lang
ODOT DISTRICT 4
330-786-4975
Robert.Lang@dot.ohio.gov

Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Lorie Feudner
Robert Lang

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	10/12/2021



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Street Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Underserved Populations

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

News Article - Cleveland.com 2017.pdf

News Article - Cleveland.com.pdf

News Article - Downtown Akron Partnership.pdf

News Article - The Buchtelite.pdf

News Article - University of Akron.pdf

News Article - WKSU.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Outreach Materials.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

Website Posting - City of Akron.pdf