



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

SUM Freedom Trail Middlebury Con PID 102796

Environmental Document Level: C1

Approved: 9/14/2022

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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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C1

PID:	102796
Project Sponsor:	Summit Metro Parks
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No

Project Description:

The Summit Metropolitan Park District (Summit Metro Parks) proposes to construct a 0.35 mile long, 10-foot wide shared-use asphalt trail in the city of Stow, Summit County, and the city of Kent, Portage County. This proposed shared use trail will connect the Summit Metro Parks Freedom Trail to the Portage Park District Portage Hike and Bike Trail, thereby, eliminating the need for trail users to travel on Middlebury Road. The proposed trial connector will begin at the existing Freedom Trail trailhead parking lot in the city of Stow, cross Middlebury Road at grade, traverse the CSX railroad tracks along a separated grade, and end at the existing Portage Hike and Bike Trail on the east side of Middlebury Road in the city of Kent. The proposed railroad tracks grade separation will require the construction of a new single-span pre-fabricated approximately 175-foot long, 12-foot wide trail bridge, parallel to and east of the existing Middlebury Road bridge, as part of the project. Based on the difference in elevation between the two existing trails, a switchback is also proposed from the proposed new trail bridge to the Portage Hike and Bike Trail. The trail will be designed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Additional improvements proposed by this project include a railroad access gravel driveway removal, a cellphone tower/base station access driveway relocation, new trail/traffic sign installation, new pavement markings application and new landscape installation.

Mapping that depicts the project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf. A minimum of one 10-foot lane of traffic in each direction shall be maintained on Middlebury Road 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. Lane restrictions/reductions shall not be permitted after normal working hours. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction. The project will be constructed within the existing roadway right-of-way and properties owned by Summit Metro Parks and Kent. 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 roadway 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. Based on the project scope of work, its Path 2 Project Development Process (PDP) Classification and the proposed maintenance of traffic measures, emergency/public services contact activities were not conducted for the project. A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff and staff from Summit Metro Parks using the SHPO GIS online database. 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. The undertaking is a type which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No further coordination is required in accordance with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. In accordance with Stipulation V(C)(1) and Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319), amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT 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.

A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on June 15, 2022. Based upon review of the DRF it was determined the proposed project will not interfere with or adversely impact the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with Freedom Trail and Portage Hike & Bike Trail. Therefore, a determination of No Use is appropriate in accordance with 23 CFR 774. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) regarding the assessment of impacts that are included in



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the DRF. See the Section 4(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Coordination and Reports 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.

Additionally, this project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the Ecologically Exempt SUM Freedom Trail Middlebury.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.

Summit Metro Parks conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a news release posted on the Summit Metro Parks Project Updates website and social media pages. Project comments were requested with all public involvement activities. One public comment was received by Summit Metro Parks as a result of the public involvement activities conducted for the project. See the public involvement documentation, including the received comment and response to comment, for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the schematic plan for the project. A copy of the schematic plan for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Schematic Plan.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 #: 102796: 21-24 STIP \$1,448,200.00

Cultural Resources Coordination: Minimal Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix A

Cultural Resources Coordination Date: 06/06/2022

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.*

(7) Landscaping. *Examples include: Herbicidal spraying; Mowing or brush removal/trimming projects; Beautification or facility improvement projects (i.e. landscaping, curb and gutter replacement, installation of park benches, decorative lighting, etc.).*

(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.*

Environmental Commitments: Yes



Environmental Commitments

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- 1) The following measures to minimize harm will be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments in the NEPA document:
- Access to the Freedom Trail and two (2) associated parking lots and the Portage Hike and Bike Trail shall be maintained at all times during construction activities
 - Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of the Freedom Trail and two (2) associated parking lots and the Portage Hike and Bike Trail of construction activities, if in proximity to recreational facilities or features
 - The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT, Summit Metro Parks, and the OWJ prior to the start of construction activities.



Preparers and Approvals

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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	9/14/2022



Appendix

General

County Map.pdf

Project Renderings.pdf

Schematic Plan.pdf

Study Area Location Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Section 4(f)

Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties.docx

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Public Involvement

Public Comments Received.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

SMP Social Media Posts.pdf

SMP Website Post.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf