



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

SUM SR 0018 09.75 PID 102744

Environmental Document Level: C1

Approved: 11/15/2023

Prepared By: Robert Lang

ODOT DISTRICT 4

Phone: 330-786-4975

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

District Contact: Brian Peck

Phone: 330-786-4931

E-mail: 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

PID: 102744
Project Sponsor: Akron, City of
ODOT District: 4
Funding Source: Federal

Project Description:

The city of Akron, in cooperation with ODOT District 4, proposes roadway maintenance and minor rehabilitation of eight bridges on 3.6 miles of State Route (SR) 18/East Market Street in a highly urbanized area of Akron, Summit County. The project limits are between SR 59 and Brittain Road within the City of Akron. Construction plans for roadway improvements were designed/produced by the City Akron Engineering Bureau, while the bridge rehabilitation plans were designed by ODOT District 4. The roadway and bridge plans will be combined and constructed under one project that will be administered/constructed by the city of Akron.

Proposed roadway improvements include pavement resurfacing, casting adjustments, curb ramp and adjacent sidewalk replacement/installation, traffic sign installations and center line/edge line/channelizing line/stop line/transverse-diagonal line/other pavement markings applications. The resurfaced pavement on SR 18 between East Buchtel Avenue and Case Avenue, as well as between Innovation Way and Britain Road, will maintain the same roadway width. However, pavement markings will be changed resulting in a through lane reduction/road diet. The road is currently striped with two through travel lanes in each direction. The proposed lane configuration is one through travel lane in each direction with a center two-way left turn lane and designated bike lanes in each direction with designated on street parking. Proposed pavement maintenance and striping is detailed in the final plans included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Final Plans Akron.pdf*.

This project also includes bridge activities at the bridge locations referenced below. Where warranted, proposed maintenance includes wearing surface and approach slab repair and sealing, expansion joint repair, concrete repair and sealing, sidewalk repair, removal of above ground vegetation, channel cleanout and installation of new structure identification signage.

1. SUM-18-0975 over SR 59 and Ohio Canal
2. SUM-18-1027 over CSX railroad
3. SUM-18-1171 over Little Cuyahoga River
4. SUM-18-1179 over CSX railroad
5. SUM-18-1235 over Kelly Avenue
6. SUM-18-1304 under Britain Road
7. SUM-18-1330 over Little Cuyahoga River

All proposed bridge structure maintenance activities are described in Final Plans included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Final Plans ODOT.pdf*.

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 travel lane each direction is expected to be maintained during project construction. The contractor will submit a maintenance of traffic plan for review and acceptance. 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.

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

Existing utilities within the project study areas will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed by district environmental staff using Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) GIS online database information provided by SHPO. 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, except for



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seven buildings and one historic district. The project undertaking will be constructed within existing road operational rights-of-way, no buildings will be involved in construction and no relocations will be required. Moreover, project construction activities adjacent to or within potential historic resources are limited to in-kind pavement maintenance and associated activities. Therefore, the undertaking is a type that 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 June 29, 2023 (Agreement No. 38503), ODOT has determined that the proposed 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.

Bridge maintenance activities along SR 18 include repairs to the SUM-18-0975 bridge over SR 59 and the Ohio & Erie Canal and Towpath Trail. ODOT-OES Policy Staff determined the proposed project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. In accordance with 23 CFR 774.13(d), the temporary occupancy of land and/or access will not constitute a use upon the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. 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. Furthermore, all appropriate environmental commitments related to measures to minimize harm to the Ohio & Erie Canal and Towpath Trail, and the public, are provided as Environmental Commitments. See Section 4(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Reports and Coordination 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.

A review of Natural Heritage Database records and a project field review for ecological resources were conducted by district environmental staff. Construction activities are limited to existing pavement/bridges and adjacent disturbed areas. The project scope includes maintenance of three bridges over streams. The SUM-18-0975 (Ohio Canal) and SUM-18-1330 (Little Cuyahoga River) bridges involve no instream work or other potential ecological impacts. Bridge maintenance proposed at the SUM-18-1171 bridge includes channel cleanout below the ordinary high water mark of the Little Cuyahoga River. A freshwater mussel reconnaissance survey was completed at the SUM-18-1171 bridge location. No evidence of mussels was found. Project activities will not impact Unionid Mussels, migratory nesting birds, suitable habitat for Federal and State species, roosting bats, or place temporary or permanent fills in streams, wetlands or other waters of the United States, therefore, this project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the ecological documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection and on the Ecological tab.

ODOT District 4 Environmental Section personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM mapping for the project study area and found the proposed construction activities are located within designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone A/AE floodplains. However, the proposed construction activities are considered maintenance and, therefore, are exempt from the normal permit process required for work encroaching on a SFHA. See the floodplain mapping and documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection.

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

The city of Akron and ODOT conducted various public involvement activities for the project. Akron created a project website and issued a news release with project roadway details and public commenting information. Seven public comments were received with most involving concerns about traffic flow with the lane reduction and lack of use of existing bike lanes along the project route. Akron responded to all comments. ODOT met with the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition due to a decorative mural that will be impacted by the project. Instructions were given on steps to produce another mural after project construction. See public involvement materials in Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the final plans for the project. A copy of the final plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as *Final Plans Akron.pdf* (roadway plans) and *Final Plans ODOT.pdf* (bridge 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	102744: 24-27 STIP
DD	



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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: 10/18/2023

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):

(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

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1) Bridge maintenance activities along SR 18 include repairs to the SUM-18-0975 bridge over SR 59 and the Ohio & Erie Canal and Towpath Trail. Maintenance activities include patching of the concrete bridge abutment located adjacent to the Towpath Trail. The following measures to minimize harm will be incorporated into the plans as plan notes: 1) Access to the Towpath Trail will be maintained at all times, except for the time needed to temporarily occupy the Towpath Trail related to access restrictions and/or work needed to facilitate construction activities; 2) Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of construction activities and temporary access restrictions in order to direct users to secondary access points; 3) Except as necessary to facilitate construction activities, the staging and/or storage of construction equipment will not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the Towpath Trail; and 4) The contractor will closely coordinate the construction schedule of the bridge maintenance and trail restrictions at SUM-18-0975 with the City of Akron and Dan Rice with the Ohio Erie Canal Coalition at drice@ohioeriecanal.org (Phone: 330-374-5657).



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Brian Peck (ENV SPEC 3)	11/15/2023



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Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

Public Involvement

Akron Website Posting.pdf

Press Release.pdf

Public Comments Received and Responses.pdf

Stakeholder Meeting Notes - Ohio Erie Canalway Coalition.pdf

Permits

Correspondence with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

District Determination - No Floodplain Impacts.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf