



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document

for

POR Portage-Brady's Leap Section PID 103834

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 6/9/2020

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ODOT DISTRICT 4

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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:	103834
Project Sponsor:	Kent, City of
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No

Project Description:

The city of Kent proposes to reconstruct/widen an existing 5-foot wide brick walkway located on the west side of the Cuyahoga River and east of Gougler Avenue in the city of Kent, Portage County, Ohio. The existing brick walkway is identified as the Brady's Leap Trail located in both Franklin Mills Riveredge Park and Brady's Leap Park. This walkway reconstruction/widening project proposes to establish a new 10-foot wide with 2-foot shoulders, 1,130-foot long concrete multi-use trail from the southerly terminus of the existing brick walkway at Main Street in Franklin Mills Riveredge Park, along an alignment consistent with the existing walkway alignment, to an existing 10-foot wide concrete multi-use trail at the northerly terminus of the existing brick walkway in Brady's Leap Park. Due to an existing grade change at the southerly terminus, a previously removed stairway at Main Street will be re-established with a proposed new concrete stairway with bicycle ramps and a proposed new gateway sign where the proposed stairway abuts the existing Main Street sidewalk. Immediately north of the proposed stairway, an existing 60-foot long by 5-foot wide secondary asphalt pathway that connects to an existing brick pathway to the pedestrian underpass at the Main Street Bridge will be reconstructed as part of the project.

At the approximate midpoint of the proposed new multi-use trail, a secondary circuitous pathway extends westerly approximately 317 feet to an existing sidewalk on the east side of Gougler Avenue. This existing Gougler Avenue Connector trail pathway will be reconstructed to 5 feet wide along a modified circuitous alignment as part of the project. Another proposed new gateway sign at the reconstructed pathway to the proposed new multi-use trail will be constructed at Gougler Avenue. A proposed new 30-foot long by 24-foot wide wood overlook structure will be constructed in Brady's Leap Park on the east side of the proposed new multi-use trail and face toward the Cuyahoga River.

Lighting will also be installed along the proposed new multi-use trail, the proposed new re-established stairway and at the proposed new overlook structure. Additional improvements proposed by the project include horizontal and vertical alignment grading, drainage improvements, bioretention area establishment, potential retaining wall installation/regrading/other treatment for slope stability, potential fence/barrier installation, an existing wooden deck/overlook structure removal between approximately Station (STA) 2+75 and approximately STA 4+05, wayfinding signage installation, turf restoration and trail pavement marking application. The project will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.



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Mapping that depicts the project on United States Geological survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf.

Project construction will require closure of the existing brick walkway for 6 consecutive months. As the impacted section of Brady's Leap Trail will be closed during construction, recreational opportunities will be suspended within the construction footprint. However, Franklin Mills Riveredge Park and Brady's Leap Park will remain open, and unimpacted sections of existing trail within both parks will remain open during project construction. Project detour information will be posted within the project limits to maintain pedestrian/recreational connection between Franklin Mills Riveredge Park and Brady's Leap Park. Substantial pedestrian disruptions are not expected during project construction.

The project will be constructed on six parcels, three of them are owned by Kent while the remaining three parcels are privately owned with existing easements to accommodate the existing walkway previously granted to Kent. Therefore, additional right-of-way is not required to construct the project.

Overhead and underground utilities exist within the project vicinity. However, based on the proposed improvements, project impacts on these existing utilities are not expected with the project. Utilities will not be permanently removed to construct the project. Coordination with the utility companies adjacent to the proposed construction activities was conducted for the project during its preliminary engineering phase and will continue during its detailed design phase.

See continuation of the project description in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Project Description Continued.pdf.

STIP Reference #

2018stipID0131FDCO and is fiscally constrained.

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, 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



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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
Endangered Species:	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination Date	08/30/2019
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use
EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed:	Yes
NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:	06/09/2020
Section 4(f):	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
Section 4(f) Determination:	
Temporary No Use Exception - 774.13(d)	
Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(d)	05/04/2020
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 Concurrence Date	08/22/2019
Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:	



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Based on the customized preferences configured by the tribe, the ODOT EnviroNet System notified the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma about the project on 8/22/2019. No comment or objection was received from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma concerning this project within 30 days of the project notification date.

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: 08/28/2019

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 Yes



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans: This 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 purpose 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.

2) The Project Designer shall incorporate plan notes into the plans to ensure the Contractor complies with the following measures to minimize harm: 1) access to the Franklin Mills Riveredge Park and Brady's Leap Park, and Brady's Leap Trail beyond the project construction limits shall be maintained at all times, except for the time needed to temporarily occupy each property for construction of the project; 2) temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the Section 4(f) property and the public; 3) appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of the existing Franklin Mills Riveredge Park and Brady's Leap Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points; and 4) the contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT, the City of Kent Engineering Department and Parks Department, and other entities, as appropriate prior to the start of construction activities.

3) The project is located within a FEMA flood zone and will be designed to comply with all applicable Local, State and Federal floodplain protection standards. Appropriate floodplain permitting shall be obtained for the project prior to the start of project construction.



Preparers and Approvals

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Supporting Form Preparer(s): Brian Peck
Lorie Feudner

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	6/9/2020



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Buckeye Assets Mapping.pdf

Ecological

Coordination with ODNR and USFWS.pdf

General

County Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Ecological

ODOT Disposition of Agency Comments.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

General

Project Description Continued.pdf

Cultural Resources

Records Check.pdf

ESA

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Ecological

USFWS Comments Consult Form POR-Portage Bradys PID 103834.pdf

General

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf



Public Involvement

News Article - Record Courier 3-4-2019.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Public Involvement

Project Related Email - Public Mtg Notification Ltrs.pdf

Section 6(f)

Project Related OES Decision - Section 6(f).pdf

Public Involvement

Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Meeting Comment Sheet.pdf

Public Meeting Notice (3-18-2019) - facebook Snap Shot.pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Kent Parks and Rec Website.pdf

Public Meeting Notification - Property Owner Mailing List.pdf

Public Meeting Notification Letter.pdf

Public Meeting Notification Press Release.pdf

Public Meeting Presentation.pdf

Public Meeting Sign In Sheet.pdf

Response to Public Comments - facebook notification.pdf

Response to Public Comments - Parks and Rec website posting.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

Underserved Populations

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf