



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **CUY Lake Link/Franklin Enhance PID 89034**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 12/10/2025**

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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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**C2**

**Project Information**

**C2 Section**

<b>PIDs</b>	89034
<b>Project Sponsor</b>	Cleveland Metroparks
<b>ODOT District</b>	12
<b>Funding Source</b>	Federal

**Project Description:**

The Cleveland Metroparks proposes to construct 0.5-miles of shared use path at the Irishtown Bend Site between Detroit Avenue and Columbus Road in the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County. The shared use path will connect the existing Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail to the north and to the south. The project will be constructed using the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) delivery method. The project received HIP Earmark OH-420 and must be authorized/obligated by September 2026.

Proposed shared use path work includes construction of retaining walls, landscaping, pedestrian lighting, and drainage improvements throughout the corridor. The proposed project also includes enhancements to Franklin Boulevard between W. 25th Street and Columbus Road. The Franklin Avenue enhancement work includes sidewalks, pedestrian-scale lighting and landscaping improvements throughout the corridor.

No permanent or temporary right-of-way (ROW) will be required for the project. The project area encompasses the Riverbed Street and Franklin Boulevard ROWs, and property under the ownership and control of the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project partners and local public agencies. A trail easement will be utilized on two parcels southern properties; parcel 003-23-008 owned by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) and parcel 003-23-009 owned by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSDD).

No relocations of existing utilities within the project limits are anticipated. Coordination with utility companies potentially affected by the proposed project was conducted during the preliminary engineering phase for the project are on-going through the remaining Final Engineering and Construction Phases of the project.

Construction is expected to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2026 and last approximately 240 days. Traffic will be maintained along Franklin Boulevard throughout construction. During construction, no detours will be required and access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction.

The project's project limits are located within the project area of the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project. The Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project included the completion of Environmental Assessment (EA) NEPA and environmental investigations, including Cultural Resources, RMR, and ecological investigation; this documentation can be found under PID 112464.

**The next phase of the proposed project is listed on the STIP:** Yes

**Ellis STIP Details**

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	89034: 26-29 STIP
RW	On Previous STIP
CO	89034: 24-27 STIP
DD	



The current cost estimate is in line with existing federal procedures for Ohio STIP Amendments and Administration Modifications: Yes

**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 I 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 ROW (exceeds strip takes) b. Residential or non-residential displacements c. A U.S. Coast Guard permit or an Individual Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act d. A Section 106 finding of Adverse Effect e. Section 4(f) impacts greater than de minimis 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. Substantial Community Impacts (if a Community Impact Assessment is required, contact OES for guidance). 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.

**Ecological**

**Waterways:** Not Present

**Will any wetlands be impacted?** No

**Endangered Species:** No Impacts to Protected Species and Critical Habitat

**Scenic Rivers** No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area

**Scenic Rivers Remarks**

The project is not located within 1,000-feet of a scenic river.

**Floodplains**

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



## **Floodplain Remarks**

The proposed project area is located along the west bank of the Cuyahoga River. According to the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Map, 39035C0177F effective August 15, 2019, the project area is located adjacent to Coastal Floodplain Zone AE which has an elevation of 576-feet. The proposed project is located within the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project area and is under active construction. As part of the Irishtown Bend Project, bulkhead rehabilitation including placement of new bulkhead material and regrading will build final grade of the proposed project area above the 100-year floodplain. Final grade of the proposed project will be above an elevation of 580-feet.

This project will not impact any floodplains or floodways. See the floodplains documentation for the project in the Project File/Permits/Floodplains subsection, and Stage 1 Design plan set in the Project File/General /Project Information subsection.

## **Section 4(f)**

### **Section 4(f):**

Not present

## **Section 4(f) Remarks**

The proposed project area is located within the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project area and is under active construction. Completed in 2021, Cleveland Metropark's Redline Greenway is a nearly two-mile paved all-purpose trail that links the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Rail to two RTA Red Line Rapid Transit stations and provides a primary active transportation corridor from West 65th Street to downtown Cleveland. The Redline Greenway Trail is adjacent to the proposed project and utilizes portions of Franklin Avenue right-of-way. As part of the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project, the final Irish Town Bend project area will include a public park, and the proposed project will provide the missing link of the Cleveland Foundation Lake Link Trail. The proposed project is a planned recreational element of the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project, and will be developed by LAND Studio and maintained by the Cleveland Metroparks.

The proposed project is located near two (2) identified historic sites, including the NRHP listed Cleveland Centre Historic District (CCHD) and the Irishtown Bend Archaeological District (IBAD). The Section 106 Assessment of Effects, dated December 2020, prepared for the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization and Rehabilitation Project determined that no hillside stabilization or bulkhead components will directly impact the viaduct piers in the project area; therefore, there would be no direct effect or impact the CCHD located adjacent to the proposed project. Additionally, the report concluded that the Irishtown Bend hillside was not a contributing element or significant characteristic of the CCHD in addition to having been historically undergone previous alterations with the removal of past industrial and residential structures. Based on these considerations, it was found that the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project will not have an effect on the CCHD. The proposed project will not constitute a Section 4(f) use of the CCHD property.

Additionally, the IBAD was identified to likely have adverse impacts due to planned re-grading of the hillside and additional ground-disturbing activities planned during the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project. Although the proposed project area has been involved in previously disturbed alterations, it was found that adverse effects to the IBAD would be limited to specific areas including along Franklin Avenue and the crest of the hillside east of W. 25th Street, identified within the proposed project area. Coordination conducted by MARAD during the Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization Project consulted and developed a MOA to mitigate adverse effects on the IBAD in April 2021. The MOA was developed with input from OSHPO, federally recognized tribes, and consulting parties, and identified that the IBAD was critical for data recovery and included stipulations for archaeological data recovery and monitoring. Therefore, it was determined that the proposed project will not constitute a Section 4(f) use of the IBAD. Coordination documentation with consulting parties can be found in CUY Irishtown Bend Slope (PID 112464) Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination file path.

## **Section 6(f)**

### **Section 6(f):**

Not present

## **Cultural Resources**

### **Cultural Resources:**

Not Present



Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO  
Concurrence Date

08/06/2025

### Cultural Resources Remarks

The construction footprint for the Lake Trail connector was previously surveyed, found extensively disturbed, and required no further archaeological investigation as part of larger project involving a new bulkhead along the bank of the Cuyahoga River and the cutting of the adjacent unstable hillside slope. The enhancements to Franklin Avenue involve widening the sidewalk and providing decorative lighting and landscaping within the existing right-of-way limits. Therefore, 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 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. Both the Franklin Avenue enhancements and the Lake Trail connector are improvement projects covered by Appendix B:1(e) and 1(m), respectively.

### Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:

ODOT-OES initiated Tribal Consultation on August 6, 2025. No tribal objections or comments were received for the proposed project.

### Environmental Resources Considered

The following environmental resources are present and have been studied for potential impacts:

Regulated Materials

Farmland

Air Remarks

N/A

Noise Remarks

N/A

The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA  
513 Landfill Authorization:

Yes - Screening

### Regulated Materials Review Screening:

Plan Note Required

Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date:

12/09/2025

### Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening completed for the project, no further RMR of special material management is warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/RMR Coordination, Project Information, and Reports subsections.

Farmland:

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

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

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



## Public Involvement Remarks

The following public involvement activities occurred for the project:

- Between 2016 and 2018, the Irishtown Bend Vision Plan engaged the local community through public meetings, walking tours, and surveys.
- September 7, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks presented the 2017 Draft Reservation Plan Updates: Big Creek, Brookside, Washington, Ohio & Erie Canal, and Garfield Park Reservations Presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners.
- September 12, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting at Brookside Reservation, Valley Event Center, Cleveland.
- September 13, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting at Garfield Park, Trolley Turn Canopy, Garfield Heights.
- September 19, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting at Big Creek Reservation, Creekside Reserved Shelter, Parma.
- September 20, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting at the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, Canal Way Center, Cuyahoga Heights.
- October 3, 2017: The Cleveland Metroparks public comments were received for Big Creek, Brookside, Garfield, Ohio & Erie Canal, and Washington Parks for the 2017 Draft Master Plan Updates.
- April 6, 2018: Irishtown Bend Vision Plan presentation was hosted by NOACA under the TLCI Program.
- September 11, 2019: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting was held at Collinwood Recreation Center, Cleveland.
- September 17, 2019: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting was held at Lakefront Administrative Center, Cleveland. The Cleveland Metroparks 2019 Draft Reservation Plan Updates presentation which included details related to Lakefront Reservation and the lakefront portion of Euclid Creek Reservation was presented.
- September 18, 2019: The Cleveland Metroparks hosted an in-person open-house public meeting was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Gymnasium, Cleveland.
- September 18, 2019: The Cleveland Metroparks public comments were received for Edgewater Beach, Upper Edgewater, Wendy Park, Gordon Park, Villa Angela, and Wildwood Parks for the 2019 Lakefront Master Plan Update.
- October 11, 2021: An outdoor in-person meeting was held at Rivergate Park to provide Irishtown Bend Vision Plan updates.
- October 6, 2023: Cleveland City Planning Commission and Design Review Committee hosted a meeting to provide Irishtown Bend Vision Plan updates.
- December 19, 2024: The Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail & Franklin Avenue Enhancements Update presentation was presented at Board of Park Commissioners meeting.
- January 14, 2025: The Lake Link Trail Irishtown Bend project was presented at Bike Cleveland Ohio City/Tremont Better Streets Committee meeting.
- March 6, 2025: The Lake Link Trail Irishtown Bend project was presented at Cuyahoga River Safety Task Force meeting.

See the Public Involvement documentation for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

## Environmental Commitments

### Environmental Commitments

Yes



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## **Environmental Commitments**

**C2**

- 1) RMR Plan Note to be added here when received by D12



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### **Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:** Christopher Owen  
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Claire Cerne  
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### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Thomas Sorge (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	12/10/2025



## **Appendix**

### **General**

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

General Photographs.docx

Stage 1 Design.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### **RMR**

EPA Enviromapper Search Results.pdf

OES Review - Screening.pdf

### **Cultural Resources**

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

### **Ecological**

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

### **Other Resources**

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

### **Public Involvement**

Prior Public Involvement Summary Appendix.pdf

Prior Public Involvement Summary.pdf

### **Permits**

Coastal Management Zone Map.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf