



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## Environmental Document

for

### CUY Cle Downtown Connector Trl 1 PID 105926

Environmental Document Level: C2

**Approved: 11/14/2025**

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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>	105926
<b>Project Sponsor</b>	Cleveland, City of
<b>ODOT District</b>	12
<b>Funding Source</b>	Federal

#### Project Description:

The City of Cleveland in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to construct a trail to connect the existing trail on the south side of Fleet Avenue to the south end of a future trail constructed with CUY-77-11.21 (near Chard Avenue). Trail construction will include various roadway improvements along East 48th Street, Independence Road and Crete Road including curb, sidewalk, drive apron replacement, as needed, upgrades to ADA ramps, median reconfigurations, traffic signal modifications, lighting relocations and roadway resurfacing. The estimated length of project is 1,500 feet.

The project is derived from the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan (2019). The Greenways Plan aggregated many prior planning efforts, including Cleveland Metroparks reservation Master Plans, the NOACA Bicycle Plan Update, prior Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLC) plans including the Downtown Connector Trail Washington Reservation Metropark to East 9th Street (2010, update 2012) and Slavic Village TLCI Greenway Book (2008), as well as community-level plans.

The project will be constructed part-width and with roads remaining open and traffic maintained during construction via flagging. Pedestrian traffic will be detoured.

Work will occur within the existing R/W and across two parcels that were purchased by the Cleveland Metroparks to accommodate the trail. Agreements will be coordinated during design for the use of that property for the facility.

A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Purposes (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES on September 30, 2025. A review determined the project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for a Section 4(f) approval with no further coordination required as the temporary occupancy of land and/or access will not constitute a use upon the protected Washington Reservation. A memo was issued on October 1, 2025 summarizing this decision and accompanies the DRF.

A Cultural Resources Records Check was performed via request to OSHPO on July 24, 2025. Although no Cultural Resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the proposed project limits, 12 resources on the National Register Listing are located within a two-mile radius of the project. These include NR#02000550 (Harvard School), NR#7001444 (Miles Park



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Historic District aka Newburgh Public Square), NR#74001453 (St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral), NR#75001359 (Bohemian National Hall), NR#76001404/NR#80002980 (St. Stanislaus Church aka Warazawa Neighborhood District), NR#79001807 (Hruby Conservatory of Music), NR#84000128 (Cermak Building), NR#86003503 (Panek Block), NR#88001860 (Broadway Avenue Historic District aka Hruby Conservatory of Music), NR#MP100008227 (Sidaway Bridge as Kingsbury Run Suspension Bridge - CUY0069506 and Sidaway Avenue Footbridge - HAER OH-9) and NR#SG1000010756 (EF Hauserman Co. Administration, Engineering and Research Building). None of these sites are adjacent to the project.

Two (2) OHI sites were identified within 500' of the project limits, with no resources adjacent to the project. These include:

- 3676 Independence Road (Cuiksa House/Cullen House) - CUY0986602 is on the south side of the street across from East 47th Street (appears demolished)
- 3680 Independence Road (Erievew Homes/Becka House) - CUY0986702 is on the south side of the street across from East 47th Street

The project will not have any impact to these properties/resources. The undertaking is a type which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and therefore, no further coordination is required. The Records Check can be found in the Project File Under Cultural Resources/Project Information. District Approval Date: 10/1/2025.

This project will not have any adverse impacts to ecological resources. The project is not located in a floodplain. The trail construction and roadway improvements as stated above will not affect base flood elevation, so is excluded from analysis.

There are no hazardous materials within the site. Excavation to construct portion of the storm sewer system will be deeper than 6'. The project activity is not exempt from OAC Rule 3745-513, however, there are no landfills within 300' of the study area and all properties have an exempt land use. District Approval 10/1/2025.

There will be no in-water work, or work within wetlands, or pollinator initiative areas. Non-SWH tree clearing will occur between October 1 and March 31.

The Stage 2 construction cost estimate is \$1,084,000.00

Federal funding (enhancement funds) will be utilized to pay for up to \$1,395,000 of construction based upon an 80/20 split. Costs in excess of this amount are the responsibility of the City.

Public Involvement was completed prior to and during the project's development. Public engagement in the form of stakeholder interviews, community/public workshops, community bike ride, online/paper survey and other outreach (flyers, newsletters, etc.) were conducted in September/October, 2023 and December/January, 2023/2024 within the RAISE East Side Trails project where this trail was indicated as a future on-street greenway. As design progressed, additional Public Involvement was performed in the form of a press release/notification posted to the City's website on October 22, 2025 that provided a description of the work and contact information for comments and questions. The comment period extends until November 21, 2025. Public engagement materials are uploaded to the Project File.

The C2 approval is based upon the Stage 2 plans which are included on the Project File tab under General/Project Information.



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

**Ellis STIP Details**

Phase	Current STIP Reference
ENV	
CO	105926: 26-29 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**

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

**Scenic Rivers Remarks**

No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area. No coordination is required.

**Floodplains**

**100-Year Floodplain:**

No Encroachment Within a Special  
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

**Floodplain Remarks**

The project is not within any Special Flood Hazard Zone. Mapping has been uploaded to the Project File. No coordination is required.

**Section 4(f)**

**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)**

10/01/2025

**Section 4(f) Remarks**



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A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on October 1, 2025. Based upon review of the DRF it was determined the proposed project can be processed as a temporary no use 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 Cleveland Metroparks Washington Reservation.

The project will impact accessibility to Washington Reservation during its second phase of construction as well as replace an approximately 134-ft of existing shared-use trail owned by the Cleveland Metroparks. During Phase 1, resurfacing at the intersection of Fleet Ave and Crete Ave will limit the ability of pedestrians to cross Crete Ave from east to west. However, pedestrians will still be able to access Washington Reservation at the Crete Ave entrance south of the project area. During Phase 2, pedestrian access to the park from Fleet Ave to the east will be hindered, as the existing trail will be closed on both the north and south sides of Fleet Ave during construction activities. This 134-ft section of trail south of Fleet Ave and east of Crete Ave will be replaced in Phase 2 but will be open during Phase 1 of the project.

Additionally, the proposed trail will traverse two parcels of land north of the intersection of Independence Rd and East 48th St, disconnected from Washington Reservation, but owned (or under contract to purchase) by the Cleveland Metroparks (PPN 131-32-008 and 131-32-006). These two parcels are not considered developed park land and do not have any current recreational use. These are residential parcels owned, but unused, by the Cleveland Metroparks. An existing sidewalk along East 48th St, which the proposed trail will tie into.

An OWJ concurrence letter was received on September 29, 2025 which approved the minimization and avoidance measures stemming from the proposed impacts to Washington Reservation.

**Section 6(f)**

**Section 6(f):** Not present

**Cultural Resources**

**Cultural Resources:** Not Present

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO** 10/01/2025  
**Concurrence Date**

**Cultural Resources Remarks**



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- 3680 Independence Road (Erievew Homes/Becka House) - CUY0986702 is on the south side of the street across from East 47th Street

The project will not have any impact to these properties/resources. The undertaking is a type which has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties in accordance with Appendix A of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and therefore, no further coordination is required. The Records Check can be found in the Project File Under Cultural Resources/Project Information. District Approval Date: 10/1/2025.

### **Environmental Resources Considered**

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

Regulated Materials

#### **Air Remarks**

The project will construct a trail and maintain current traffic patterns.

Since there is no traffic impact, MSAT analysis it not recommended and has not been performed.

#### **Noise Remarks**

The project is neither a Type I or Type II project, thus exempt from noise analysis.

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

Yes - Screening

#### **Regulated Materials Review Screening:**

No Further Regulated Materials Review

**Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date:**

10/01/2025

**Regulated Materials Review Remarks:**



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Deep excavation, project is not exempt from OAC Rule 3745-513 but not within 300' of any landfills. All properties within project study area have an exempt land use.

**Public Involvement**

**Public Involvement:**

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

**Public Involvement Remarks**

Public Involvement was completed prior to and during the project's development. Public engagement in the form of stakeholder interviews, community/public workshops, community bike ride, online/paper survey and other outreach (flyers, newsletters, etc.) were conducted in September/October, 2023 and December/January, 2023/2024 within the RAISE East Side Trails project where this trail was indicated as a future on-street greenway. As design progressed, additional Public Involvement was performed in the form of a press release/notification posted to the City's website on October 22, 2025 that provided a description of the work and contact information for comments and questions. The comment period extends until November 21, 2025. Public engagement materials are uploaded to the Project File.

**Environmental Commitments**

**Environmental Commitments**

Yes



## **Environmental Commitments**

### **C2**

1) All public comments and any changes to plans/scope as a result will be documented in the environmental document prior to plan file.



### **Preparers and Approvals**

**Form Preparer:** Beth Fulton  
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**Supporting Form Preparer(s):** James Shea

### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Thomas Sorge (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	11/14/2025



## **Appendix**

### **General**

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Stage 2 Design.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### **Cultural Resources**

Records Check.pdf

Records Check.xls

### **Ecological**

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

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

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

### **Public Involvement**

Press Release.pdf

Public Meeting Presentation.pdf

### **Permits**

FEMA FIRM.pdf