



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Document for **POR US 0224 09.09 PID 107920** Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 11/24/2021

Prepared By: Brian Peck

ODOT DISTRICT 4

Phone: 330-786-4931

E-mail: Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov

District Contact: Edward Deley

Phone: 330-786-4930

E-mail: Edward.Deley@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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C2

PID:	107920
Project Sponsor:	DISTRICT 4-PLANNING
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No
Project Description:	

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to reconstruct U. S. Route (USR) 224 from approximately 2,172 feet west of New Milford Road to approximately 773 feet east of Waterloo Road, a distance of 3,670 feet, and modify the USR 224/New Milford Road intersection and the USR 224/Waterloo Road intersection in Randolph Township, Portage County. This safety project proposes the following improvements:

- permanently remove the existing two USR 224 eastbound lanes;
- convert the existing two USR 224 westbound lanes to one eastbound lane and one westbound lane to reduce USR 224 from an existing four-lane divided roadway to a proposed two-lane roadway and match the existing two-lane USR 224 roadway sections adjacent to the project;
- install a 297-foot right-turn lane along USR 224 westbound to New Milford Road;
- install a 300-foot right-turn lane along USR 224 eastbound to Waterloo Road;
- permanently remove the existing Waterloo Road slip ramp to USR 224 eastbound and realign 259 feet of Waterloo Road on the south approach to the USR 224/Waterloo Road intersection;
- permanently remove the existing north approach to the USR 224/Waterloo Road intersection and install a 50-foot radius cul-de-sac at the terminus of Waterloo Road to be established by this proposed north approach removal;
- construct a four-approach intersection at the USR 224/New Milford Road intersection;
- increase the intersection radii at the New Milford Road/Waterloo Road intersection;
- widen/resurface New Milford Road from Waterloo Road to USR 224;
- replace the existing POR-US 224-0927/Culvert File Number (CFN) 672240270 42-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a new 42-inch conduit, half-height concrete headwalls and rock channel protection (RCP);
- replace the existing POR-US 224-9406-9404/CFN 672240280-672240285 21-inch and 18-inch conduit/catch basin system with new 18-inch and 24-inch conduits, catch basins and outlet half-height concrete headwall and RCP;
- replace the existing POR-US 224-9.58/CFN 672240290 42-inch twin CMPs with a new 76-inch x 48-inch conduit with half-height concrete headwalls, inlet riprap and outlet RCP.
- install new storm water runoff vegetated filter/biofilter areas;
- install new lighting;
- install new traffic signs; and
- apply new pavement markings.

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. The project will permanently remove the existing north approach to the USR 224/Waterloo Road intersection and reroute that traffic to the adjacent USR 224/New Milford Road intersection. A minimum of one 10-foot bidirectional lane of traffic shall be maintained on the existing pavement and completed pavement during project construction. Turning and through movements will be restricted on New Milford Road and Waterloo Road during project construction. Project construction will be phased to minimize disruption to the traveling public. Construction, lane restriction/reduction and turning/through movement closures/detour 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. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, businesses and intersecting side streets for the duration of project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction. 0.031 acre of new permanent right-of-way and additional minor temporary right-of-way will be required from one parcel to construct the project. Temporary right-of-way impact has not yet been quantified for the project. Total property takes, structure takes or relocations are not proposed to construct the project. See the preliminary right-of-way plan information for the project in



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the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Right of Way Plan Sheets.pdf.

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 and proposed new permanent 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.

A cultural resources literature search determined there are no inventoried buildings (OHI) and no known archaeological sites (OAI) in the immediate area. An older barn is found 50 feet north of the proposed cul-de-sac site. The barn is partially collapsed so lacks architectural integrity. Based on the background evidence and a field review, no listed or eligible historic properties are found in the area of potential effects (APE). Minor roadway widenings, intersection improvements, and general safety upgrades are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/2017 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19139) as long as no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property will be acquired and no contributing element of an historic district will be removed or altered by construction. 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 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. Upon review of the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening completed for the project study area, ODOT OES agreed with the ODOT District 4 Environmental Section that further RMR or special material handling is not warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports and Coordination subsections.

The project proposes to permanently impact a total of approximately 530 linear feet of two (2) streams, Shook Ditch and an unnamed tributary to Shook Ditch, within the project study area. Approximately 0.02 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for the Federally-listed Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat and the State-listed Little Brown Bat and Tri-colored Bat will also be removed to construct the project. See the ecological and threatened/endangered species documentation for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection and in the Ecological tab.

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 other environmentally sensitive resources within the project study area.

A virtual open house public involvement event was conducted for the project to present information about the findings from the USR Route 224 at New Milford Road (CR31) & at Waterloo Road (CR87) Safety Study (2020), explain the overall proposed safety project, including the potential impacts, and solicit and receive public, stakeholders and local emergency/public services comments. An ODOT project website was established for the project and made available to the public. Notification letters announcing the virtual open house public involvement event and providing project information were mailed to local public officials, emergency/public services, residences located within ½-mile of the project and businesses located within ¾-mile of the project. Each notification letter included location mapping, an exhibit, a project advertisement flyer, a project comment form, a demographic information comment form and a postage-paid reply envelope. A news release about the virtual open house public involvement event and project/public involvement information was released for the project and made available to the public by its posting on the ODOT project website. Moreover, a notification advertisement about the project and its virtual open house public involvement event was purchased and published in the Record Courier, a local newspaper serving Portage County. A news article about the project was also published on the Record Courier website.

Several comments were received from the ODOT project website comment forum, email correspondence, comment form/written comment submissions, voicemail messages and telephone calls as a result of the public involvement activities conducted for the project. Responses to these comments were provided by ODOT District 4. See the public involvement documentation, including the received comments and responses to comments, for the project in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The environmental document and associated studies, as applicable, were approved using the Stage 2 Design plans for the project. A copy of the Stage 2 Design plans for the project is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Stage 2 Design.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 #:

107920: 21-24 STIP/SLI Group
Project. Fiscal constraint is at SLI
Group level.

Select the appropriate project type:

(27) Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering



control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. *Examples include: Lane reduction ("road diet") changes provided traffic analysis is completed; Railroad projects that close at-grade crossings to improve safety or traffic operations.*

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -

1. a. Acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way
2. b. Residential or non-residential displacements
3. c. A Coast Guard, Individual Section 404 and/or a Section 10 permit
4. d. A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. e. A Section 4(f) Programmatic or Individual Evaluation
6. f. A finding of *May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect* to Threatened and Endangered Species
7. g. Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions
8. h. Changes in access control
9. 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)
10. 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
11. k. No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination)
12. 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:	Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required
Waterways Permit Type:	Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending
Isolated Wetland Permit	No
Will any wetlands be impacted?	No
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	08/27/2021
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	



Northern long-eared bat

Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
Section 4(f):	Not present
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	06/21/2021

Since no Tribe was interested in this project based on their customized preferences, no further Tribal consultation was conducted.

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:	09/24/2021
Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:	No Further Studies Warranted
Farmland:	Non-Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU, 7 CFR 658, and ORC 929.05
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



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Environmental Commitments

Yes



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Environmental Commitments

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1) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT - INDIANA BAT/NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

THE 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 FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. ALL NECESSARY TREE REMOVAL TO BE PERFORMED 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 PURPOSES 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 contractor will be prohibited from closing Poplar Street during the second week of August 2022.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

Brian Peck
ODOT DISTRICT 4
330-786-4931
Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov

Supporting Form Preparer(s):

Brian Peck
Mark Andrasik

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	11/24/2021



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Cultural Resources

Buckeye Assets Mapping.pdf

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

Correspondence with Stakeholders PCEO 4-12-2021.pdf

Correspondence with Stakeholders.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Comment Form.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Demographic Comment Form.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Event Flyer.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Notification - News Coverage.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Notification Mailing List.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Notification News Release.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Notification Paid Ad.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Notification.pdf

Open House Public Involvement Presentation.pdf



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Open House Public Involvement Website Snap Shot.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Open House Summary and Response to Comments.pdf

Snap Shot Project Website.pdf

Snap Shot Website - Response to Public Comments.pdf

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes or Notes - 8-6-2020 Meeting.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf