



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## **Environmental Document**

for

## **MAH Youngstown Signal Upgrade PID 107228**

**Environmental Document Level: C2**

**Approved: 5/24/2021**

**Prepared By: Eric Lopez**

GPD Group

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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

<b>PID:</b>	107228
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Youngstown, City of
<b>ODOT District:</b>	4
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Federal
<b>Private Funding:</b>	No

### Project Description:

The city of Youngstown proposes improvements at ten (10) intersections along Mahoning Avenue between Meridian Road and Oak Hill Avenue in the city of Youngstown, Mahoning County. The project proposes to reconstruct traffic signals with new signal support poles/mast arms/traffic signal heads/pedestrian signals/pedestrian push buttons/pedestal supports/controller cabinets and work pads/pole mounted controller cabinets/traffic pull boxes/detector loops, install new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant curb ramps, install new traffic signs and apply new pavement markings. The following intersections are included in this project:

1. Mahoning Avenue/Meridian Road;
2. Mahoning Avenue/Dunlap Avenue;
3. Mahoning Avenue/Schenley Avenue;
4. Mahoning Avenue/Hazelwood Avenue;
5. Mahoning Avenue/Belle Vista Avenue;
6. Mahoning Avenue/Steel Street;
7. Mahoning Avenue/Glenwood Avenue;
8. Mahoning Avenue/Edward Street;
9. Mahoning Avenue/West Avenue; and
10. Mahoning Avenue/Oak Hill Avenue.

Mapping that depicts the project location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in Project File/General/Project Information as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf.

Street closures/detours are not proposed to construct the project. Signage, traffic drums and cones will be used to guide vehicles and pedestrians through the various work zones. Vehicular traffic shall be maintained on the existing pavement during project construction. However, it may be necessary to stop traffic for installation of vehicle detection equipment. Any required stoppage of traffic shall be limited to less than ten (10) minutes within any one thirty (30) minute period of time. Lane restriction and/or stoppage information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Lane restrictions/stoppage will not be permitted during peak travel demand hours. Access shall be maintained to all adjacent properties, businesses and intersecting side streets for the duration of the project. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

A total of approximately 0.094 acre of new permanent right-of-way from 17 properties and a total of approximately 0.006 acre of temporary right-of-way will be acquired from 2 properties to construct the project. Total takes and/or relocations are not proposed to construct the project. See the right-of-way plan for



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the project in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection.

Overhead and underground utilities exist throughout the multiple project study areas. These utilities include natural gas, electric, water, sanitary sewer and telecommunication utilities. The existing utilities within the project study areas do not conflict with the proposed project activities and will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

Each of the work areas are considered to have been previously disturbed by the existing modern roadway facilities, signals, signs, and utility development. No buildings will be involved in construction and no relocations will be required. Scattered archaeological sites (OAI), numerous architectural resources (OHI), and the occasional listed or eligible National Register (N.R.) property are found across the city. However, no inventoried cultural resource or known historic property will be directly impacted by the undertaking.

Proposed work will be conducted in the vicinity of one N.R. eligible resource located just east of the Mahoning Avenue/Oak Hill Avenue intersection and just west of the downtown area. The property is a Steel Arch Thru Truss bridge (SFN 5058082) over the Mahoning River. This bridge is considered eligible for the National Register based on the Ohio DOT Historic Bridge Inventory (accepted April 28, 2010). The historic boundaries of the Mahoning River bridge only include the footprint of the structure itself.

Proposed signal upgrades will only occur in the existing right-of-way and will not involve or alter any contributing element of either the Mahoning Avenue bridge or other historic properties found in Youngstown, Ohio. Roadway modernization projects are exempt from further cultural resource consideration by the 11/8/2017 Cultural Resource PA (Agreement 19319 -- Appendix B), as long as no new permanent right-of-way from a historic property will be acquired and no contributing element of a 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, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Environmental Services (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.

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening completed for the project, ODOT determined 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, Project Information and Coordination subsections.

Additionally, this project is considered ecologically exempt under the Ecological MOA (Agreement 19394). See the Ecologically Exempt New ESR 1.pdf for the project in the Project File/Ecological/Reports subsection. GPD Group environmental personnel reviewed the FEMA FIRM for the project study areas and determined the project is not located within a special flood hazard area (SFHA). See the floodplains 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 Youngstown conducted various public involvement activities for the project, including a property owner notification letter, a stakeholder/public service (police/fire/EMS) notification letter and a press release.

Comments were requested by all of the public involvement activities conducted for the project. A news article about the project was published on the Vindicator website, Vindy.com, and on the Mahoning Matters website. A news article about the project was also published on two (2) local television station websites. Four (4) written comments were received as a result of the public involvement activities conducted for the project.

The city of Youngstown responded to the received comments by letters addressing the comments. 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 1 Design plans and preliminary right-of-way plan for the project. A copy of the Stage 1 Design plans and preliminary right-of-way plan for the project are included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as



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Stage 1 Design.pdf and Right of Way Plan Sheets.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 #:

107228: 21-24 STIP.

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 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.

<b>Waterways:</b>	Not Present
<b>Will any wetlands be impacted?</b>	No
<b>Endangered Species:</b>	No Impacts to Protected Species and Critical Habitat
<b>100-Year Floodplain:</b>	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
<b>Section 4(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Section 6(f):</b>	Not present
<b>Cultural Resources:</b>	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect
<b>Cultural Resources Coordination:</b>	Minimum Potential to Cause Effect Appendix B



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**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrent Date**

03/26/2021

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:** 04/13/2021

**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



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## **Environmental Commitments**

**C2**

1) The project designer shall incorporate the following note in the plans: **THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN SAFE AND CLEAR PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE AT ALL TIMES.**



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### **Preparers and Approvals**

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**Supporting Form Preparer(s):** Christine Surma  
Sean Carpenter  
Brian Loushin

### **Approvals & Electronic Signatures**

<b>Approved &amp; Electronically Signed By:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	5/24/2021



## **Appendix**

### **General**

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

### **ESA**

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf

### **Cultural Resources**

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B

Records Check.pdf

### **Ecological**

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

### **Other Resources**

Site Specific Resource Mapping.pdf

Sole Source Aquifer Mapping.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

### **Underserved Populations**

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

### **Public Involvement**

News Article-Mahoning Matters.pdf

News Article-Vindicator .pdf

News Article-WFMJ.pdf

News Article-WKBN.pdf

Press Release City of Youngstown.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf

Public Comments Received.pdf

Public Notification Mailing List.pdf

Response to Public Comments.pdf

Stakeholder Contact List.pdf



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Stakeholder Notification.pdf

**Permits**

FEMA FIRM.pdf