



June 12, 2025

Kristen Atha, Utilities Director  
City of Columbus  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re:    City of Columbus  
        Clinton Sewer District 3 OSU Carmenton Sewer Extension  
        Loan Number: CS390274-0531  
        Finding of No Significant Impact

To Whom it May Concern,

On May 12, 2025, Ohio EPA issued a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and Environmental Assessment for the City of Columbus Clinton Sewer District 3 OSU Carmenton Sewer Extension project for public review and comment. The thirty-day period for comments has passed and no comments have been received. Therefore, the conclusions contained in that preliminary FNSI become the basis for this final FNSI for the above referenced project.

This final Finding of No Significant Impact may be revised or rescinded at a future date based upon either changes to the proposed project, the presentation of information which significantly alters earlier conclusions, or failure of the applicant to perform the environmental mitigation prescribed in the Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance



**May 12, 2025**

**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact  
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies**

**City of Columbus - Franklin County  
Clinton Sewer District 3 OSU Carmenton Sewer Extension  
Loan Number: CS390274-0531**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a sanitary sewer extension project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, the City of Columbus can then proceed with its application for the WPCLF loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### **Project Identification**

Project: Clinton Sewer District 3 OSU Carmenton Sewer Extension

Applicant: City of Columbus  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Loan Number: CS390274-0531



**Figure 1. Franklin County**

### **Project Summary**

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (Figure 1) has requested \$9,102,390 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to extend sewer service to The Ohio State University's Innovation District, named Carmenton. Disturbance will be limited to existing roadways and rights-of-way, which lack important environmental features.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Carmenton District is located on OSU's west campus bounded by Kenny Road, Lane Avenue, Kinnear Road, and North Star Road. Carmenton is a 270-acre development planned for university research, health care, and mixed-use commercial and housing development. The project area includes both city-owned and OSU-owned existing sanitary sewer, although current sewers are not sufficiently sized to take on additional flow.

### **Population and Flow Projections**

In 2021, a tributary study was conducted to evaluate the need for sanitary sewer service to accommodate existing and support planned residential and commercial developments. It was determined that sewer design should accommodate a flow of 130 gallons per capita per day, and the existing sanitary sewer is undersized and unable to support the planned development.

This study resulted in the recommendation of several trunk sewers and subtrunks to convey the Carmenton District's planned flows to the existing City of Columbus Clinton Number 3 Trunk Sewer. The existing Clinton No. 3 sewer discharges to the Olentangy-Scioto Interceptor Sewer (OSIS) northeast of OSU's football stadium, which ultimately flows to Columbus' Jackson Pike Wastewater Treatment Plant (JPWWTP). Based on JPWWTP's current capacity, it was determined that the plant has sufficient space to take on additional planned flows.

### **Alternatives**

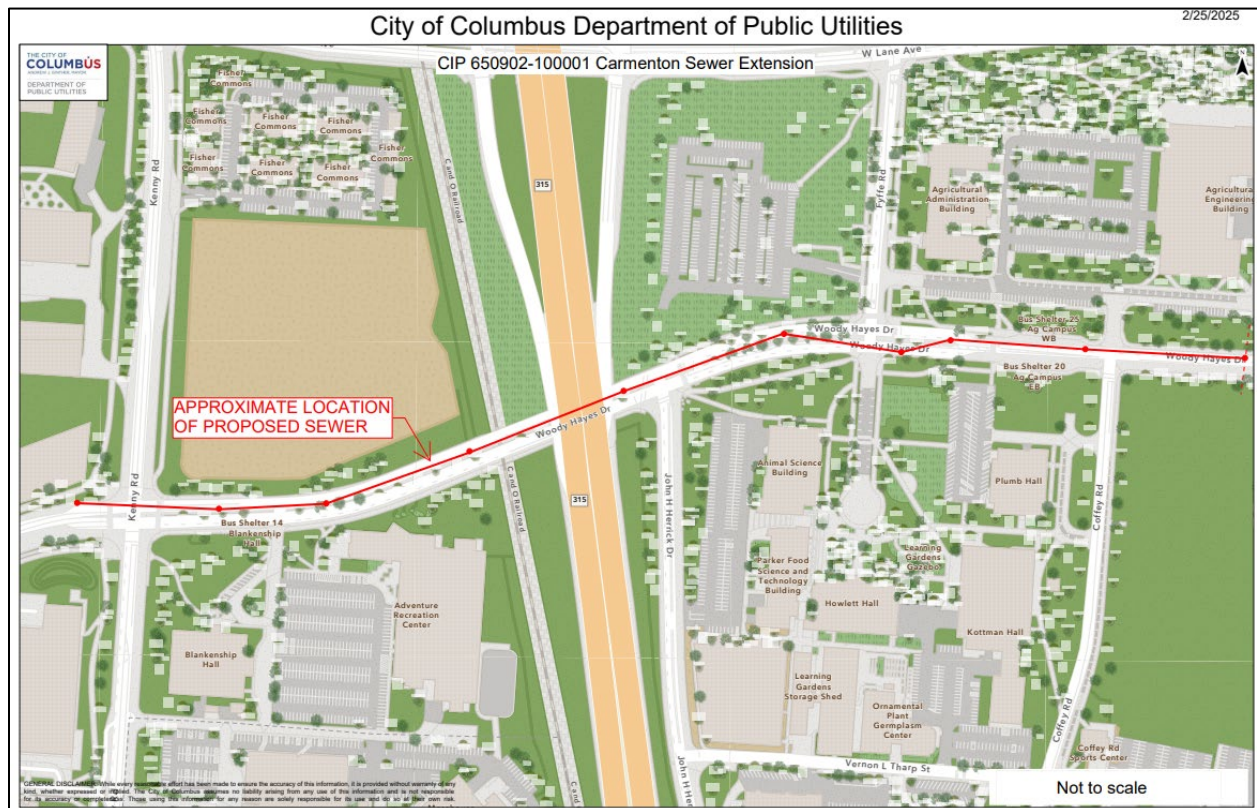
- *No Action:* The “no-action” alternative is not a feasible option as planned development in the Carmenton District requires sewers and the current sewers are not sufficiently sized to take additional flows.
- *Extension of sewer into Carmenton District and connection to existing Clinton No. 3 sewer:* Connecting the Carmenton District to the existing Columbus’ sewer system will accommodate increased wastewater flows in the area as development takes place.

### **Selected Alternative**

The Carmenton District Sewer Extension is planned to be constructed along Woody Hayes Drive from west of Olentangy River Road to Kenny Road. The proposed alignment crosses beneath Coffey Road, Fyffe Road, State Route 315 overpass, CSX railroad overpass, and Kenny Road.

This project will consist of approximately 2,930 linear feet of 30-inch sewer and ten new manholes. The depth of the proposed sewer allows for trenching methods. Trenchless installation methods will be used at the Kenny Road crossing and under an existing utility tunnel which crosses the alignment near Fyffe Road.

See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.



**Figure 2. Project location**

## **Implementation**

Columbus plans to borrow \$9,102,390 from the WPCLF. During the 20-year loan period, Columbus will save approximately \$1,450,067 by using WPCLF dollars at the standard rate of 3.25%, compared to the market rate of 4.50%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award.

Construction is expected to begin following loan award and will be completed by July 2027.

## **Public Participation**

A public notice is posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project as well as contact information for public questions and concerns.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. This Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the EA and FNSI have been provided to the City of Columbus to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

## **Environmental Impacts**

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

### **Air Quality**

This project includes no activities that will impact Franklin County's air quality standards. The contractor will prevent unnecessary dust from construction activities from entering the atmosphere. Dust on unsurfaced streets or parking areas and any remaining dust on surfaced streets shall be controlled with water as needed. Because of this approach, there will be no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality.

### **Archaeological and Historical Resources**

The planned area of construction has been previously developed and all excavation work will take place within previously disturbed roads and rights-of-way. As no new excavations will occur, no impacts are expected to archaeological or historical resources.

However, in the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate. Work will not resume until a survey of the find and a determination of its value and effect has been made, and Ohio EPA authorizes work to continue.

### **Terrestrial Habitat and Endangered Species**

Ten federally listed species occur in Franklin County: the Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, the tricolored bat, the clubshell mussel, the northern riffleshell mussel, the rayed bean mussel, the snuffbox mussel, the rabbitsfoot mussel, the round hickorynut mussel, and the salamander mussel.

No habitat suited to mussels is in the project area. The Indiana, northern long-eared, and tricolored bats have similar summer maternity and roosting habitat preferences (trees with large crevices or loose, sloughing bark higher than ten feet above the ground). No further tree and vegetation removal will occur in the project area. Based on this information, the project will have no significant adverse short-term or long-term effect on terrestrial habitat or endangered species.

#### Groundwater Resources

To avoid adverse impacts to groundwater resources, the construction contract includes specifications for appropriate and safe dewatering of deep excavations and management of groundwater.

#### Safety, Noise, Traffic, and Aesthetics

The contractor shall develop a traffic plan prior to commencing construction which shall include all proper traffic control devices and adequate lights, signs, and barriers to minimize the extent of disruption of traffic and disturbance to the neighborhood during construction. Traffic disruptions will be minimal as crossings under busy roadways will be directionally bored. No new above-ground structures will be constructed as a result of this project. Therefore, local aesthetics will be unchanged after construction is complete. For these reasons, the project will not adversely affect noise, traffic, public safety, or aesthetics.

#### Surface Water Resources

The contractor will minimize soil from eroding or otherwise entering onto all paved areas and into natural watercourses, ditches, and public sewer systems with the use of storm water pollution prevention tools such as buffer zones, silt fencing, inlet protection, and seeding.

#### Local Economy

The current annual Columbus residential sewer bill is approximately \$769. Projected residential sewer bills with the implementation of this and other associated sewer projects are expected to increase to approximately \$793, or 1.3% of median household income (MHI) of Columbus, which is \$62,994.

By using WPCLF financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers. This allows a lower annual sewer bill for the new customers than otherwise would be possible.

#### Unaffected Features

Coastal zones, prime farmland, floodplains, wetlands, Wild and Scenic Rivers, recreational land use, and energy use will remain unaffected as there are none located within the project area.

#### **Conclusion**

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Environmental Assessment, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

The project will provide additional wastewater collection system capacity for OSU's Carmenton District, allowing for planned development in the area to receive safe sanitary sewer service.

**Contact information**

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Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
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Columbus, Ohio 43215

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