



October 1, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Barnett Road Storm Sewer Improvements
Loan number: CS390274-0460**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a storm sewer construction project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Barnett Road Storm Sewer Improvements

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

Loan Number: CS390274-0460



Figure 1. Franklin County

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (Figure 1) has requested approximately \$4.3 million from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the construction of new storm sewer to mitigate roadway, yard, and ditch flooding issues in the Barnett Road area. As the project involves constructing new storm sewer within roadways and rights-of-way that have been previously disturbed, environmental impacts are expected to be limited.

This project will act as a sponsor for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves – Lake Katharine, Salt Lick Creek Expansion project through the Ohio Water Resource Restoration and Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). The WRRSP helps achieve Ohio’s water quality goals by providing funds, through WPCLF sponsoring loans, to finance projects that protect or restore high-quality water resources. This environmental review document covers only the Barnett Road Storm Sewer Improvements project. Information on the WRRSP project can be found in its respective environmental review document. By sponsoring this project, Columbus is eligible for up to 0.1% discount on their WPCLF loan.

History & Existing Conditions

The Barnett Road area is generally bound by East Main Street to the north, East Livingston Avenue to the south, and includes several corresponding streets including East Mound Street, South Hampton Road, Towers Court, Ruby Avenue, South Waverly Street, and Brownlee Avenue to the west and Fulton Street, Astor Avenue, and Bolton Avenue to the east.

The Barnett Road area has a long history of stormwater drainage-related issues, which have been documented by the number of resident complaints. Barnett Road is part of the overall tributary area to Mason Run and uses a combination of overland flow and existing storm sewers on side streets to convey the runoff north, east, or south towards the existing stormwater trunk line located along Mason Run and then to its final outfall which is Big Walnut Creek. In many locations along the corridor it does not appear that the runoff is getting to its final outfall. This is evident from flooding and ponding in roadways, nearby yards, and ditches.

Multiple factors were determined to attribute to the drainage issues within the Barnett Road project area. These include the lack of adequate stormwater conveyance system, uneven topography, increased impervious area, lack of maintenance, and deficient pavement conditions.

Project Description

Taking into consideration the reduced ability to convey the runoff, adaptability, necessary capacity, and anticipation of future green infrastructure projects, alternatives were developed to help alleviate the stormwater issues in the project area.

Columbus selected the installation of 7,640 linear feet of new storm sewer with catch basins, engineered swales, and ditches to improve water flow and reduce flooding.

Construction for this project will largely remain within the footprint of previously disturbed roadways and rights-of-way, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources.

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

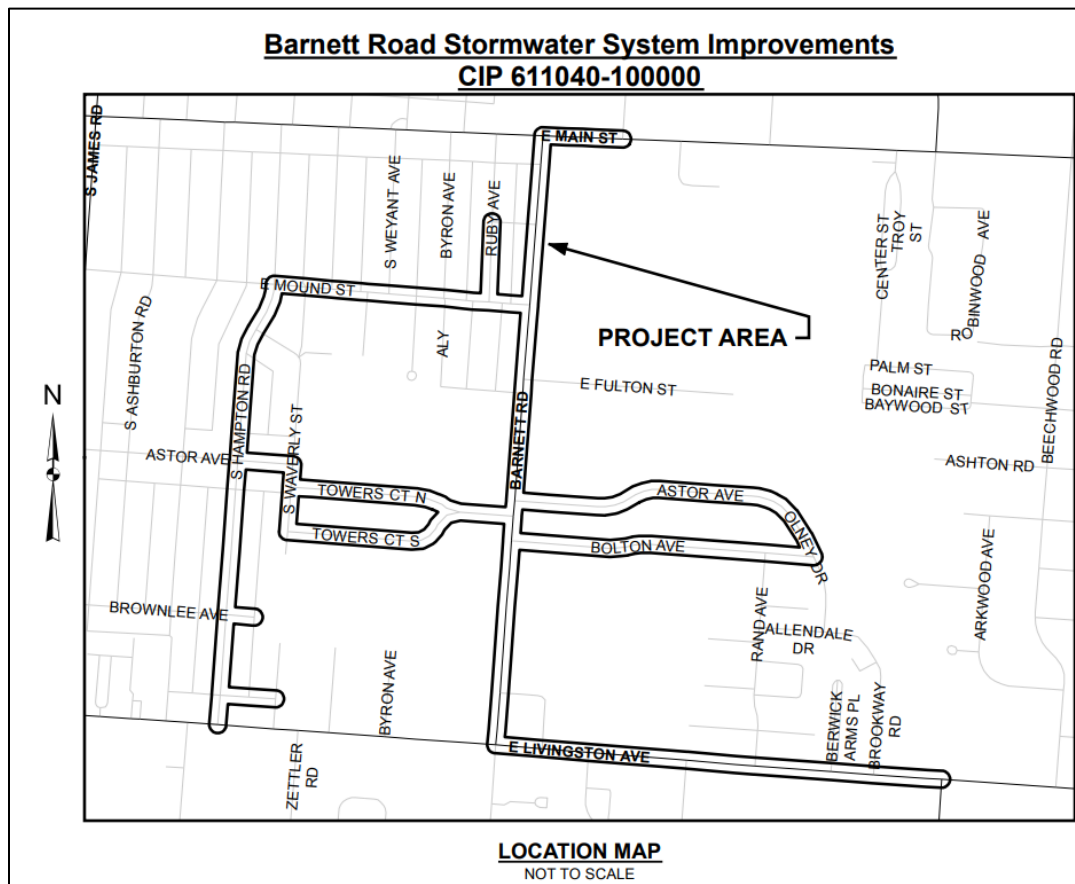


Figure 2. Project location

Implementation

Columbus will receive \$4,300,000 from the WPCLF over a 20-year loan period at the standard rate of 3.63%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a different loan award date. Borrowing this amount in WPCLF dollars and considering a possible 0.1% discount for sponsoring a WRRSP project, Columbus could save approximately \$750,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 4.88%.

Residential stormwater bills with the implementation of this and other associated stormwater projects are expected to remain the same. By using WPCLF financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

The anticipated loan award will occur in October 2025; construction will begin following loan award and is expected to be completed by August 2026.

Public Participation

The City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage details proposed Capital Improvement Projects within the Division of Sewerage & Drainage. Contact information is provided for any public questions or concerns. Mailings were provided to affected residents to describe the goals of the project and a public meeting was held to inform residents about the project scope and anticipated construction schedule.

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

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public stormwater collection system, which involves improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

Construction will take in place previously disturbed roadways and rights-of-ways, which lack important environmental features. No stream crossings or in-wetland work is scheduled to occur, and there will be no construction within prime farmland or within a floodplain. Any necessary tree clearing is scheduled to take place within seasonal clearing dates to avoid impacts to endangered bat species. The contractor is responsible for dust control, sedimentation and erosion control, and maintenance of traffic during construction.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is the only feasible alternative to alleviate stormwater issues in the area. Taking no action would allow for continued flooding issues within the nearby roadways and yards. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

This project involves the construction of additional stormwater infrastructure in the city's existing system and will not create a new or increase wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, 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.

This project will alleviate flooding and enhance the reliability of both stormwater and water infrastructure in the area.

Contact Information

Kristin Parrish
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: kristin.parrish@epa.ohio.gov
Phone: 614-644-3662