



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 06
400 E. WILLIAM ST. • DELAWARE, OH 43015 • 740-833-8000

Environmental Document

for

FRA-OLENTANGY TRAIL/CLINTON-COMO PID 112036

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 12/22/2022

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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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PID:	112036
Project Sponsor:	Columbus City Parks & Rec
ODOT District:	6
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No
Project Description:	



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The proposed trail project is located in the city of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. This project consists of the construction of a 12-foot wide asphalt shared-use path from Clinton-Como Park to Northmoor Park for a total project length of approximately 3,000 feet. The path will cross the Olentangy River with new pedestrian bridges at Clinton-Como Park and Northmoor Park, and a pedestrian bridge over Slyh Run. One boardwalk will be constructed near North Broadway, and two boardwalks will be constructed on both sides of the bridge crossing near Northmoor Park. The trail will cross at North Broadway and will include a raised concrete median, with a pass through for the crosswalk. Additionally, an existing retention basin will be extended within Anheuser Busch Park.

One light pole will be relocated that is owned by the city of Columbus. No other utility issues will occur due to this project. This project will require 1.295 acre of temporary right-of-way and 1.778 acre of permanent right-of-way from 12 parcels (7 owners) for the proposed project and construction access. Total property takes/relocations are not required to construct the project. Deep excavation will be required for the proposed bridge and boardwalk foundations. The current estimated project cost, including construction, is \$5,247,809.00 with an anticipated award date in January 2024.

Coordination with ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) was completed to review the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Screening. On September 8, 2022 ODOT-OES determined that no further RMR or special material management is warranted for this project.

District environmental staff assessed the SHPO GIS database on June 27, 2022, and in accordance with Stipulation V(C)(2) of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement between FHWA, ODOT, Ohio SHPO, and ACHP executed November 08, 2017 (Agreement No. 19319) as amended on December 14, 2020, ODOT-OES has determined that the proposed 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.

Three streams, one retention basin, and potential endangered species habitat were found in the project area. All tree clearing will occur between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacts to the Indiana and northern long-eared bat species during the summer roosting period. A mussel survey and relocation will be completed within the Olentangy River prior to the start of construction during the survey season of May 1 to October 1. The City of Columbus will obtain a waterway permit prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway.

The project is located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the Olentangy River. A notification including a summary of floodplain impacts was posted on the city of Columbus' Parks and Recreation website on October 5, 2022. The City of Columbus shall obtain the floodplain permit or documentation of exemption prior to plan file.

A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties was prepared. It was determined that the project, which will impact Northmoor Park/Olentangy Trail, will be a Transportation Enhancement and will be processed as a Section 4(f) Exception under 23CFR774.13(g). Additionally, impacts to Clinton-Como Park, the Olentangy Water Trail, and Anheuser Busch Sports Park will be processed as a de minimis determination. Measures to minimize harm to the Section 4(f) properties are included as Environmental Commitments (see below).

The public involvement activities during NEPA are summarized in the Public Involvement Summary located in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

As a result of the proposed improvements, a detour route will be required for Olentangy Trail users at Clinton Como Park and a gravel path will be provided to maintain access for the temporary closure of the section of the trail located at Northmoor Park. Additionally, a Maintenance of Traffic Plan with two phases will be implemented at the North Broadway crossing when construction at that trail section occurs. Prior to construction, advanced notification will be provided to inform businesses, roadway users and trail users, of the anticipated dates of construction. Construction is expected to begin in April 2024 and require up to seven (7) months to construct (November 2024).

The NEPA document and associated studies are being approved using Stage 2 engineering design plans. A copy of the plans is included in the project file.

STIP Reference #:

112036: 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,***



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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 -

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	07/19/2022
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	



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Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use
EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed:	Yes
NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:	09/13/2022
Section 4(f):	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
Section 4(f) Determination:	
Transportation Enhancement Exception - 774.13(g) de minimis	
Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(g)	12/15/2022
Section 4(f) Determination Date - de minimis	12/15/2022
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	06/27/2022
Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:	
No comments or objections were received from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma in the 30-day comment period.	
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:	12/16/2022
Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted	Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:	09/08/2022
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



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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

Present; No UPIAR Required, Does
Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria,
and No Issues Raised During Public
Involvement

Identified Underserved Populations

Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income	% Older Adults	% Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
390490078122	18	24	35	0
390490002204	2	12	17	0
390490004101	8	9	8	0
390490078202	63	49	6	23
390490004102	11	13	7	3
390490078121	19	42	22	0

Underserved Populations Remarks

Based on a review of ODOT's Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) on July 15, 2022, underserved populations were identified within the proposed project area (see above table). Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) resource locator was reviewed on July 15, 2022, and no HUD properties were identified within the proposed project area. The project will not result in any displacements or in any permanent restrictions to access by underserved populations. As a result of the proposed improvements, a detour route will be required for Olentangy Trail users at Clinton Como Park and a gravel path will be provided to maintain access for the temporary closure of the section of the trail located at Northmoor Park. Additionally, a Maintenance of Traffic Plan with two phases will be implemented at the North Broadway crossing when construction at that trail section occurs. Prior to construction, advanced notification will be provided to inform roadway and trail users of the anticipated dates of construction. Every effort was made to include all identified groups, including underserved populations, in the decision making process for this project. The public involvement activities during NEPA are summarized in the Public Involvement Summary located in the Project File/Public Involvement/Project Information subsection.

The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low income populations, or disparate impacts to a Title VI population based upon the table above, and the attached mapping. No concerns related to impacts on underserved populations or Title VI populations were raised as a result of public involvement activities conducted as part of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898, FHWA Order 6640.23A and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no further analysis is required. Furthermore, the proposed project will have no substantial impacts to Limited English Proficiency, Older Adults, or Individuals with Disabilities Populations based upon the table above, and the attached mapping. No concerns related to impacts on these underserved populations were raised as a result of public involvement activities conducted as part of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of the Age Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Discrimination Act of 1975, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Executive Order 13166, no further analysis is required. Based on the above findings, an UPIAR is not required for the project.

- **TIMS Mapping is in the Project File/Underserved Populations/Project Information/Census Mapping.pdf.**
- **See the HUD location mapping for the project in the Project File/Underserved Populations/Project Information/Public Housing Map.pdf**

Public Involvement:

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

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

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- 1) Recreational boating access within the project area shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via the existing river channel, except for the time needed for temporary access restrictions associated with construction activities.
- 2) The contractor shall place appropriate signage/buoys/markers 300 feet upstream and 300 feet downstream of the project area to alert paddlers/boaters of construction activity and for wayfinding purposes.
- 3) The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and ODNR water trails coordinator, prior to the start of construction activities.
- 4) Access to Clinton-Como Park shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via flagging operations and/or an approved detour. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing Section 4(f) property and the public. Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of Clinton-Como Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points. The staging and/or storage of construction equipment shall occur in the parking lot and outfield of the baseball field, within property boundaries, and only within the closed section of the park and trail. The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and the City of Columbus, including the Recreation and Parks Department prior to the start of construction activities.
- 5) Access to Northmoor Park shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via flagging operations and/or a temporary gravel path. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing Section 4(f) property and the public. Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of Northmoor Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points. The staging and/or storage of construction equipment shall occur in the parking lot, within property boundaries. The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and the City of Columbus, including the Recreation and Parks Department prior to the start of construction activities.
- 6) Access to Anheuser Busch Sports Park shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via flagging operations and/or an approved detour. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing Section 4(f) property and the public. Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of Anheuser Busch Sports Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points. The staging and/or storage of construction equipment shall occur in the aggregate-based parking lot adjacent to the maintenance building, within property boundaries. The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and the City of Columbus, including the Recreation and Parks Department prior to the start of construction activities.
- 7) The project is located within the known habitat ranges of the federally listed and protected Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The Contractor shall not remove trees under this project from April 1 through September 30. All necessary tree removal shall occur from October 1 through March 31. The Contractor shall demarcate clearing limits to avoid any unauthorized tree clearing. This requirement is necessary to avoid and minimize impacts to these species as required by the Endangered Species Act. For the purpose 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 ground surface, and with a minimum height of 13 feet.



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- 8) Hire a State permitted malacologist to complete a mussel salvage and relocation in accordance with the most recent version of the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol prior to the initiation of construction activities below the ordinary high water mark within the Olentangy River. The mussel survey must occur after May 1 and before October 1 either within the same season as the instream work or the season prior to the instream work. Submit the results of the mussel survey, salvage work, or both to the ODOT District Environmental Coordinator. Obtain approval from the Department prior to performing work below ordinary high water mark the Olentangy River.
- 9) The City of Columbus will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work within the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all Waterway Permit Special Provisions will be noted under Special Provisions in the plans and adhered to during construction.
- 10) The City of Columbus shall obtain the floodplain permit or documentation of exemption prior to plan file.
- 11) Do not work below the ordinary high water mark of the Olentangy River, or install, modify, or remove any existing instream fills during the ODNR instream work restriction period of April 15th through July 1st.
- 12) The Project Designer will ensure the plans provide for the use of native grasses and/or wildflowers (659.09 Class 4, 5, 6, or similar) for reseeding.
- 13) The Contractor shall provide safe portage areas at Northmoor Park (indicated on the plans) for paddlers to safely exit and enter the Olentangy River.
- 14) The Project Engineer or Contractor shall notify ODNR Parks and Watercraft at 614-265-6466, 14 calendar days prior to start of construction activities to allow ODNR to post notice of the impending project construction on the appropriate ODNR webpages and associated online boating maps. As part of notification efforts, the Project Engineer shall also provide plans that indicate signage location along the waterway and any additional planned notification efforts with ODNR that will take place during or after construction.
- 15) If on-the-water law enforcement is needed during any portion of the construction activities, the Project Engineer or Contractor shall contact the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft Law Enforcement Supervisor at 614-265-7067.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer:

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Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Marci Lininger (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	12/22/2022



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf
Correspondence Related to Utility Coordination.pdf
County Map.pdf
General Photographs.pdf
USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

OES Recommendations - Screening.pdf
Regulated Materials Review Form.pdf

Cultural Resources

Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix B
Records Check.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions
USACE Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination.pdf
USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf
Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination 2.pdf
OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Section 6(f)

Coordination with OWJ.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf
Public Housing Map.pdf

Public Involvement

Alternative Selected Notification - Email April 2021.pdf



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Alternative Selected Notification - Email April 2022.pdf
Alternative Selected Notification - Newsletter.pdf
Alternative Selected Notification - Postcard.pdf
Alternative Selected Notification - Social Media.pdf
News Article - Columbus Underground.pdf
News Article - Dispatch 1.pdf
News Article - Dispatch 2.pdf
News Article - This Week.pdf
Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf
Public Comments Received - Dispatch Letter to Editor.pdf
Public Comments Received - Email.pdf
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Public Comments Received - PI Meeting.pdf
Public Comments Received - Spreadsheet.pdf
Public Meeting Handouts - Comparison Matrix.pdf
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Public Meeting Notification - Mailing.PDF
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Public Meeting Notification - Parks Website 2.pdf
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Public Meeting Notification - YAY Bikes January Newsletter.pdf
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Public Notification Mailing List - Postcard.pdf
Response to Public Comments - Email.pdf
Response to Public Comments - Floodplain.pdf
Response to Public Comments - Grouped Responses.pdf
Stakeholder Comments - FLOW Meeting.pdf
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FEMA FIRM.pdf



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Floodplain Impacts Website Posting.pdf

Statement of Findings.pdf