

B.17 January 30, 2025 Agency Meeting

From: Larry.Hoffman@dot.ohio.gov
To: Anna.Kamnyev@epa.ohio.gov; Kyla.Maunz@dnr.ohio.gov; [Clingan, Peter M CIV USARMY CELRH \(US\)](mailto:Clingan, Peter M CIV USARMY CELRH (US)@usace.army.mil); Keith.Smith@dot.ohio.gov; Erica.Schneider@dot.ohio.gov; Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov; [Stahlman, Christine](mailto:Stahlman, Christine@stantec.com); [Shadix, Steve](mailto:Shadix, Steve@stantec.com); [Dan Corey](mailto:Dan.Corey@danc.bctid.org); [Allen Messer](mailto:Allen.Messer@hamilton-oh.gov); mclain.krystle@epa.gov; erin_knoll@fws.gov; [Keeley, Alauna](mailto:Keeley, Alauna@hamilton-oh.gov); ["Maietta, Anthony"](mailto:Maietta, Anthony@hamilton-oh.gov); Caraline.Griffith@dot.ohio.gov; [Stahlman, Christine](mailto:Stahlman, Christine@stantec.com); Ann.Schweitzer@dnr.ohio.gov; [Hallberg, Karen I](mailto:Hallberg, Karen I@hamilton-oh.gov); [Faudree, Marci A CIV \(USA\)](mailto:Faudree, Marci A CIV (USA)@usace.army.mil); [Miranda Fisher](mailto:Miranda.Fisher@ohiohistory.org); kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org; [nallaballi](mailto:nallaballi@hamilton-oh.gov)
Subject: FW: BUT-North Hamilton Crossing, PID 115755
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10:01:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image00001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[NHX Agency Meeting Minutes 1_30_2025.pdf](#)

Hello,

Attached please find a copy of the meeting minutes from last Thursday's agency project initiation meeting. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions on the minutes by February 18, 2025.

Thanks again for your participation.

Larry

Larry Hoffman

Major Project Coordinator

Office of Environmental Services

1980 West Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43223

614-466-6439

Larry.Hoffman@dot.ohio.gov



From: Hoffman, Larry

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:55 PM

To: Kamnyev, Anna <Anna.Kamnyev@epa.ohio.gov>; Maunz, Kyla <Kyla.Maunz@dnr.ohio.gov>; Clingan, Peter M CIV USARMY CELRH (US) <Peter.M.Clingan@usace.army.mil>; Ogulei.David@epa.gov; patrice_ashfield@fws.gov; dwelling@ohiohistory.org

Cc: Smith, Larry <Keith.Smith@dot.ohio.gov>; Schneider, Erica <Erica.Schneider@dot.ohio.gov>; Hill, Timothy <Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov>; Rahtz, Christine <Christine.Rahtz@stantec.com>; Shadix, Steve <Steve.Shadix@stantec.com>; Dan Corey <danc@bctid.org>; Allen Messer <allen.messer@hamilton-oh.gov>

Subject: FW: BUT-North Hamilton Crossing, PID 115755

Happy New Year!

As an update to our last email, the project continues to develop with field studies ongoing. An amendment to the Feasibility Study (12/20/24) is available for your review and comment in Environet under Alternatives/Reports. Also, in Environet is the current project timeline on Gantt Chart and located under General/Project Information. Comments can be left in Environet or by email.

The Administrator of Office of Environmental Services, Tim Hill, anticipates the project being processed as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with a possible Notice of Intent (NOI) in 2025. ODOT will be responsible for approval of the EIS, both the DEIS and FEIS/ROD per NEPA Assignment agreement with the Federal Highway Administration.

We would like to hold a project overview meeting with you (and/or a designee) via Teams on Thursday, January 30, 1:00 – 2:00 pm EST. Look for separate invitation.

Thank you,

Larry Hoffman

Major Project Coordinator

Office of Environmental Services

1980 West Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43223

614-466-6439

Larry.Hoffman@dot.ohio.gov



From: Hoffman, Larry

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:18 PM

To: Kamnyev, Anna <Anna.Kamnyev@epa.ohio.gov>; Maunz, Kyla <Kyla.Maunz@dnr.ohio.gov>;
Clingan, Peter M CIV USARMY CELRH (US) <Peter.M.Clingan@usace.army.mil>;
Ogulei.David@epa.gov; patrice_ashfield@fws.gov; dwelling@ohiohistory.org

Cc: Smith, Larry <Keith.Smith@dot.ohio.gov>; Schneider, Erica <Erica.Schneider@dot.ohio.gov>; Hill,
Timothy <Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov>

Subject: BUT-North Hamilton Crossing, PID 115755

Hello,

The Ohio Department of Transportation is requesting your review and comment on the Feasibility Study (FS) for the above subject project. The link to the FS is attached and is also available in Environet. We are requesting your review since this project will likely be processed as an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The City of Hamilton, in conjunction with the Butler County Transportation Improvement District (BCTID), has undertaken the proposed North Hamilton Crossing (NHX) project to improve mobility and reduce congestion in the northeastern portion of Hamilton. The proposed NHX project is in northeast Hamilton and extends between an eastern terminus at the intersection of SR 129 and Hampshire Drive and a western terminus at North B Street. The study includes 18 concepts to address transportation needs identified through a public needs survey, as well as several meetings with project stakeholders. This feasibility study was prepared as part of ODOT's Project Development Process (PDP) to document the process used to evaluate preliminary alternatives and select those that should be further studied for the North Hamilton Crossing (NHX) project. This report provides a summary of the engineering and environmental studies that were undertaken throughout the feasibility study, as well as the public involvement activities that were conducted.

We would appreciate your comments by August 24, 2023. If you have questions, please email Keith Smith, PE, District 8 Environmental Coordinator, Keith.Smith@dot.ohio.gov or myself.

Thanks!

Larry Hoffman

Major Project Coordinator

ODOT Office of Environmental Services

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North Hamilton Crossing (NHX) Agency Meeting

Date/Time: January 30, 2025 / 1:00 pm – 1:49 pm

Location: Teams Meeting

Next Meeting: N/A

Attendees: Allen Messer, City of Hamilton
Dan Corey, Butler County TID
Keith Smith, DEC, ODOT
Tim Hill, OES Administrator, ODOT
Larry Hoffman, Major Project Coordinator, ODOT
Erica Schneider, Assistant Environmental Administrator, ODOT
Caroline Griffith, Noise and Air Quality Coordinator, ODOT
Christine Stahlman, Project NEPA Manager, Stantec
Steve Shadix, Consultant Project Manager, Stantec
Caroline Ammerman, NEPA Support, Stantec
Alauna Keeley, NEPA Reviewer, USEPA
Anthony Maietta, USEPA, Region 5, Air and Radiation Division
Neena Nallaballi, USEPA, Region 5
Marci Faudree, USACE
Peter Clingan, USACE
Anna Kamnyev, Ohio EPA
Ann Schweitzer, Ohio DNR
Miranda Fisher, Transportation Review Manager, OHPO
Kristen Koehlinger, Department Manager, Resource Protection and Review, OHPO

Absentees: Karen Hallberg, USFWS
Kyla Maunz, Ohio DNR

Distribution: All

Item

1. Introductions

Larry Hoffman led introductions of the meeting attendees and provided a brief overview of the North Hamilton Crossing (NHX) project, a transportation improvement project which occurs within the City of Hamilton in Butler County, Ohio.

Allen Messer with the City of Hamilton, the local project sponsor, indicated that this project was conceived in the early 2000's to address several transportation issues in the City of Hamilton, including: the need to replace the Black Street Bridge, which is over one hundred years old; the need to address congestion on the local road network; and the need to provide additional railroad crossings.

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2. Project Overview

Christine Stahlman provided an overview of the NHX project (See Attached PowerPoint Slides).

Keith Smith stated that the project started with 18 alternatives and that a lot of work has been done to narrow the alternatives.

Larry indicated that there has been a lot of local public involvement done by the City and Butler County TID before ODOT became involved in the project.

Larry also mentioned that due to the condition of the Black Street Bridge there may need to be a separate project to address the bridge deficiencies.

- The City is in the process of completing a scour analysis on the bridge. The bridge has been identified as “scour critical” based on inspection reports, and must be monitored in large flood events to ensure that no more scour occurs. The scour report will confirm the scour critical nature of the bridge and determine safety measures required.
- The bridge is one of five earth fill arch bridges that were built in the early 1920s and is the only one that remains. Due to the bridge’s design, it is unable to be widened.
- The city would like to preserve the bridge as a light vehicle and/or pedestrian bridge. The location of the bridge is ideal to provide a connection to the Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Hamilton, the largest indoor sports complex in the country and a major traffic generator. There are hotels planned on the east side of the river and the bridge would provide a link for pedestrians to cross to the west side of the river.

3. Questions

The following is a summary of the questions and responses provided by the meeting attendees:

- a. Can a copy of the slides be provided?

Response: Yes, all meeting attendees shall be provided with a copy of the PowerPoint slide presentation, as an attachment to the meeting minutes.

- b. Peter Clingan (USACE) asked about the ownership of the dam located upstream of the Black Street Bridge.

Response: It is a low head dam owned by the Miami Conservancy District (MCD).

- c. Peter Clingan (USACE) indicated that the Great Miami River is a navigable waterway requiring a Section 10 permit. Therefore, the project must be coordinated with the US Coast Guard. In addition, the project may require a Section 9 permit.

Response: A decision will be made in the spring or summer about whether the project will be processed as an EA or EIS. At that time, if the project proceeds as an EIS, ODOT will reach out to

Item

all agencies to determine who would like to be a participating agency and which agencies will be signers of the document.

d. How would the Hydraulic Canal be handled in the waterway permit?

Response: Peter Clingan (USACE) indicated that the canal would be considered a water feature and that it should be included in the impacts analysis and future waterway permitting. It would not be considered a Section 10 feature since the canal is used for energy production.

e. What is the schedule of the project in terms of when waterway permits would be required?

Response: It will probably be four years before anything is built over the river.

f. Anna Kamnyev (OEPA) commented that it could take 6-9 months to issue a Section 401 Certification, depending on the level of waterway permit that the USACE requires. Please keep this in mind for the project schedule.

g. Anthony Maietta (USEPA) stated that his agency had no comments so far. The project will require an air quality conformity analysis. It is acknowledged that there is no way to differentiate emissions between the project alternatives due to their proximity to one another. Therefore, the air quality conformity analysis will be based on the Build and No Build Alternatives once the Preferred Build Alternative is identified.

h. Alauna Keeley (USEPA) noted that she had no comments at this time.

i. Anna Kamnyev (Ohio EPA) indicated that all mussels are protected in the State of Ohio. Even though the eDNA Survey did not identify any Federally listed mussel species in the project area, a mussel relocation will be required due to the presence of native mussel species. Has the mussel survey been coordinated with John Navarro (ODNR)?

Response: The eDNA Mussel Survey is uploaded to EnviroNet. Megan Michael (ODOT OES) has reviewed the survey, but it has not been coordinated with the agencies.

j. Anna Kamnyev (Ohio EPA) indicated that ODOT would need to file a "Pre-filing Meeting" request a minimum of 30 days before the Section 401 Water Quality Certification application is submitted.

4. Wrap-Up

Tim Hill thanked everyone for joining the meeting and indicated that ODOT will be reaching out to everyone in late spring/early summer after a decision has been made on the level of NEPA document that will be prepared.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Caroline Ammerman

Caroline Ammerman
Phone: 513-619-6454
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North Hamilton Crossing (NHX) AGENCY PROJECT INITIATION MEETING

Hamilton, OH
January 30, 2025



North Hamilton
CROSSING

PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

City of Hamilton

Allen Messer, P.E. – City of Hamilton

Butler County Transportation Improvement District

Dan Corey, P.E. – Butler County TID

Ohio Department of Transportation

Keith Smith, P.E. – District Environmental Coordinator

Tim Hill – OES Administrator

Larry Hoffman – Major Project Coordinator

Erica Schneider – Assistant Environmental Administrator

Stantec

Steve Shadix, P.E., P.S. – Consultant Project Manager

Christine Stahlman – Project NEPA Manager

Caroline Ammerman – Project NEPA Support

AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Army Corps of Engineers

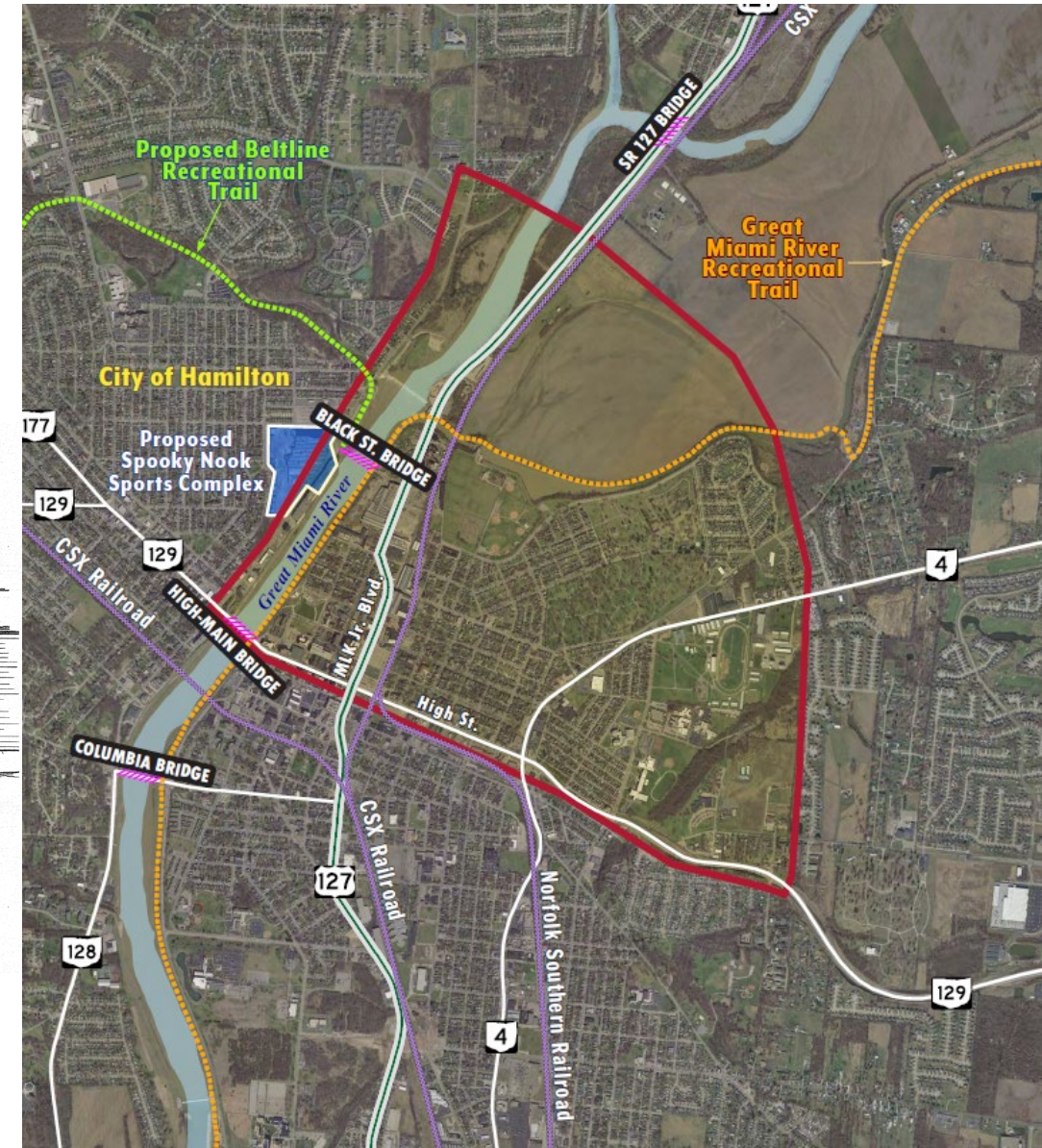
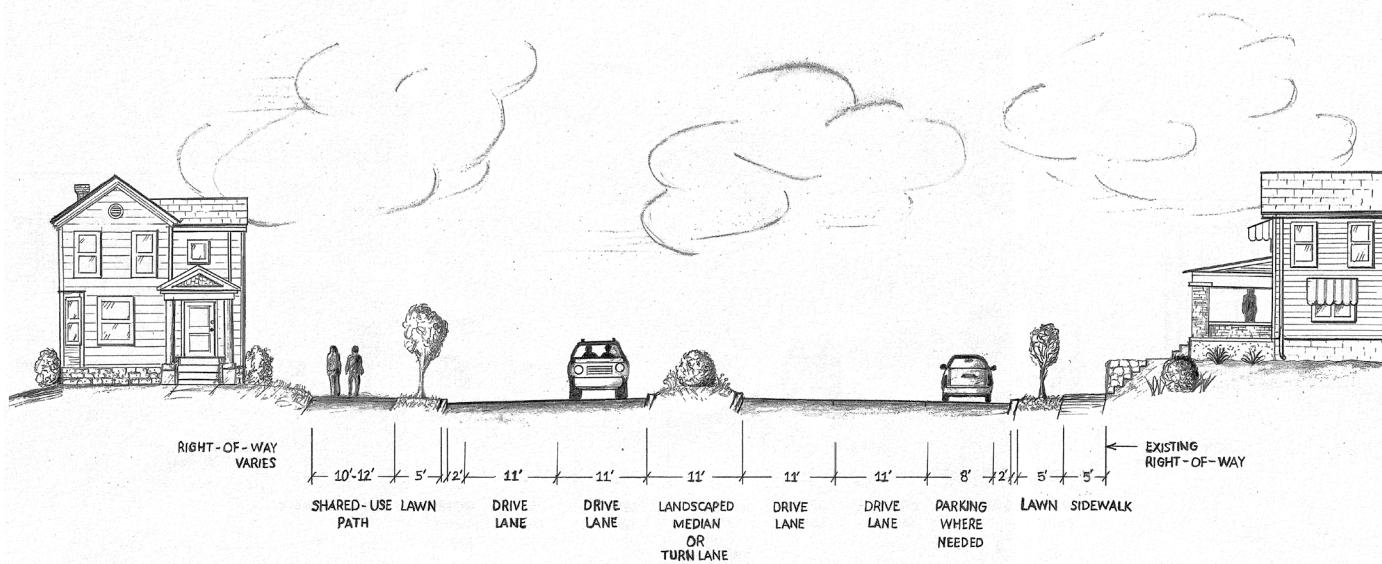
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

WHAT IS THE NORTH HAMILTON CROSSING PROJECT?

- New boulevard-style roadway on new alignment to connect North B St. on the west side of the Great Miami River, US 127, SR 4 (Erie Boulevard) and SR 129 at Hampshire Drive.
- New bridge over the Great Miami River
- New railroad overpass



WHY IS NORTH HAMILTON CROSSING NEEDED?

To improve **east-west connectivity** north of SR 129 in the City of Hamilton to **reduce congestion** and **improve mobility** in support of current and planned economic growth in the City of Hamilton and western Butler County.

PRIMARY NEEDS

(Must be addressed by the project)

- Improve east-west connectivity
- Address insufficient crossings of the Great Miami River
- Address lack of grade-separated railroad crossings
- Address mobility/congestion on local road network
- Improve safety

SECONDARY NEEDS

(Should be considered by the project, pending availability of funding)

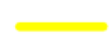
- Support economic development
- Improve bike/pedestrian connectivity
- Improve multimodal linkage

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

- **Project conceived >20 years ago to improve east-west connectivity through north Hamilton**
- **Purpose and Need statement developed and approved by ODOT in February 2022**
- **Feasibility Study (FS) completed in July 2023**
 - Evaluated 18 preliminary build alternatives
 - Recommended 4 alternatives for further study
- **Substantial coordination with stakeholders and the public**
 - Visioning Exercise / Public Needs Survey
 - Stakeholder Meetings (4)
 - Neighborhood/Community Meetings (7)
 - Public Meetings (3)
- **FS amendment submitted January 6, 2025**
 - Recommendations continue to be modified based on engineering and environmental studies and public input

ALTERNATIVES

West Section Alternatives (North B St to US 127)

-  *NW Washington Crossing**
-  *Gordon/Rhea Crossing**

Central Section Alternatives (US 127 to North Fair Ave)

-  *Miami Street Connection*
-  *North 9th Street Connection*
-  *Vine Street Connection**
-  *Joe Nuxhall Connection**

East Section Alternative (North Fair Ave to SR 129)

-  *East Connection*

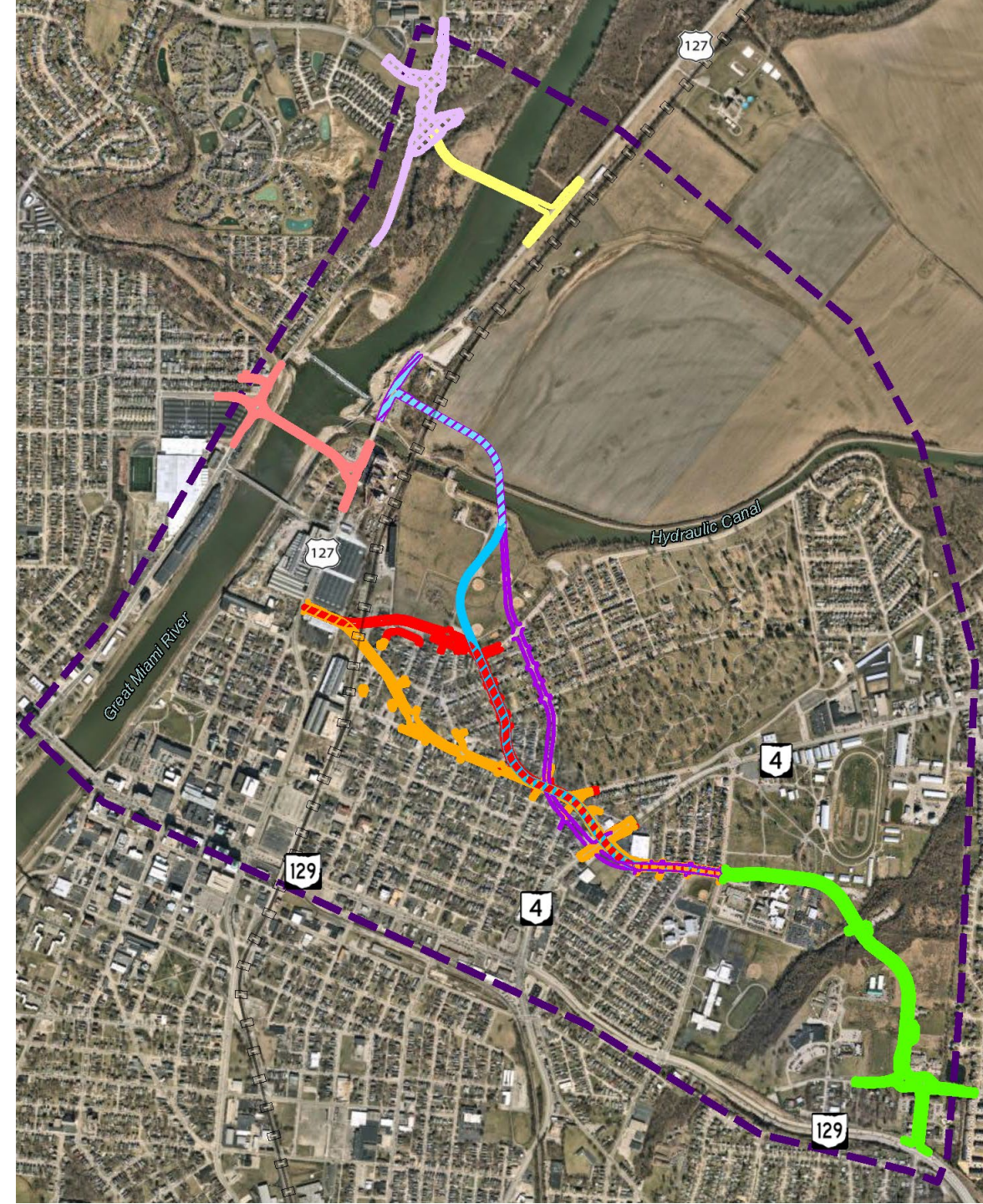
 Study Area

 NW Washington Roundabouts (PID 120771)**

**Added or adjusted based on public input*

*** Separate project not directly impacted by NHX project*

Lines drawn on map are not to scale



NEXT PHASE OF WORK

Alternatives recommended for further study may have significant impacts:

- Section 4(f) properties
- Farmlands
- Floodplains
- Residential and business relocations
- Community resources/community cohesion
- Hazardous materials
- Cultural and historic resources

WEST SECTION

Environmental Impact Category	NW Washington Crossing	Gordon/Rhea Crossing
Cultural Resources	No impacts to NRHP-listed or NRHP-eligible historic sites; No impacts to OHI sites	No impacts to NRHP-listed or NRHP-eligible historic sites; 1 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)
Section 4(f)/6(f) Recreational Sites	Combs Park (bisects), Great Miami River National Water Trail	Beltline Trail, Great Miami River Trail, Great Miami River National Water Trail
Ecological Resources	Great Miami River; 1 NWI Wetland	Great Miami River
Floodplain/Floodway	7 acres impact	2.7 acres impact
Regulated Materials Review	No Impacts to Hazardous Materials Site	1 RCRA site, within Chem-Dyne half mile buffer zone, within Solid Waste Transfer Facility quarter mile buffer zone
Farmland Impacts	No Impacts to Farmland	No Impacts to Farmland
Community Resources	No community resources impacted	No community resources impacted
Environmental Justice (EJ)	No Displacements of EJ Populations	No Displacements of EJ Populations
Residential Relocations	0 Relocations	0 Relocations
Commercial Relocations	0 Relocations	0 Relocations

Note: Impacts presented are based on secondary sources

CENTRAL SECTION

Environmental Impact Category	Vine Street Connection	Joe Nuxhall Connection	Miami Street Connection	North 9th Street Connection
Cultural Resources	Adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery (NRHP-listed site), 1 OHI (complete take), 10 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)	Adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery (NRHP-listed site); 1 OHI (complete take); 3 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)	Adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery (NRHP-listed site); 1 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)	Adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery (NRHP-listed site); 1 OHI (complete take); 1 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)
Section 4(f)/6(f) Recreational Sites	Fairwood Elementary (no impacts to baseball field); Moser Park (0.1-acre right-of-way acquisition, impact to shelter house)	Fairwood Elementary (no impacts to baseball field); L.J. Smith Park (strip take)	Fairwood Elementary (no impacts to baseball field); L.J. Smith Park (bisects)	Fairwood Elementary (no impacts to baseball field); L.J. Smith Park (bisects)
Ecological Resources	No NWI mapped wetlands or streams	No NWI mapped wetlands or streams	Hydraulic Canal	Hydraulic Canal
Floodplain/Floodway	0 acre of impact	0 acre of impact	23 acres of impact	23 acres of impact
Regulated Materials Review	4 LUST, 1 UST, 3 RCRA, 1 Spill, 1 DERR Site, 2 Sites with Institutional Controls, 3 VAP2 Sites. Within Chem-Dyne half mile buffer zone	4 LUST, 1 UST, 7 RCRA, 1 Spill, 3 DERR Site, 3 Sites with Institutional Controls, 1 NPL Site, 3 VAP2 Sites. Within Chem-Dyne half mile buffer zone	6 LUST, 1 UST, 6 RCRA, 1 Spill, 1 Site with Institutional Controls, 1 NPL Site, 1 Electric Transformer Substation, 1 Solid Waste Transfer Facility. Within Chem-Dyne half mile buffer zone	6 LUST, 1 UST, 6 RCRA, 1 Spill, 1 Site with Institutional Controls, 1 NPL Site, 1 Electric Transformer Substation, 1 Solid Waste Transfer Facility. Within Chem-Dyne half mile buffer zone
Farmland Impacts	No impacts to farmland	No impacts to farmland	~21 acres of impact	~21 acres of impact
Community Resources	No community resources impacted	No community resources impacted	Adjacent to North End Market	Adjacent to North End Market
Environmental Justice (EJ)	Relocations in census block groups with high concentrations of EJ Populations	Relocations in census block groups with high concentrations of EJ Populations	Relocations in census block groups with high concentrations of EJ Populations	Relocations in census block groups with high concentrations of EJ Populations
Residential Relocations	43 Residential Relocations	42 Residential Relocations	51 Residential Relocations	40 Residential Relocations
Commercial Relocations	6 Commercial Relocations	6 Commercial Relocations	2 Commercial Relocations	3 Commercial Relocations

Note: Impacts presented are based on secondary sources

EAST SECTION

Environmental Impact Category	East Connection
Cultural Resources	No impacts to any NRHP-listed sites; 1 OHI (adjacent, potential R/W or visual)
Section 4(f)/6(f) Recreational Sites	No impacts to Section 4(f)/6(f) Resources
Ecological Resources	No NWI mapped wetlands or streams
Floodplain/Floodway	0 acre of impact
Regulated Materials Review	No Impacts to Hazardous Materials Site
Farmland Impacts	No Impacts to Farmland
Community Resources	Impacts to Sojourner Recovery Service
Environmental Justice (EJ)	No Displacements of EJ Populations
Residential Relocations	0 Relocations
Commercial Relocations	0 Relocations

Note: Impacts presented are based on secondary sources

NEXT PHASE OF WORK

Status of Environmental Studies

- Regulated Materials Review (RMR)
 - RMR Screening ☒
 - RMR Assessments anticipated **Summer 2025**
- Level 1 Ecological Survey Report (ESR)
 - ESR anticipated **Spring 2025**
 - eDNA Mussel Survey ☒
- Section 106 Cultural Resources
 - Scoping Request Form ☒
 - Phase I History/Architecture anticipated **Spring 2025**
 - Archaeology (literature review) anticipated **Spring 2025**
- Noise analysis anticipated **Spring 2025**
- Air quality analysis anticipated **Spring 2025**
- Community impacts
 - Relocation Conceptual Survey (**TBD**)
 - Environmental Justice Analysis Report (**TBD**)
- Section 4(f) Determination Request (recreational) anticipated **Spring 2025**
- Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form **Spring 2025**

NEXT PHASE OF WORK

Environmental Studies on the Recommended Preferred Alternative

- Additional Documentation for Section 106 – **Early 2026**
 - Phase I Archaeology
 - Phase II History/Architecture
 - MOA Development (if required)
- Final Section 4(f) Determination/Individual Evaluation – **Summer 2026**
- Relocation Assistance Program Survey – **Summer 2026**
- Regulated Materials Review Investigations – **Summer 2026**
- Waterway Permitting – **TBD**
- Mussel Survey/Relocation – **TBD**

Anticipated Federal Register Publications (if EIS is necessary)

- Notice of Intent – **Late 2025**
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement – **Spring 2026**
- Final Environmental Impact Statement/ROD – **Spring 2027**

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION