



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS – 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805  
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/districts/d03>

## FACT SHEET: ASD-97-4.25 MOHICAN-MEMORIAL STATE FOREST SLIDE REPAIR PROJECT

### What is the purpose of this project?

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has been developing a project to correct an unstable roadside rock slide along State Route 97, near its intersection with State Route 3, in Ashland County. The property is owned by the Mohican-Memorial State Forest and the project is being overseen by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The project will perform limited corrective work on the unstable shale/sandstone cliff face adjacent to SR-97 by clearing trees, dislodging loose stone, and anchoring a high-strength wire mesh slope ‘drape’ across the slope to direct rock fall into a catchment area. The intent of this project is to increase motorists’ safety by reducing the potential of rock fall impacting the traveling lanes of this state route.

### Additional Background:

- SR-97 runs tightly between a large outcropping of weathered shale and sandstone formation and the State Scenic Clear Fork of the Mohican River.
- The sandstone has been undermined by erosion and natural weathering of the underlying shale, causing rock debris to fall into the eastbound roadway ditch and onto the roadway.
- These rock falls create an unsafe condition for the traveling public & have been a significant problem in the past.
- This area is approximately 500 feet in length.

### What this project involves:

- No work will be performed in the State Park or in the river below.
- Anchors will be installed at the top of the hillside and a high-strength wire mesh ‘drape’ will be attached to the cliff to keep additional rocks from falling onto the roadway below.
- The wire mesh ‘drape’ is environmentally friendly and expected to allow vegetation to grow around it.
- The slope ‘drape’ will run approximately 70 feet high x approximately 460 feet across the cliff. It will extend above the road to the top of the cut slope, and then an additional 25 feet. An anchor system will be installed every 25 feet across the top of the drape, extending approximately 25 feet beyond the edge of the drape.
- ODOT will require approximately 30 feet of right-of-way past the top of the cut slope for the installation of the slope drape and anchoring system.
- It is assumed that the majority of the trees within the cut slope area will require removal. No trees will need to be cleared within the area of the anchor system.
- A portion of State Route 97 will be closed during the year while work is performed. Traffic will be detoured for approximately 21 days at some point during the project. Emergency vehicles will retain access as needed throughout the closure.

### How will this project impact the environment? How will it impact Mohican-Memorial State Forest visitors?

ODOT and ODNR have been actively working together during the development of this project to minimize impacts to the environment and the State Forest. During the project, there may be some negligible falling debris from the embankment that will be contained by the contractor. ODOT estimates that it will require 1.707 acre of right-of-way from the state forest land for this project. Trees will be removed between September 30 and April 1 to avoid direct impacts to the Federally Endangered Indiana Bat. There will be some impact on motorists and travelers who must be detoured during the SR-97 road closure; however, current information will be available at [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org).

**For more information, please contact:** Brian Stacy at 419-207-7182 or Mac Vance at 419-207-7055.