



PROJECT UPDATE NEWSLETTER – December 20, 2018

Proposed US 62 Roadway Improvement Project (SR 43 to Nimishillen Creek Bridge)

ODOT Project: STA-62-24.05 (PID-100824)

Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio



POST PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

ODOT held a Public Hearing on July 26, 2018 and is progressing further into the project design. As a result of comments received from the public hearing and design reviews, along with an added evaluation of Performance Based Practical Design (PBPD) and cost savings measures, the STA-62-24.05 PID: 100824 preferred alternative design has been slightly revised from the design that was presented at the July 2018 public hearing.

The exhibit on the back of this Project Update Newsletter shows the recent design changes.

The latest information on the project and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the project can be found at: www.dot.state.oh.us/districts/D04/

Once at the website, scroll down, and select "Public Meetings/Public Involvement" from the list in the left margin and click on the small plus sign next to "County: US Route 62 Project" folder.



PROJECT SCHEDULE UPDATE

As a result of the evaluation and associated design revisions, the schedule for this project has been revised slightly. Environmental Document approval is now expected to be in early winter 2019. The right-of-way and Construction schedules have not been impacted:

- Winter 2019 – Environmental Document Approval
- May 2019 – Finalize Right-of-Way Plans
- September 2020 – Complete Right-of-Way Acquisition
- October/November 2021 – Sale of Project
- 2022 – Anticipated Begin Construction

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS SUMMARY

The Public Hearing that was held July 26, 2018 at the St. George Orthodox Event Center was well attended with a total of 93 attendees officially signing in to the meeting. Twenty-one (21) comments were submitted by the end of the comment period (August 27, 2018). This included 4 comment form submittals at the public hearing; 2 verbal comments to the stenographer at the public hearing; 7 comment statements via the open microphone session at the public hearing; 6 comments received via email; and 2 comments received via mail. ODOT provided responses to comments received.

The most common comments were related to:

- Concerns of cut through traffic added to local roads
- Concerns of construction traffic tearing up local roads
- Concerns of cut through traffic speeding on local roads
- Support or opposition to noise walls
- Concerns over losing property values
- Requests to consider alternatives and noise walls
- Concerns about construction noise in neighborhoods

PREVIOUS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

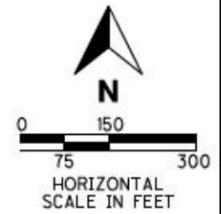
In addition to meetings with project stakeholders and an Open House Public Involvement Meeting held 11/29/2016, there was a Public Hearing held on 7/26/2018. The meeting and hearing format included a project overview presentation. Following the presentation, interested individuals had the opportunity to speak during an open microphone public comment period. Throughout the meeting, exhibits illustrating the preferred alternatives were displayed and project staff was available to answer questions. In addition to the public comments, five agencies provided comments on the EA document: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The EA Document and the Public Comment Summary and Responses to Comments document are found at: www.dot.state.oh.us/districts/D04/ (Once at the website, scroll down, and select "Public Meetings/Public Involvement" from the list in the left margin and open the "US Route 62 Project" folder.



LEGEND:

- PROPOSED PAVEMENT
- PROPOSED DRIVEWAY
- PROPOSED CONCRETE MEDIAN / BARRIER
- PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALKS
- PROPOSED NOISE BARRIER

SUB-ALTERNATIVE G1-d3a-1



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

If you have questions or comments on this project update, please feel free to contact:

Brian Peck – Environmental Specialist
 ODOT District 4
 2088 South Arlington Road
 Akron, OH 44306
Brian.Peck@dot.ohio.gov
 Phone: (330) 786-4931



REVISIONS INCORPORATED:

- Right-In/Right Out direct access to US62 at Rowland Ave. now included to minimize impacts to businesses along the Frontage Road
- Noise Barriers no longer proposed along service road from Gibbs to St. Elmo
- Eastbound right turn lane on US62 added to provide access to Rowland

REVISIONS INCORPORATED:

- Noise Barriers no longer proposed east of St. Elmo
- Westbound exclusive right turn lane to St. Elmo revised to be a third lane with a through/right lane use designation

REVISIONS INCORPORATED:

- Several private access drives for businesses now proposed to new US62 alignment as shown above to reduce impacts to local businesses
- Noise Barriers no longer proposed along north side of US62 in this area
- Gross Ave. cul-de-sac revised to a hammerhead turnaround design to reduce impacts to nearby properties

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Upon completion of the Public Hearing (held on July 26, 2018) and comments received through August 27, 2018, further investigation and analyses on preferred Alternative G1-d3a was performed as part of the public involvement process and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Performance Based Practical Design (PBPD) initiative. Through this exercise, evaluation of existing conditions and the Preliminary Design for the proposed alternative uncovered potential design changes that further minimize access and right-of-way impacts over the Preliminary Design (G1-d3b) presented in the Environmental Assessment (June 28, 2018) and the July 26, 2018 public hearing. The design changes shown in the above figure (G1-d3a-1) meet the purpose and need for the project which is to improve safety, decrease congestion, and manage access to accommodate existing and future transportation needs along the corridor.