

## Water Quality Considerations for Lakefront and Shoreway Reconstruction

3/14/03  
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM  
NEORSD Administrative Offices  
3826 Euclid Ave

**Purpose:** Information gathering and sharing to develop a long term cooperative relationship to improve consider water quality and ecological aspects of lakefront planning/ reconstruction efforts

### Anticipated Attendees

Craig Hebebrand -- ODOT	Erwin Odeal- NEORSD
Darnell Brown or Tom Marsalis -- Cleveland DWPC	Lester Stumpe - NEORSD
Debby Berry --- Lakefront Project	Frank Greenland - NEORSD
Linda Henrichsen - Cleveland - Planning Department	

### Agenda

Meeting Agenda	Lester Stumpe	5
Outline of Issues and presentation of current information	Lester Stumpe	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the current sewer system</li> <li>Understanding potential impacts from separate storm sewer areas</li> </ul>		
General discussion Q/A regarding potential impacts	General discussion ---- All	10
What tools are available to assess the issues	Lester Stumpe	15
Discussion regarding tools and potential efforts	General discussion ---- All	15
Review/develop action agenda for future work	General discussion ---- All	15

### Additional Information

Special notes:

Mail From: "Craig Hebebrand" <Craig.Hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us>

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**From:** "Craig Hebebrand" <Craig.Hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us>

**To:** StumpeL, AdministrationPO, AdministrationDOM

**CC:** "Dave.Lastovka@dot.state.oh.us", GWIA, GWIADOM

**Subject:** Cleveland Innerbelt Study - Water Quality

Lester,

Please be advised that I have some concerns regarding your submission.

The objectives you listed appear to have more to do with revising the planning process, than with establishing goals and objectives that are specific to the Cleveland Innerbelt Study. Please be advised that the existing Goals and Objectives already identify the community's desire to "protect and enhance the natural environment." This would include the desire to "protect and enhance water quality" as well.

Please understand that the Ohio Department of Transportation continues to pursue the identification of "reasonable and responsible" actions to protect and improve water quality. I also believe that the District Office has clearly demonstrated ODOT's commitment to cooperate with the NEORSD, and other local government agencies, in resolving stormwater issues (Chevrolet Branch and Kerruish Park).

Rather than continue to debate the merits of your submission, I would respectfully request that we instead focus our joint attention on identifying specific water quality/water quantity issues directly related to the Innerbelt Freeway and attempt to work together to identify effective, efficient and practical solutions that will allow us to achieve the objective of protecting and enhancing the water quality. Please advise if you are willing to do so. Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Craig K. Hebebrand, P.E.,

Ohio Department of Transportation, District 12  
5500 Transportation Boulevard, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125  
Telephone: (216) 581-2333, Ext. 409/NEW Facsimile: (216) 584-3508  
E-Mail: [craig.hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:craig.hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us)

See attached document relative to my thoughts on an environmental goal.

Lester Stumpe  
Manager of Watershed Programs, Policy and Technical Support  
Phone: 216-881-6600 Ext. 830  
Fax: 216-881-6603  
Email: [stumpeL@neorsd.org](mailto:stumpeL@neorsd.org)

>>> "Craig Hebebrand" <[Craig.Hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Craig.Hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us)> 03/19/03 09:43AM >>>  
Lester,

At the March 10, 2003 Scoping Committee meeting you suggested that consideration be given to modifying the Goals and Objectives to specifically include Water Quality. While the Goal and Objectives for the Cleveland Innerbelt Study do not specifically mention Water Quality, they do include (see below) the broader objective to "preserve and enhance the natural environment." Please advise if you consider this more general objective to be sufficient to address your concerns. If not, I would ask you to offer a proposal to revise the Goals & Objectives.

#### Goal V Environment

Environmental impacts are often considered as a consequence of the construction of transportation facilities. This goal considers resource usage from fuel consumption to land uses. It also considers impacts to valued community resources such as residential areas, historic structures and districts, parks, or special population groups. While this goal category may have limited performance measures, it is extensively supplemented by the environmental impact evaluations conducted as part of the environmental studies for specific projects.

#### Objectives

1. Preserve, protect, and expand parks and open space throughout the corridor (lakefront, the river, and within the neighborhoods)
2. Adhere to Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice
3. Protect historic resources
4. Provide for business relocation within the study area
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment
6. Improve and enhance lighting
7. Include environmental considerations within the life-cycle cost analysis

Please note that I believe that the existing general objective is sufficient and would suggest that your concerns might best be addressed through the mutual development of appropriate performance measures related specifically to Water Quality.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

Craig K. Hebebrand, P.E.,

Ohio Department of Transportation, District 12  
5500 Transportation Boulevard, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125  
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#### ATTACHMENT

Craig,

I thought about trying to incorporate the objectives that I envision in this new goal with existing Goal V. While I would be willing to try, I felt that it would muddle the intent particularly at the early stage of discussion.

#### Goal --- Reduce and mitigate impacts of highway run off and habitat disruption

Transportation replacement and/or re-construction projects offer the opportunity to construct facilities that have less environmental impacts than current systems. Decreased water quality impacts and improved habitat features (including decreased wildlife mortality incidents and increase compatibility with surrounding urban features) are two areas in which significant gains may be possible. Transportation replacement and/or re-construction projects also offer the opportunity to provide mitigation for the direct impacts of the transportation system that cannot be eliminated by context-sensitive design processes. The intent of this goal is to identify at the earliest possible juncture the steps that can be taken to meet the stated objectives. Identifying issues and possible actions may be a factor in developing and/or refining transportation options at the planning level. Consideration of environmental enhancement opportunities in the MIS phase will also allow the transportation planning process to consider the potential project costs associated with environmental measures and will help assure that the recommend plan identifies any options that should be considered in additional depth in the next phases of the transportation planning process. Measures of performance to evaluate planning level options against this goal are likely to be more qualitative than quantitative in nature. This general goal is consistent with NOACA transportation planning principles that call for transportation project to result in enhancements to the natural environment.

#### Objectives

1. Create and/or consider planning level options with the objective of minimizing and/or treating the pollutant loads that are created by stormwater run off from the highway corridor.
2. Create and/or consider planning level options with the objective of minimizing transportation related spills that might damage the ecology of area water resources. Identify any particular merits of transportation options to capture or otherwise minimize the impacts of spilled hazardous materials.
3. Evaluate at a planning level the opportunities and costs to provide long term environmental mitigation for the impacts of the transportation project that cannot be eliminated.
4. Consider opportunities, benefits and urban compatibility issues for natural habitat improvements associated with transportation options and potential environmental mitigation projects.

The existing environmental goal for the Inner belt study is as follows

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February 9, 2004

Mr. David Coyle  
District Deputy Director  
Ohio Department of Transportation, District 12  
5500 Transportation Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44125

Dear Mr. Coyle:

A strong and varied transportation infrastructure has long been recognized as one of the strongest assets of the Greater Cleveland Area. We are excited to work with the Ohio Department of Transportation and area stakeholders to further improve the transportation system via improvements to the Cleveland Innerbelt and connecting projects.

We note that our water resources, particularly Cleveland's lakefront, are also increasingly being recognized as dominant assets of the region. Accordingly, large investments of public dollars are being made to protect and restore the area's water resources. For instance, NEORSR anticipates spending between \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion to control Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in its service area. Additionally, the City of Cleveland is doing extensive renewal planning to capitalize on a cleaned-up waterfront. But CSOs are not the only problem. Stormwater runoff, including highway runoff, is one of the significant lakefront pollution sources. If all major sources of pollution, including highway runoff, are not addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion, large public investments for pollution control will not achieve the optimum result of a cleaner, more usable lakefront.

The Innerbelt project planning process represents a critical point in time for community representatives and public officials to affirm that projects involving public investments must address both existing and new sources of project-related pollution that affect Cleveland's lakefront and other valued regional water resources. For the Innerbelt project, this would likely include addressing the problem of runoff from current pavement area and controlling stormwater pollution from the new elements of the Innerbelt project. As the Innerbelt project is in the early planning phases, we are aware that studies have not been conducted to determine the impacts of runoff from either the current or proposed highway infrastructure. As well, the cost of treating these sources of stormwater is not yet known. We understand that much of the work to balance cost and benefits of pollution control will be done in the forthcoming project phases of preliminary engineering and environmental assessment.

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Given the potentially significant costs of pollution abatement we suggest that it is beneficial to discuss funding sources at the earliest possible juncture. Fortunately, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) provides for federal participation in the cost of environmental restoration and pollution abatement projects using Surface Transportation Funds (STP). The Federal Highway Administration's fact sheet on TEA-21 STP funds identifies that eligible activities specifically include "environmental restoration and pollution abatement projects, including retrofit or construction of stormwater treatment facilities (limited to 20% of the total cost of 3R-type transportation projects)."

As you are aware, because comprehensive stormwater management is a new and developing discipline in Ohio, regulatory requirements and programs are not fully developed. The result is a significant project management challenge for such a large project as reconstruction of the Cleveland Innerbelt. Further, regulatory requirements are not the only measure of prudent cost-effective decision-making for stormwater management, pollution abatement, and environmental restoration work. As a result, we feel there will be a continuing need to consult and dialogue with the community with respect to decisions regarding the appropriate level of environmental controls.

In an effort to build consensus around the issues of comprehensive stormwater management and pollution abatement, we suggest the following steps:

- 1) Assure that abatement of existing stormwater sources of pollution is well documented as an objective of the Innerbelt project. Include this objective in the project's official Purpose and Need Statement to the extent that doing so will help to maximize the eligibility of abatement and environmental restoration activities for cost sharing using STP funds or other state or federal funds and communicate this important need to stakeholders.
- 2) Assure that the environmental assessment phase of the project development is adequately scoped and funded to provide a database from which to make sound decisions regarding pollution abatement, to identify environmental restoration opportunities, and to provide for comprehensive management of stormwater runoff.
- 3) Collaborate with stakeholders to develop and evaluate a range of options for stormwater management and potential environmental restoration activities. Include options to control project related pollutants (from both existing and new sources) to levels which support identified or anticipated community uses of the lakefront, recognizing that these levels may not currently be defined as regulatory requirements.

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- 4) Take reasonable steps to advocate and secure the eligibility of pollution abatement and environmental restoration activities to use STP funds and other potential state or federal funding opportunities. Communicate to the stakeholders roles they can play to support this process.
- 5) Identify opportunities for pollution abatement and environmental restoration activities that could be effectively coordinated with the Innerbelt project but which might not be eligible for state and federal funding support.

In crafting our suggestion we have tried to draw on the principles of strong public involvement, regional collaboration, and community consensus building. On this note, it is appropriate to recognize the outstanding efforts by your office throughout the Cleveland Innerbelt Study in the aforementioned areas. Your commitment to an inclusive process gives us assurance that you will continue to work with the community to address the issues that we have raised and to forge consensus as the project moves forward.

Additionally, as a partner in maintenance and enhancement of the region's infrastructure we are happy to meet with you to share our data on stormwater and to coordinate our pollution abatement projects with your plans for Innerbelt transportation improvements. We believe that close collaboration can be important in our joint efforts to help build a vibrant and attractive community.

Sincerely,



Erwin J. Odeal  
Executive Director

las/nas



