

**Public Involvement Plan
Eastern Corridor Segment II-III Relocated SR 32
HAM/CLE-32F-2.50/0.00
PID No. 86462**

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1. Eastern Corridor Background

The Eastern Corridor is a program of highway, transit and local network improvements being planned and implemented in a multi-modal strategy to address short- and long-term travel needs between the City of Cincinnati in Hamilton County and western Clermont County, Ohio. The project is following a tiered approach to assessing consequences to the natural and social environment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with the definition of tiering outlined in 40 CFR 1508.28(b), Tier 1 of the Eastern Corridor focused on broad issues for the full multi-modal program including identifying transportation needs, mode choice, general corridor locations, preliminary impacts, and land use implications of the transportation improvements being considered. The Tier 1 work was documented in a Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approved by FHWA on September 30, 2005 (FHWA-OH-EIS-04-02-F). A Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD) issued on June 2, 2006 identified recommended multi-modal improvements for the Eastern Corridor and established logical termini for major transportation investments to be further evaluated in Tier 2.

Segment II-III is one of several new highway capacity projects carried forward from the Tier 1 ROD. This project involves development of a controlled-access, relocated SR 32 highway from US 50 in Hamilton County to the I-275/SR 32 interchange in Clermont County, including a multi-modal crossing of the Little Miami River (for roadway, rail transit, and bike/pedestrian) and close coordination with Oasis Rail Transit alignment/station development. Separate Tier 2 analyses for Segment II-III and other independent projects identified by the Tier 1 ROD are focusing on more detailed environmental impacts, refinement of alignment location and configuration, identification of a preferred alternative, and mitigation.

Tier 1 Public Involvement Summary

The Eastern Corridor Tier 1 work included an extensive public outreach effort, consisting of a project information center, an Eastern Corridor website, community workshops, and stakeholder/advisory committee meetings (also open to the public). In addition, three rounds of public workshops were held during Tier 1 in May 2002, May 2003 and January 2004. A Public Hearing was held on December 9, 2004 to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact

Statement. An Eastern Corridor project website was also developed for the Tier 1 work, and a staffed public information drop-in center and project office was available within the project study area.

Four Tier 1 resource agency coordination meetings were held in January 2002, April 2002, October 2002, and October 2003. Representatives from one or more of the following were involved: Ohio Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District, the City of Cincinnati, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA/Metro), and Clermont County.

Post-Tier 1 Eastern Corridor Public Involvement Initiatives by Local Partners

Eastern Corridor Update Meetings with Local Jurisdictions (2008) - A series of Eastern Corridor update meetings with local jurisdictions in the Segment II-III study area were held from October through December 2008. These meetings were sponsored by the Eastern Corridor local partners (Hamilton County, Clermont County and City of Cincinnati) to provide an update on Eastern Corridor Segment work, review current jurisdictional plans and concerns in order to coordinate with Segment II-III alternatives development, and discuss future green infrastructure plans and opportunities.

Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Update Meetings (2009) - A Land Use Vision Plan update sponsored by the Eastern Corridor local partners was conducted with local jurisdictions within Segment II-III of the Eastern Corridor including: Anderson Township, Columbia Township, Fairfax Village, Mariemont Village, Newtown Village, and Union Township in Clermont County. The goal of this effort was to review land use recommendations originally identified in a 2002 Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Plan, identify current issues, and develop an updated vision for future land use in these areas. Committees were appointed by each of the six jurisdictions and met for two or three work sessions to develop updated recommendations. Land use recommendations will be considered in the Segment II-III Tier 2 project development.

2. Segment II-III Project Development Approach

Segment II-III in Tier 2 is following ODOT's new five-path Project Development Process (PDP), classifying as a "Path 5" project characterized by a high level of complexity, multiple alternatives and potential impacts. Each of the new ODOT PDP pathways contains five work phases, including: the Planning Phase, the Preliminary Engineering Phase, the Environmental Engineering Phase, the Final Engineering and Right-of-Way Phase, and the Construction Phase.

Tier 1 for Segment II-III covered the Planning Phase of the new PDP, and identified a number of preliminary alternative corridors between US 50 in Hamilton County and SR 32/I-275 in Clermont County. Tier 2 for Segment II-III will move forward with completion of the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the new PDP, including a Feasibility Study that evaluates preliminary alternative corridors carried over from Tier 1 and identifies a refined set of alternative corridors to be advanced for further study. Following the Segment II-III Feasibility Study, preliminary engineering and detailed environmental studies will be performed on the refined set of alternative corridors and an Alternatives Evaluation Report will be completed that identifies a preliminary Preferred Alternative to be carried forward into the Environmental Engineering Phase. The Environmental Engineering Phase will include Stage 1 design approval and additional environmental studies

for the Preferred Alternative, followed by preparation of the draft and final EIS and Stage 2 design. The Final Engineering and Right-of-Way Phase will involve preparing Stage 3 design plans and the final plan package.

3. Segment II-III Project Management Team

Eastern Corridor Tier 2 work, including the Segment II-III project, is being administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the lead federal agency (in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration [FTA]). The Segment II-III Project Management Team consists of:

ODOT	Contract Administration and Project Management
Stantec	Lead Consultant: Project Management, Relocated SR 32 Design, Environmental Documentation
CH2M Hill	NEPA Oversight, Agency Coordination, Context Sensitive Solutions
URS	Lighting, RAP Survey, Little Miami River Bridge Design, Rail Transit Design
Barr & Prevost	Geotechnical Engineering Services
Resource International	Geotechnical Drilling Services, Phase I ESA, Project Management Tool
Gray & Pape	Archaeology Literature Review
SRI Foundation	Tribal Consultation
ASC Group	Phase I/II History Architecture, Phase I Archaeology, Archaeological Monitoring for Geotechnical Work, Geophysical Remote Sensing
HNTB	Travel Demand Modeling, Traffic Analysis

Local Eastern Corridor partners include Hamilton County, Clermont County, the City of Cincinnati, OKI, and SORTA/Metro.

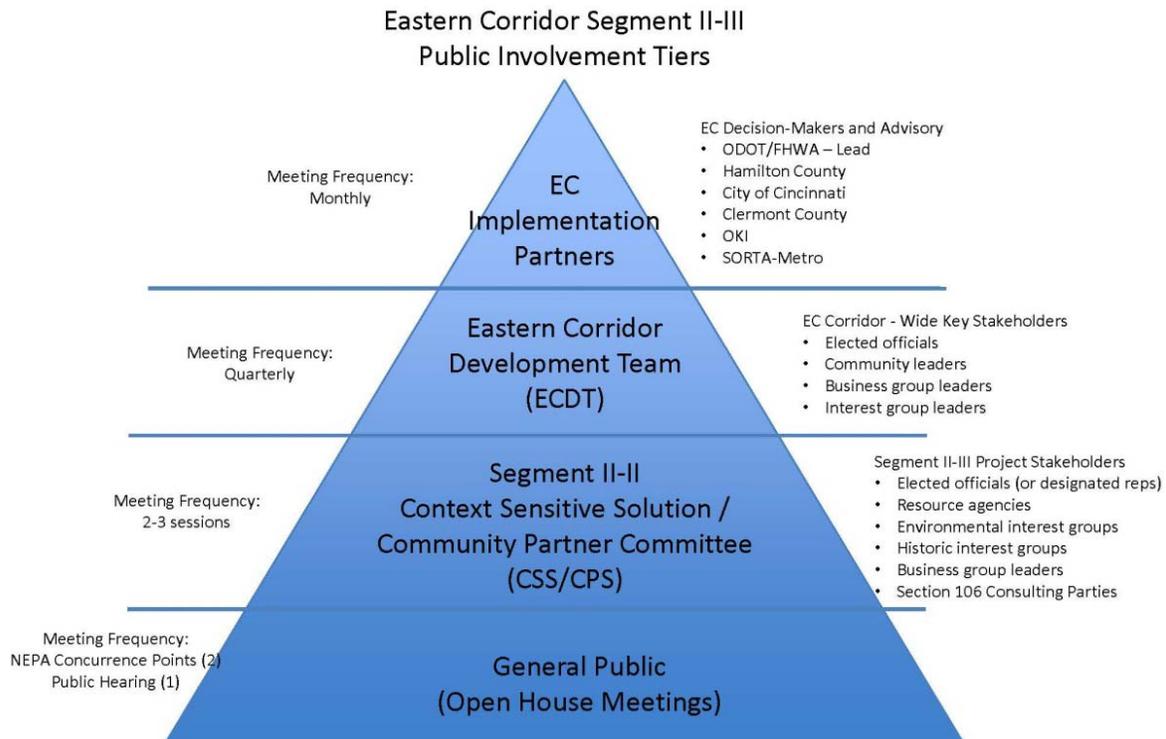
4. Tier 2 Public Involvement Initiatives

General Strategy

ODOT and FHWA in cooperation with the Eastern Corridor local partners are implementing an integrated public involvement effort in Tier 2 that includes ‘program-level’ and ‘project-level’ initiatives to provide regular input opportunities and consideration of public opinion as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The program-level public involvement effort is being administered at the local level by Hamilton and Clermont Counties in coordination with ODOT/FHWA, and is being led by Saybrook Marketing Communication. This program effort focuses on engaging stakeholders from communities across the entire Eastern Corridor and provides input opportunities on the development/implementation of the multi-modal

program as a whole. Key program-level initiatives include stakeholder advisory input, public meetings, social networking, media relations, newsletters, an Eastern Corridor project website and a telephone hotline. Public input from these program-level initiatives will be considered in Segment II-III Tier 2 project development and will be incorporated into the project record.

Project-level public involvement and resource agency coordination initiatives specific to Segment II-III are being administered by ODOT. A draft Segment II-III Project Coordination Plan that establishes the framework for public and agency involvement during the environmental review process as required by Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU 6002) was previously submitted (CH2MHill, April 2009; see attached). Key public involvement initiatives for Segment II-III, depicted in the figure below, include stakeholder advisory input (coordinated/integrated with the program-level PI initiatives), public meetings/hearing at key project development concurrence points, input opportunities as part of the Section 106 consultation process, environmental resource agency/tribal coordination, and continuation of context sensitive/green infrastructure stakeholder initiatives carried over from Tier 1.



Additionally, FHWA will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register early in Tier 2 announcing FHWA’s intention to prepare a Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eastern Corridor Segment II-III project, and inviting comments and suggestions from all interested parties. Components of the Segment II-III Tier 2 public involvement plan being coordinated with the locally-administered program-level initiatives are described below. Tier 2 agency coordination efforts for Segment II-III are described in Section 5.

Stakeholder Database

An up-to-date stakeholder database is being developed for the Eastern Corridor Tier 2 work program. This is a central, consolidated database being developed from the Tier 1 database, as well as databases from each of the four current Eastern Corridor Tier 2 projects. The complete database will include Project Partner, Project Management Team, Eastern Corridor Development Team, and Community Partner Committee representatives (see below), as well as environmental resource interest groups, environmental justice representatives, and local business, community development and other interested community members. The database will be continually updated and expanded during Tier 2 work to include property owners in each of the four project areas, public meeting participants, website input participants, and Section 106 consulting parties.

The Segment II-III stakeholder and resource agency database is being developed/maintained by the Segment II-III project management team and is a subset of the larger Eastern Corridor stakeholder database.

Eastern Corridor Development Team (ECDT)

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - The Eastern Corridor Development Team, scheduled to meet quarterly, involves approximately 80 persons from community councils, local jurisdictions, non-governmental organizations, business interests, and non-profit groups. The purpose of the Development Team is provide input on community/organization interests in discussions relating to Eastern Corridor project studies, participate in project-focused Community Partner Committees (see next section), provide Eastern Corridor updates back to communities, disseminate information materials, share community/organization questions, concerns, comments with Project Partners, Project Management Teams, and assist with public outreach efforts, as appropriate.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Representatives from the Segment II-III project management team will attend the quarterly Eastern Corridor Development Team meetings. Comments, recommendations, and decisions made at these meetings will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the Segment II-III decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Community Partners/Context Sensitive Solutions Committee (CPC/CSS)

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - Community Partner Committees are being assembled for each of the four Tier 2 projects currently underway. These project-specific committees will consist of a small group of elected officials, community/organization leaders, business leaders, and/or residents and may also include members of the Eastern Corridor Development Team. Their purpose is to provide project-specific community input on issues such as land use planning, economic development, and resource preservation, participate in discussions relating to individual Eastern Corridor projects/studies, share questions, concerns, and comments with the project team, and assist with public outreach efforts, as appropriate. Input from these CPC/CSS committees will help develop the context sensitive framework for each of the four Tier 2 projects currently underway.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Environmental commitments described in the Eastern Corridor Tier 1 ROD and the context sensitive framework established in Tier 1 will be carried forward for further development. The Segment II-III Tier 2 public involvement plan includes a stakeholder working group (coordinated with the program-level PI initiative as the Community Partners Committee) to assist in further refining green infrastructure, community land use and resource protection initiatives and implementation strategies. Up to three Segment II-III CPC/CSS committee workshops will be held to identify and advance recommendations for possible green infrastructure projects and context sensitive applications. Comments, recommendations, and decisions made at these meetings will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the Segment II-III project decision-making process and incorporated into the project record. The CPC/CSS committee for Segment II-III will include representatives from local jurisdictions in the Segment II-III study area, as well as representatives from resources agencies (such as ODNR Scenic Rivers) and environmental groups with interests in the sensitive environmental resources in this project area.

Open House Public Meetings and Hearings

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) – A series of three program-level public open house meetings are planned to be held during Tier 2 at various communities in the Eastern Corridor area (six meeting locations for each of the three meeting series). Notification will be conducted through the local news media, the Eastern Corridor website and local community/stakeholder websites, social media (Twitter/Facebook), newsletters and direct mailings, and telephone hotline. These public meetings will provide program-level and individual project-level information updates, and opportunities for the public to provide input on the overall Eastern Corridor program, and/or individual Tier 2 projects.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - The Segment II-III public involvement plan includes two public open house meetings, which may be combined with program-level public meetings or held separately or in combination with other project-level public meetings (such as Oasis Rail Transit public meetings). The first Segment II-III open house public meeting will be held following completion of the Feasibility Study and will present information on project history, current alternatives development (results of the Feasibility Study), and project schedule, and will provide an opportunity for public input on alternative corridors being advanced for additional design and environmental work. The second open house public meeting will be held prior to completion of the Alternatives Evaluation Report, and will present a preliminary Preferred Alternative for Segment II-III. Additionally, a Segment II-III Public Hearing will be held following completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Ad Hoc Community Meetings and Speakers Bureau

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) – Ad hoc community meetings will be conducted as requested by various community councils, business groups or other interest groups in the Eastern Corridor. Eastern Corridor local project partners and, as needed, members of the four Eastern Corridor project management teams will participate as spokespersons as part of a Speakers Bureau for the Eastern Corridor following training for consistency in delivering key Eastern Corridor messages.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Representatives from the Segment II-III project management team may participate in ad hoc community meetings as requested to provide project-specific updates. Public input received at these meetings will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the Segment II-III decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Media Relations

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - An on-going media relations program will be implemented to increase media coverage of the Eastern Corridor program and its individual projects. Efforts will include coordination information meetings with key local media reporters and editors, on-going story development and placement of opinion editorials, and results reporting. The greater Cincinnati news media and electronic social media will be monitored for coverage and discussion concerning the Eastern Corridor program. Monthly media coverage reports will be prepared.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Monthly media coverage reports will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the project decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Social Media Networking

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - Electronic social media outlets (Twitter and Facebook) will be used to distribute project updates and relevant news relating to the Eastern Corridor program and its individual projects. Social media will also be used to engage community members in a real-time exchange of information, and as a tool to gather public opinion. Monthly reports will be prepared to summarize social media account statistics and information and opinions collected through social media.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Monthly social media reports will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the project decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Newsletters

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - Two Eastern Corridor program newsletters are planned for distribution to stakeholders and the general public. The first newsletter (completed and distributed in late 2011) provided an overview of the Eastern Corridor program, individual projects, the NEPA process, and a preview of what will be accomplished in the upcoming year. This newsletter highlighted the need for public participation and ways that the public can become involved. The second newsletter (scheduled for distribution in mid 2012) will provide an overview of project progress, how public input has been/is being included in the decision-making process, and next steps. The newsletters will be distributed primarily in electronic format, though paper copies will be placed at key public locations around the project area (libraries, community administration facilities, and at organizations that work with or represent Environmental Justice communities).

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) – The Segment II-III project team will assist with preparation of the newsletters by providing project updates, exhibits and other materials, and a copy of the newsletters will be included in the Segment II-III project record.

Eastern Corridor Website and Community Awareness Survey

Eastern Corridor Tier 1 work included development and maintenance of an Eastern Corridor project website (www.easterncorridor.org) and has remained active since the conclusion of Tier 1 work. In late 2011, the website was updated for the start of Tier 2 work, and is currently on-line for public viewing. The website

includes Eastern Corridor overview/background information, information on all four current projects and studies, a Tier 1 archive, public participation information, and project partner/management team contact information. The “Public Participation” section includes an “Upcoming Opportunities” section, and provides a “Submit Feedback” form, where any person can submit a comment or question regarding the overall Eastern Corridor program, or one of the four current Tier 2 projects. This section also includes “Recent Activity”, providing access to the most recent public meeting activities and handouts.

The Eastern Corridor website is administered by the Segment II-III project management team (maintained by Stantec), and will be continually updated with new program-related and project-related information and materials. Public feedback received through the Eastern Corridor website will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the project decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - A Community Awareness/Understanding Survey for was conducted in December 2011/January 2012 to provide a baseline understanding of the public’s current perceptions and understanding of the Eastern Corridor program and its components, and assess preferred channels of communication. The survey was posted on the Eastern Corridor website and email notices were sent out to stakeholders inviting them to participate in the survey. To increase reach, hard copies of the surveys were also made available at local libraries, community administration offices and at key organizations representing Environmental Justice communities. Public feedback received through the community survey will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the project decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

Telephone Hotline

Program-Level Initiatives (Saybrook) - A telephone hotline has been established for the Eastern Corridor program (513-888-7625) for use by the general public with questions about the Eastern Corridor program or the individual Eastern Corridor projects. The telephone number will be published in all project-related materials and summary reports of hotline correspondence will be prepared.

Segment II-III Project-Level Initiatives (Segment II-III Project Management Team) - Public feedback received through the Eastern Corridor telephone hotline will be reviewed by the Segment II-III project management team for use in the project decision-making process and will be incorporated into the project record.

5. Segment II-III Tier 2 Agency Coordination

Section 106 Consultation

Preliminary mitigation measures for the Eastern Corridor from the Tier 1 ROD noted the need to further address archaeological and other cultural resources in Tier 2. The Segment II-III Tier 2 work will complete all required field studies to locate and identify significant resources, conduct Section 4(f) evaluation as needed and develop appropriate mitigation measures following coordination with resource agencies and Section 106 consultation with Consulting Parties. The public will be provided opportunity to participate as a Consulting Party through an invitation letter provided at the Segment II-III public meetings, and a Consulting Party participation/meeting plan will be developed in accordance with Section 106 requirements.

Tribal Consultation

In March 2011, FHWA (in cooperation with ODOT) reinitiated contact with 15 Native American tribes with potential interest in the Eastern Corridor, including:

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- The Delaware Nation
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin Potawatomi Indians
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- The Shawnee Tribe
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
- Wyandotte Nation

An initial phase of tribal consultation in support Segment II-III of the Eastern Corridor project is being led by SRI Foundation and will focus on engaging these Native American tribes to identify interest in the project. Based the findings of this initial contact, a consultation strategy will be developed for use in further Tier 2 Section 106 consultation. A tribal consultation meeting in the project area (Cincinnati) is tentatively planned based on tribal interest.

Resource Agency Coordination

The following agencies will be provided opportunity to review and comment on the Eastern Corridor Tier 2 program work:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

- Director – James Zehringer, 2045 Morse Road, Building D, Columbus, OH 43229
- Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Ohio Scenic Rivers Program Manager – Bob Gable, 2045 Morse Road, Building A-3, Columbus, OH 43229
- Ohio Scenic Rivers Southwest Ohio District, Asst. Reg. Scenic River Mgr. – John F Wolary, 5349 Wilmington Road, Oregonia, OH 45054

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

- Director – Scott J. Nally, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43215
- Division of Surface Water – Art Coleman, ODOT Reviewer, P.O Box 1049, Columbus, OH 4321

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

- Division Director - Mr. Franco Ruffini, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

- District Commander – Colonel Robert D. Peterson, 502 Eight Street, Huntington, WV 25701
- Ohio Regional Transportation Office - Mr. Peter Clingan, Building 10, Section 10, 3990 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43218

U.S. Coast Guard, Eight District

- District Commander – Rear Admiral Roy A. Nash, Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
- Sector Ohio Valley Command Center, Commander – Captain Larry Hewett, 600 Martin Luther King Jr., Mazzoli Federal Building, Room 421, Louisville, KY 40202

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region

- Regional Director – Tom Melius, One Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111
- Ohio Ecological Services Field Office, Field Supervisor – Dr. Mary Knapp, 4625 Morse Road, Suite 104, Columbus, OH 43230

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Region

- Regional Director – Michael Reynolds, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102
- Midwest Region, Planning & Compliance Division, Regional rivers Coordinator – Hector Santiago, 602 Riverfront Drive Omaha, NE, 68102

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

- Regional Administrator – Susan Hedman, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

**Draft Project Coordination Plan
Environmental Impact Statement
Eastern Corridor
Tier 2, Segments II/III**

Prepared for

Ohio DOT

Clermont County TID

Hamilton County TID

April 2009

CH2MHILL

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1 Section 1 – Introduction

2 1.1 Purpose of the Coordination Plan

3 Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A
4 Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU 6002) requires lead agencies to establish a plan for
5 coordinating public and agency involvement during the environmental review process.
6 This Coordination Plan defines the process by which the Ohio Department of
7 Transportation (ODOT) will communicate information about the Eastern Corridor Tier 2,
8 Segments II/III Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the lead, cooperating, and
9 participating agencies and to the public. The plan also identifies how input from agencies
10 and the public will be solicited and considered.

11 Because the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to provide funding for
12 this project, FHWA serves as the lead federal agency for the project. ODOT, as the direct
13 recipient of Federal funds for the project, is the joint lead agency. Hamilton County (Ohio)
14 Transportation Improvement District (HCTID) and Clermont County (Ohio) Transportation
15 Improvement District (CCTID) as recipients of Federal funds for the project and local
16 sponsors of the project are also joint lead agencies.

17 The purposes of the SAFETEA-LU 6002 coordination plan are to facilitate and document the
18 lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies and to inform the
19 public and other agencies of how the coordination plan will be accomplished. The
20 coordination plan is meant to promote an efficient and streamlined process and good project
21 management through coordination, scheduling, and early resolution of issues. This
22 coordination plan will:

- 23 • Identify the early coordination efforts
- 24 • Identify cooperating and participating agencies to be involved in agency coordination
- 25 • Establish the timing and form for agency involvement in defining the project's purpose
26 and need, the range of alternatives to be investigated, and methods and data reports, as
27 well as reviewing the draft EIS and the selection of the preferred alternative and
28 mitigation strategies
- 29 • Establish the timing and form for public opportunities to be involved in defining the
30 project's purpose and need and the range of alternatives to be investigated, providing
31 input on issues of concern and environmental features, and commenting on the findings
32 presented in the DEIS
- 33 • Describe the methods that will be used to inform the community about the project

34 This coordination plan is being developed in conjunction with a separate Public
35 Involvement Plan. The coordination plan will be updated periodically to reflect any
36 changes to the project schedule and other items that typically require updating over the
37 course of the project.

38 While this plan has been developed specifically for the Eastern Corridor Tier 2, Segments
39 II/III EIS, it provides a framework for coordination on other segments including Segment I,

1 Segment IVa, and the Oasis Rail Corridor Segments I, II, III, and IV. The Tier 1 Record of
2 Decision noted that the Eastern Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Projects would
3 proceed with a series of separate Tier 2 environmental and design studies for each of the
4 identified independent utility sections and/or modes. Segment II/III is the only one that
5 includes components of all modes and thus provides a logical place to provide coordination
6 for the overall Eastern Corridor effort.

7 **1.2 Project Background and Description**

8 ODOT, in cooperation with CCTID and HCTID has prepared the following coordination
9 plan as required by SAFETEA-LU 6002 for the Eastern Corridor Tier 2, Segments II/III EIS.
10 This is a multi-modal project proposed in Clermont and Hamilton Counties including areas
11 of eastern Cincinnati. ODOT, CCTID, and HCTID are advancing this project through an
12 EIS. The project is approximately six miles in length and is located between US 50 and Bells
13 Lane on SR 32. Exhibit 1 is a project vicinity map.

14 A Record of Decision for *Eastern Corridor Multi-Modal Projects - Tier 1 EIS* was signed on
15 June 2, 2006. Eastern Corridor project is a comprehensive multi-modal plan to upgrade
16 regional transportation linkages that includes highway, rail transit, bus transit, bicycle, and
17 pedestrian components that have been linked to integrated land use and economic plans.
18 The current project is Segments II/III of Tier 2 of that comprehensive multi-modal plan.

19 Segments II/III include environmental analyses and preliminary engineering to consolidate
20 and manage access points to establish relocated SR 32 as a controlled access arterial
21 roadway west of IR 275, including coordination for accommodation of multi-modal
22 components, Oasis rail corridor, bikeway corridor, a new interchange at US 50/Red Bank
23 Road/SR 32 in Fairfax, a multi-modal clear span crossing of the Little Miami River, and
24 associated multi modal transit hubs at US 50 and at Newtown Road. The termini for
25 Segments II/III are US 50 and Bells Lane.

26 As part of this study, a Purpose and Need Statement is being developed and refined based
27 on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period. The
28 purpose of the Eastern Corridor project, as currently defined, is to implement a multi-modal
29 transportation program consistent with the adopted long range plan for the region,
30 addressing priority needs and supporting transportation goals and concept plans
31 established in the *Eastern Corridor Major Investment Study* (April 2000), the *Eastern Corridor*
32 *Tier I Environmental Impact Statement* (September 2005), the *Eastern Corridor Tier I Record of*
33 *Decision* (June 2006) and subsequent metropolitan area planning actions. The need for the
34 action stems from growing travel demand on an inadequate existing transportation network
35 (including both highway and transit infrastructure) in the Eastern Corridor. The Eastern
36 Corridor is characterized by insufficient capacity, safety issues, limited transportation
37 options, and inadequate linkage to the region's key transportation corridors for efficient
38 movement of people, goods and services.

39 The project's purpose and need will be further defined and expanded on through the
40 environmental study process after soliciting and considering agency and public input. The
41 objectives that the project is intended to achieve will be clearly defined in the purpose and
42 need statement. The lead Federal agency, FHWA, in cooperation with the lead state agency,
43 ODOT, and the local sponsors, CCTID and HCTID, will publicize and provide opportunities

1 for involvement by participating agencies, elected officials, and the public regarding
2 development of the need and purpose. The Eastern Corridor Tier 2 Executive Committee,
3 discussed in Section 5 below, will be responsible for the approval of the purpose and need
4 used in the NEPA evaluation.

1 **Section 2 – Lead/Cooperating/Participating Agencies**

2 Lead, cooperating and participating agencies will be responsible for the following:

- 3 • Participating in the scoping process
- 4 • Providing comments on the purpose and need, methodologies, and the range of
- 5 alternatives
- 6 • Identifying any issues of concern regarding the project’s environmental or
- 7 socioeconomic impacts
- 8 • Providing timely input on unresolved issues

9 Additional responsibilities are to be determined.

10 **2.1 Lead Agencies, Roles, and Responsibilities**

11 FHWA will serve as the lead federal agency for the project. The FHWA will furnish
 12 guidance and will independently review the EIS. The FHWA, as lead federal agency, will
 13 be responsible for facilitating the expeditious resolution of the environmental review
 14 process and for ensuring that the EIS is completed in accordance with the requirements of
 15 NEPA and SAFETEA-LU. The FHWA will ensure that ODOT and the project sponsors
 16 comply with all design and mitigation commitments in the ROD and that the document is
 17 appropriately supplemented if project changes become necessary. Lead Agencies are listed
 18 in Exhibit 2.

EXHIBIT 2 – LEAD AGENCIES

Agency Name	Role and Responsibilities
Federal Highway Administration	Lead Agency. Manage 6002 process; prepare EIS; provide opportunity for public & participating/cooperating agency involvement. Ensure compliance with commitments in ROD.
Ohio DOT	Lead Agency. Manage 6002 process; prepare EIS; provide opportunity for public & participating/cooperating agency involvement. Ensure compliance with commitments in ROD.
Clermont County TID*	Lead Agency. Manage 6002 process; prepare EIS; provide opportunity for public & participating/cooperating agency involvement
Hamilton County TID*	Lead Agency. Manage 6002 process; prepare EIS; provide opportunity for public & participating/cooperating agency involvement

* It is uncommon in Ohio for local agencies to be designated joint lead, primarily because of the lack of a State “Little NEPA” law and also the associated legal responsibilities that are attached to being a joint lead agency in the event of litigation.

19 ODOT, CCTID, and HCTID, as potential direct recipients or providers of project funds, will
 20 serve as joint lead agencies along with FHWA. As the lead agencies, FHWA, ODOT,
 21 CCTID, and HCTID will be responsible for the overall direction of the environmental review
 22 process and for expediting delivery of the transportation project. The lead agencies are
 23 responsible for the content of the environmental documents, and will furnish guidance,

1 independently evaluate, and approve documents under their authority while ensuring
2 compliance with mitigation commitments. They will take all actions that are necessary and
3 proper, within their authority, to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental
4 review process for the project. FHWA, ODOT, CCTID, and HCTID will prepare the
5 environmental documents in accordance with 23 CFR Part 771 and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

6 The lead agencies will:

- 7 • Participate on the Executive Committee
- 8 • Identify and involve cooperating and participating agencies in the review process
- 9 • Provide opportunities for public and participating agency involvement in defining
10 purpose and need
- 11 • Finalize purpose and need statements
- 12 • Provide opportunities for public and participating agencies involvement in determining
13 the range of alternatives to be considered
- 14 • Collaborate with participating agencies in determining methodologies
- 15 • Assess the need to develop the preferred alternative to a higher level of detail in order to
16 refine mitigation requirements and facilitate effective mitigation planning
- 17 • Ensure environmental commitments are completed
- 18 • Provide insight in managing the process and resolving issues

19 **2.2 Cooperating Agencies, Roles, and Responsibilities**

20 Cooperating Agencies are those governmental agencies specifically requested by the lead
21 agencies to participate during the environmental evaluation process for the project.
22 FHWA's NEPA regulations (23 CFR 771.111(d)) require those federal agencies with
23 jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) or special expertise with
24 respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative be
25 invited to be cooperating agencies for an EIS. A State or local agency of similar qualifications
26 or, when the effects are on lands of tribal interest, a Native American tribe may, by
27 agreement with the lead agencies, also become a cooperating agency.

28 Accepting a role as a participating agency does not imply that an agency supports the
29 project or has jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

30 The roles and responsibilities of participating agencies include, but are not limited to:

- 31 • Participating in the NEPA process
- 32 • Participating in technical working groups
- 33 • Participating in the scoping process
- 34 • Participating in the NEPA process with regard to development of the purpose and need
35 statement, range of alternatives, and evaluation methodologies and criteria

- 1 • If requested by the lead agency, developing information and preparing analyses
 - 2 including portions of the environmental impact statement concerning which the
 - 3 cooperating agency has special expertise
 - 4 • Making available staff support at the lead agency's request to enhance the latter's
 - 5 interdisciplinary capability
 - 6 • Identifying and providing early input on issues of concern regarding the project's
 - 7 potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts
 - 8 • Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.
- 9 Accepting a role as a participating agency does not imply that an agency supports the
- 10 project or has jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project
- 11 Cooperating Agencies for this project are listed in Exhibit 3. These cooperating agencies are
- 12 also invited to be participating agencies.
- 13 If new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a cooperating
- 14 agency, ODOT will issue that agency an invitation.

EXHIBIT 3 – COOPERATING AGENCIES

Agency Name	Role and Responsibilities
Federal Transit Administration	Provide technical assistance on planning topics including corridor planning for major capital investments, travel demand forecasting and analysis, capital costing, operations planning and costing, and financial planning and analysis.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 permit jurisdiction. Provide comments on purpose and need, impact assessment methodologies, and range of alternatives. Ensure compliance with Section 10 of the General Bridge Act of 1946 and Section 103 of the Marine Protection and Sanctuaries Act
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act Consultation, Biological Opinion. Provide comments on purpose and need, methodologies, and range of alternatives. Provide input on potential threatened and endangered species within the study area. Provide input on designated critical habitat within the study area Ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Review EIS for sufficiency. Provide comments on purpose and need, impact assessment methodologies, and range of alternatives. Ensure compliance with NEPA, the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA), and 40 CFR Part 230 Section 404b(1): Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material Superfund Site coordination and remediation
U.S. Coast Guard	Ensure compliance with Section 9 of the General Bridge Act of 1946 Evaluate permit applications for structures in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S.

EXHIBIT 3 – COOPERATING AGENCIES

Agency Name	Role and Responsibilities
U.S. National Park Service	Provide input on potential impacts to national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, and scenic rivers and trails
Clermont County Commissioners	Provide planning documents such as thoroughfare plans, plats, maps, and studies to assist in project planning Represent the interests of Clermont County
Hamilton County Commissioners	Provide planning documents such as thoroughfare plans, plats, maps, and studies to assist in project planning Represent the interests of Hamilton County
Clermont County Engineers Office	Provide planning documents such as thoroughfare plans, plats, maps, and studies to assist in project planning Represent the interests of Clermont County
Hamilton County Engineers Office	Provide planning documents such as thoroughfare plans, plats, maps, and studies to assist in project planning Represent the interests of Hamilton County
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments	Provide technical assistance on planning topics including corridor planning for major capital investments, travel demand forecasting and analysis, capital costing, operations planning and costing, and financial planning and analysis. Represent the interests of the OKI region
SORTA/Metro	Provide technical assistance on topics such as transit travel demand forecasting and analysis, capital costing, operations planning and costing, and financial planning and analysis. Represent the interests of local transit providers and users
Cincinnati city	Provide planning documents such as thoroughfare plans, plats, maps, and studies to assist in project planning Represent the interests of Cincinnati

1 **2.3 Participating Agencies, Roles, and Responsibilities**

2 SAFETEA-LU (Section 6002) created a new category of governmental agencies to participate
3 in the environmental review process for an EIS. Participating agencies are Federal, State,
4 tribal, regional, and local governmental agencies that have an interest in the project. They
5 are formally invited to participate in the environmental review of the project.

6 Nongovernmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as participating agencies.

7 Any Federal agency that is invited to participate in the environmental review process for a
8 project shall be designated as a participating agency unless the invited agency informs the
9 lead agency, in writing, by the deadline specified in the invitation that the invited agency

- 10 • has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

- 1 • has no expertise or information relevant to the project
- 2 • does not intend to submit comments on the project

3 The lead agency will request the participating agencies to review and comment on the
 4 project’s purpose and need, including the objectives the project is intended to achieve. The
 5 lead agency shall provide an opportunity for participating agencies to be involved in
 6 determining the range of alternatives to be involved in determining the range of alternatives
 7 to be considered for the project. The lead agency will determine, in collaboration with
 8 participating agencies, the methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the
 9 analysis of each alternative.

10 Participating agencies shall identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding
 11 the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Issues of concern include
 12 any issues that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or
 13 other approval that is needed for the project.

14 The participating agencies are shown in Exhibit 4. Designation as a participating agency
 15 does not imply project support and, if applicable, does not provide an agency with
 16 increased oversight or approval authority beyond its statutory limits.

EXHIBIT 4 – PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Agency Name	Role and Responsibilities
Federal Emergency Management Agency	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Ohio Department of Agriculture	
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	
Ohio Historic Preservation Office	
Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation	
Ohio Highway Patrol	
Anderson township	
Union township	
Fairfax village	
Mariemont village	
Newtown village	
Clermont County Sheriff's Office	
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office	
West Clermont Local School District	
Milford Exempted Village School District	

EXHIBIT 4 – PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Agency Name	Role and Responsibilities
Forest Hills Local Schools	
Mariemont City Schools	
Cincinnati School District	
Cincinnati Police Department	
EMS	
Fire	

1 Although not listed in Exhibit 4, all cooperating agencies are also participating agencies.

2 **2.4 Agencies that Decline the Invitation**

3 A State, tribal, or local agency needs to respond affirmatively to the invitation to be
4 designated as a participating agency. If the State, tribal, or local agency fails to respond by
5 the stated deadline or declines the invitation, regardless of the reasons for declining, the
6 agency will not be considered a participating agency.

EXHIBIT 5 – AGENCIES THAT DECLINED THE INVITATION

Agency Name	Requested status	Date of written response	Primary Reason(s) for Declining
This exhibit will be completed at a later date			

7 **2.5 Agencies that Do Not Respond to the Invitation**

8 Should a Federal agency choose to decline cooperating agency status in part or in whole,
9 that agency is obligated to respond to the invitation in writing and provide a copy of that
10 response to the Council of Environmental Quality (40 C.F.R. 15.1.6(c)).

11 Should a Federal agency choose to decline cooperating agency status, that agency will
12 automatically be considered participating. If a Federal agency should choose to decline both
13 cooperating and participating status, that agency must submit a written response stating
14 that their agency: 1) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, 2) has no
15 expertise or information relevant to the project, and 3) does not intend to submit comments
16 on the project. In the absence of a written response, invited Federal agencies will
17 automatically be considered participating.

18 Should a state or local agency provide no response to an invitation to cooperate or
19 participate, such agencies will be assumed non-cooperating and non-participating.

EXHIBIT 6 – AGENCIES THAT DID NOT RESPOND TO THE INVITATION

Agency Name	Requested status	Date of written response	Primary Reason(s) for Declining
This exhibit will be completed at a later date			

1 **2.6 Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agency Contact Information**

EXHIBIT 7 – CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency Name	Contact Person/Title	Phone	E-mail
FHWA, Ohio Division	Mark VonderEmbse, Senior Transportation Engineer	(614) 280-6854	mark.vonderembse@fhwa.dot.gov
FTA, Region 5	Marisol Simon, Regional Administrator	(312) 353-2789	
Ohio Department of Transportation	Andy Fluegemann, Planning & Programs Administrator (Acting)	(513) 933-6597	Andy.Fluegemann@dot.state.oh.us
Clermont County TID	David Spinney, Chair	(513) 732-7300	dspinney@co.clermont.oh.us
Hamilton County TID	Todd Portune, Chair	(513) 946-4401	todd.portune@hamilton-co.org
Clermont County Board of Commissioners	Ed Humphrey, President	(513) 732-7300	
Hamilton County Board of Commissioners	David Pepper, President	(513) 946-4409	david.pepper@hamilton-co.org
Clermont County Engineers Office	Pat Manager, Engineer	(513) 732-8857	pmanger@co.clermont.oh.us
Hamilton County Engineers Office	William Brayshaw, Engineer	(513) 946-8902	William.Brayshaw@Hamilton-Co.org
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments	Mark Policinski, Executive Director	(513) 621-6300	mpolicinski@oki.org
SORTA/Metro	Marilyn G. Shazor, CEO		
Cincinnati Council Transportation & Infrastructure Sub-Committee	Roxanne Qualls, Chair	(513) 352-3604	roxanne.qualls@cincinnati-oh.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District*			
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*			
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*			
U.S. Coast Guard*			

EXHIBIT 7 – CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency Name	Contact Person/Title	Phone	E-mail
National Park Service*			
Federal Emergency Management Agency*			
Natural Resources Conservation Service*			
Ohio Department of Agriculture*			
Ohio Department of Natural Resources*			
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency*			
Ohio Historic Preservation Office*	William K. Laidlaw, Jr., State Historic Preservation Officer	(614) 298-2000	blaidlaw@ohiohistory.org
Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation			
Clermont County Planning & Development	Tim Hershner, Planning Supervisor	(513) 732-7992	thershner@co.clermont.oh.us
Village of Newtown	Curt Cosby, Mayor	(513) 235-0523	curtcosby@villageofnewtown.com.
Clermont County Sheriff's Office	A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg, Sheriff	(513) 732-7500	
Mariemont City School District	Paul W. Imhoff, Superintendent	(513) 272-7500	pimhoff@mariemontschools.org
Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission	Todd Kinskey, Executive Director	(513) 946-4454	todd.kinskey@hamilton-co.org
Milford Village Exempted School District	Robert Farrell, Superintendent	(513) 831-1314	
Ohio Highway Patrol, Batavia Post		(513) 732-1510	
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office	Simon L. Leis, Jr., Sheriff	(513) 946-6400	sleis@sheriff.hamilton-co.org
Anderson Township	Russell Jackson, Jr. President	(513) 688-8400	
Village of Mariemont	Dan Policastro, Mayor	(513) 271-3246	

* The ODOT Office of Environmental Services will take the lead on all contact with these agencies.

Section 3 – Initial Coordination, Coordination Points and Responsibilities

In conformance with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU, ODOT will formally notified FHWA in writing of its intent to initiate the NEPA EIS process for the Eastern Corridor Tier 2 Segment II/III EIS. Following the project initiation, FHWA with assistance from ODOT, CCTID, and HCTID, will prepare a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, as required by CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1501.7. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on [insert date].

The ODOT Project Development Process includes several points where coordination with resource agencies, stakeholders, or the public occurs and consensus may be reached regarding recommendations for further project development. Those points will provide the minimum coordination for Eastern Corridor.

In addition, agencies, the public, and other stakeholders will be invited to participate on technical working groups of interest. Technical working groups are discussed in Section 5. Participants will be expected to discuss issues with the groups they represent thus providing early and continuing input.

EXHIBIT 8 -- HOW INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC

Coordination Point	Cooperating/Participating Agencies	Public
Notice of Intent	Publish in Federal Register	Publish in Federal Register
	Include on project website	Include on project website
Concurrence Point #2 (CAS, P&N, Scoping)	Solicit input on P&N and scope of EIS	Solicit input on project website.
	CAS, P&N, and Scoping Report sent to agencies for review and concurrence when available.	Provide review copy in local libraries
		Provide documentation on project website
Concurrence Point #3 (AFA)	Solicit input on the range of alternatives to be analyzed	Provide documentation on project website and solicit input
	Send AFA to agencies for review and concurrence	
Draft EIS Comment Period	Announce in Federal Register	Announce in Federal Register
	Provide DEIS on project website	Provide review copy in local libraries
	Provide DEIS to lead and cooperating agencies	Provide DEIS on project website
Concurrence Point #4 (PAV)	Send PAV to agencies for review and concurrence	Provide PAV documentation on project website and solicit input

EXHIBIT 8 -- HOW INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC

Coordination Point	Cooperating/Participating Agencies	Public
Concurrence Point #5 (Final EIS)	Announce availability in Federal Register FEIS sent to agencies for review and concurrence	Announce availability in Federal Register Provide review copy in local libraries Provide FEIS documentation on project website and solicit input

1 Section 4 – Project Schedule

2 This schedule includes key milestones, decision-making deadlines for each agency approval,
 3 coordination points, anticipated date of information “in” (i.e., comments back), and
 4 anticipated date of information “out”. It is based on the FHWA Negotiated Timeframes
 5 program with additions to reflect the ODOT Project Development Process (PDP).

EXHIBIT 9 – FHWA NEGOTIATED TIMEFRAMES SCHEDULE

Project Activity and Coordination Points	Information out (anticipated date)	Information in (anticipated date)	Commenting/Reviewing parties
Issue NOI	29-Jun-2009	10-Jul-2009	
Invite Participating Agencies	29-Jun-2009	10-Jul-2009	
Scoping	13-Jul-2009	11-Sep-2009	
Purpose and Need	13-Jul-2009	11-Sep-2009	
Concurrence Point #2 (CAS ¹ , P&N, Scoping)	13-Jul-2009	11-Sep-2009	Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies
Technical Studies	14-Sep-2009	16-Jul-2010	Lead and Cooperating Agencies
Assessment of Feasible Alternatives	14-Dec-2009	16-Jul-2010	
Concurrence Point #3 (AFA)	19-Jul-2010	17-Sep-2010	Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies
Prepare Draft EIS	20-Sep-2010	22-Jul-2011	Lead and Cooperating Agencies
File Draft EIS with EPA	22-Jul-2011	22-Jul-2011	
DEIS Comment Period	22-Jul-2011	5-Sep-2011	Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies, other stakeholders, and the Public
Public Hearing on DEIS	22-Aug-2011	22-Aug-2011	Stakeholders and the Public
Concurrence Point #4 (PAV)	6-Sep-2011	7-Nov-2011	Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies
Preferred Alternative Approval	7-Nov-2011	7-Nov-2011	Lead Agencies
Prepare Final EIS	6-Sep-2011	14-May-2012	Lead and Cooperating Agencies
FEIS Legal Review	15-May-2012	28-May-2012	
File FEIS with EPA	28-May-2012	28-May-2012	
Concurrence Point #5 (FEIS)	28-May-2012	27-Jun-2012	Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies, other stakeholders, and the Public
Issue Record of Decision (ROD)	27-Jun-2012	27-Jun-2012	Lead and Cooperating Agencies

¹ The draft Conceptual Alternatives Study was submitted for review on April 15, 2009. The review period has been extended to allow time to invite participating and cooperating agency involvement and for them to comment.

1 Section 5 – Project Approach

2 Because of the size, scope, and complexity of the proposed project, a Context Sensitive
3 Solution (CSS) project development approach will be used. CSS is a collaborative, inter-
4 disciplinary approach to transportation project development. The CSS approach engages all
5 stakeholders early and often during project development, uses interdisciplinary teams,
6 considers multi-modal solutions, achieves environmental stewardship, and promotes safe,
7 efficient integrated solutions. The primary goal of the CSS approach is to achieve informed
8 consent at each decision making milestone in the project development process, thus
9 maximizing the goals met and minimizing the possibility of challenges and litigation.

10 The CSS approach for the Eastern Corridor will use a structure that will ensure that all
11 stakeholders’ concerns, issues, obstacles, and opportunities are presented and addressed.
12 The Eastern Corridor Tier 2 CSS project development structure consists of an Executive
13 Committee, a Steering Committee, seven technical working groups, and subcommittees of
14 the technical working groups comprised of all stakeholders.

15 5.1 Management Committees

16 5.1.1 Executive Committee

17 The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair of CCTID, the Chair of HCTID, the
18 Executive Director of OKI, the Deputy Director of ODOT District 8, and a representative
19 from FHWA. The consultant team (ENTRAN team) will attend and participate in all
20 meetings of the Executive Committee but is not a member of the committee. Consistent
21 with FHWA and ODOT safety and design requirements, the Executive Committee will have
22 the ultimate decision-making authority for matters pertaining to the project and provide
23 guidance, direction, and oversight of the project.

24 5.1.2 Steering Committee

25 The Steering Committee is comprised of a single representative from each of the technical
26 working groups, ODOT, CCTID, HCTID, OKI, and FHWA. The consultant team will be a
27 member of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee directly oversees the activities
28 of the working groups, provides guidance for the technical working groups, and identifies
29 decision making points to elevate to the Executive Committee. The Steering Committee
30 representatives of the five technical working groups will also participate in meetings of all
31 five technical working groups to ensure cross representation and communication between
32 groups working.

33 5.2 Technical Working Groups

34 The technical working groups and their responsibilities are identified as follows:

35 5.2.1 NEPA Technical Working Group

36 The NEPA technical working group will be comprised of the lead, participating, and
37 cooperating agency representatives identified in the coordination plan and the consultant
38 team. The NEPA technical working group will identify environmental constraints, provide
39 assistance on the collection of site specific data for inclusion in a GIS-based constraints

1 database, identify potential impacts to resources for all alternatives, provide comments on
2 documentation and reports, develop issue-specific subcommittees as needed, provide
3 comments on alternative selection criteria, assist in identifying alternatives, identify and
4 assist in streamlining permitting needs, and recommend and identify landscape-scale
5 mitigation strategies and opportunities.

6 **5.2.2 Public Involvement Technical Working Group**

7 The Public Involvement technical working group will be comprised of the lead agency
8 representatives, civic, community, and neighborhood leaders, and other stakeholders within
9 the study area as well as representatives of the consultant team. The Public Involvement
10 technical working group will identify community issues and serve as a conduit for the flow
11 of information between the decision makers and the stakeholders.

12 **5.2.3 Engineering Technical Working Group**

13 The Engineering technical working group will consist of representatives from ODOT, the
14 Clermont County Engineer, the Hamilton County Engineer, the Cincinnati Transportation &
15 Engineering Department, and the engineering consultant. The Engineering technical
16 working group will address the design of the project and identify the best practices for the
17 identified type of design.

18 **5.2.4 Economic and Land Development Technical Working Group**

19 The Economic and Land Development technical working group will consist of
20 representatives from the lead agencies and representatives from the counties, townships,
21 cities, villages and communities within the study area as well as the consultant team. Non-
22 governmental organizations such as the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, the Cincinnati
23 USA Regional Chamber, the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky African-American
24 Chamber of Commerce, and the Hamilton County Development Company will be invited to
25 participate. The Economic Development technical working group will provide information
26 and guidance pertaining to future economic plans for their respective communities and
27 identify economic issues and opportunities in the region.

28 **5.2.5 Funding Technical Working Group**

29 The Funding technical working group will consist of representatives from the lead agencies
30 and the ENTRAN team. The Funding technical working group will identify key public and
31 private funding partner candidates, review and verify results of a previously prepared toll
32 feasibility analysis, prepare estimated development costs, identify funding and financing
33 techniques, prepare a matrix and evaluation process to identify the best value for funding,
34 and ensure that the selected financial plan is consistent with the FHWA Major Initial Project
35 Financial Plan.

36 **5.2.6 Green Infrastructure Technical Working Group**

37 The Green Infrastructure technical working group will consist of representatives of
38 planning, preservation, and environmental organizations comparable to the representation
39 on the Green Infrastructure Planning Committee that was active during Tier 1. The
40 consultant team will also be represented on the working group. The working group will
41 build on the earlier efforts to create the context for alignment refinement, preferred

1 alternative selection, and mitigation planning in Tier 2 of PE/EIS work for Segments II/III.
2 The working group will focus on economic development and community needs,
3 environmental protection and preservation, and transportation improvements.

4 **5.2.7 Multi-Modal Coordination Technical Working Group**

5 The Multi-Modal Coordination technical working group will include representatives of the
6 FTA, SORTA, other rail and bus transit, bicycle, and pedestrian oriented agencies and
7 stakeholders as well as the consultant team. The Multi-Modal Coordination technical
8 working group will focus on modes other than highways and provide information and
9 guidance on integrating the needs of those modes and accommodation of multi-modal
10 components, Oasis rail corridor, bikeway corridor, a multi-modal clear span crossing of the
11 Little Miami River, and associated multi modal transit hubs at US 50 and at Newtown Road
12 with the Segment II/III highway components of the Eastern Corridor program.

13 **5.3 Other Stakeholders**

14 The public, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders will be encouraged to
15 participate on the appropriate technical working group or on issue specific subcommittees
16 developed within a technical working group to address issues that require greater input
17 from stakeholders. Issues would be identified at the subcommittee and technical working
18 group levels, informed consent would be achieved as it is elevated through the Eastern
19 Corridor CSS Project Development Structure until it is ultimately approved by the Executive
20 Committee.

21 A public involvement program designed to proactively engage and encourage participation
22 of all interested stakeholders will be detailed in the Public Involvement Plan. The public
23 involvement process will be centered on the Public Involvement technical working group
24 that involves community leaders and other representatives from the communities within the
25 project area. Objectives to achieve a successful public involvement program include:

- 26 • Fulfill NEPA and SAFETEA-LU requirements for public involvement
- 27 • Establish and maintain widespread community involvement in the study process by
28 providing the media and public with project updates
- 29 • Provide early and frequent opportunities for the public, including the business
30 community, environmental interest groups, and neighborhood organizations, to provide
31 input
- 32 • Reach out to include individuals in the study area who are members of a minority, have
33 a low income, have limited English proficiency, and/or have special needs
- 34 • Investigate the effectiveness of Web-based social networking sites to reach and engage
35 younger populations
- 36 • Provide opportunities to persons who wish to provide input and take their ideas into
37 consideration during the study
- 38 • Use visually informative slides, boards, newsletters, handouts, and presentations to help
39 communicate technical concepts and retain public interest

- 1 • Show the public how their input is incorporated during the study process
- 2 • Continually enhance the public involvement process to make it more interactive with
- 3 the public

4 **5.4 Committees and Technical Working Group Procedures**

5 To help ensure good use of the time and resources of all participants and to maintain the
6 schedule for the project, the following procedures will be used:

- 7 • **Document review by project team** – All project documents will be reviewed in parallel by
8 ODOT, CCTID, HCTID, and the appropriate technical working groups. The document
9 creator will advise the chair of each of these review groups in writing 5 business days
10 before the document will be distributed for review. Each group will have 10 days to
11 provide written comments on a standard project review form. Each comment will be
12 keyed to the individual making the comment. The document creator will revise the
13 document consistent with comments and may contact the originator of the comment. In
14 the case of a stalemate on appropriate resolution, the comment will be referred to the
15 Steering Committee whose decision is binding. The Steering Committee may select to
16 refer the issue to the Executive Committee.
- 17 • **Document review by cooperating and participating agencies** – Established ODOT
18 procedures will be followed for reviews by external agencies except that use of the
19 standard project reform will be strongly encouraged as will review periods of 10
20 business days or less.
- 21 • **Timely notice of meetings** – Notice of meeting for any Executive Committee, Steering
22 Committee, or any technical working group or subcommittee meeting will be sent to all
23 Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agency contacts and chair of all technical working
24 groups. The notice will distributed by e-mail and include an agenda with the key
25 questions to be addressed at the meeting and any background information intended for
26 discussion at the meeting.
- 27 • **Dissemination of background material** – Any background information intended for
28 discussion at the meeting will be disseminated in a format that will be easily accessible
29 by each member, using e-mail where possible. Information will be sent at least five
30 business days prior to meeting. This information will be provided in a format conducive
31 to the participants' receipt, understanding, and effective use of the information.
- 32 • **Minutes of meetings** – Draft minutes of all meetings will be provided to all members of
33 Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agency and members of technical working groups
34 who attended the meeting within 10 business days of the meeting date. Recipients will
35 be given 10 business days to offer corrections to the minutes. Lack of response within
36 the deadline will constitute acceptance of the minutes. Final minutes, edited to reflect
37 comments made by members, will be provided within 5 business days of the corrections
38 deadline and will be posted on the project website. Minutes will include at least the
39 following: key discussion points, agreements, and action items with identification of
40 responsible persons and timeframes.

- 1 • **Written Request to the Participating Agencies** – Written requests will be provided to the
2 Participating Agencies at the milestone points for a response to the key milestone issues.
3 This will include: review of project purpose and need, proposed range of alternatives,
4 proposed methodologies for screening of alternatives, proposed DEIS alternatives, and
5 proposed Preferred Alternative. It is expected that the members will consult within
6 their respective governmental entities/agencies and will respond within 15 days of
7 receipt of the written request. If a member’s response is not received within the
8 timeframes outlined above or otherwise agreed to in writing, the non-responding
9 member will be recorded as having not objected to the decision.
- 10 • **Facilitation of Meetings** – The consultant team will provide a facilitator for meetings to:
- 11 – Keep the meetings focused and on track
12 – Ensure that all participants have an opportunity to speak
13 – Help the group address differences
14 – Identify points of agreement as they occur