



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

February 25, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Third Avenue Relief Sewer Phase 3
Loan number: CS390274-0282**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary relief sewer project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Name: Third Avenue Relief Sewer Phase 3

Applicant: City of Columbus
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215

Loan Number: CS390274-0282

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County has requested \$3,432,000 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the construction of a sanitary relief sewer along West Third Avenue between Edgehill Road and Northwest Boulevard. Construction will take place within roadways and rights-of-way where current utilities exist, therefore limiting potential impacts to environmental features.

History and Existing Conditions

The project area is located in the northwest quadrant of Columbus along West Third Avenue between Edgehill Road to the east and Northwest Boulevard to the west. It is predominantly commercial in nature including shops, restaurants, and a few apartment buildings and homes. West Third Avenue is heavily traveled due to these facilities and serves as a major access road between Columbus and Grandview Heights.

The area currently contains an existing sanitary sewer, an existing storm sewer, water lines, and other existing utilities. This project area also has four Designated Sanitary Reliefs (DSRs) which relieve the sanitary sewer to the storm sewer during overflow events. This area also experiences water-in-basement (WIB) occurrences due to sanitary sewer overflow during wet weather events.

Project Description

This project will construct a relief sanitary sewer along West Third Avenue between Edgehill Road and Northwest Boulevard. The project will install approximately 2,800 linear feet of new 36-inch sanitary sewer, manholes, and service connections. The existing 10-inch, 12-inch, and 15-inch sanitary sewer will remain in service during construction and will be abandoned once construction is completed.

The construction of a sanitary relief sewer will minimize the number of activations needed by the DSRs in the area, preventing sanitary sewer overflows and increasing the overall level of service. It will also limit flooding and WIB events to local businesses and residents.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the existing roadways and rights-of-way, therefore minimizing effects on environmental resources. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation and maintain local traffic during construction.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

Implementation

Project Costs

Columbus plans to borrow \$3,432,000 from the WPCLF. During the 20-year loan period Columbus will save approximately \$473,915 by using WPCLF dollars at the standard rate of 0.58%, compared to the market rate of 1.83%.

Interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested March loan award.

Local Economy

The current Columbus residential sewer bill is approximately \$605/year. Projected residential sewer bills with the implementation of this and other sanitary sewer improvement projects are expected to increase to approximately \$753/year, or approximately 1.5% of median household income (MHI) of Columbus, which is \$51,612.

By using WPCLF financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

Project Schedule

The anticipated loan award will occur in March 2022. Construction is expected to begin within the second quarter of 2022 and be completed in the second quarter of 2023.

Public Participation

A public notice is posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project. Contact information is provided for any public questions or concerns.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing treatment works. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

Construction for this project is limited to the previously disturbed footprint of the existing sanitary sewer system within roadways and public rights-of-way containing existing utilities, which lack important environmental features. Standard construction best management practices during construction will be required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety.

It is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is cost effective as it involves seeking replacements to the existing sanitary sewer system to improve the overall wastewater treatment system process and minimize sanitary sewer overflows and backups in local basements. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities or receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

This project involves the replacement of existing sewer lines within the wastewater collection system. The project will not increase wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

Contact information

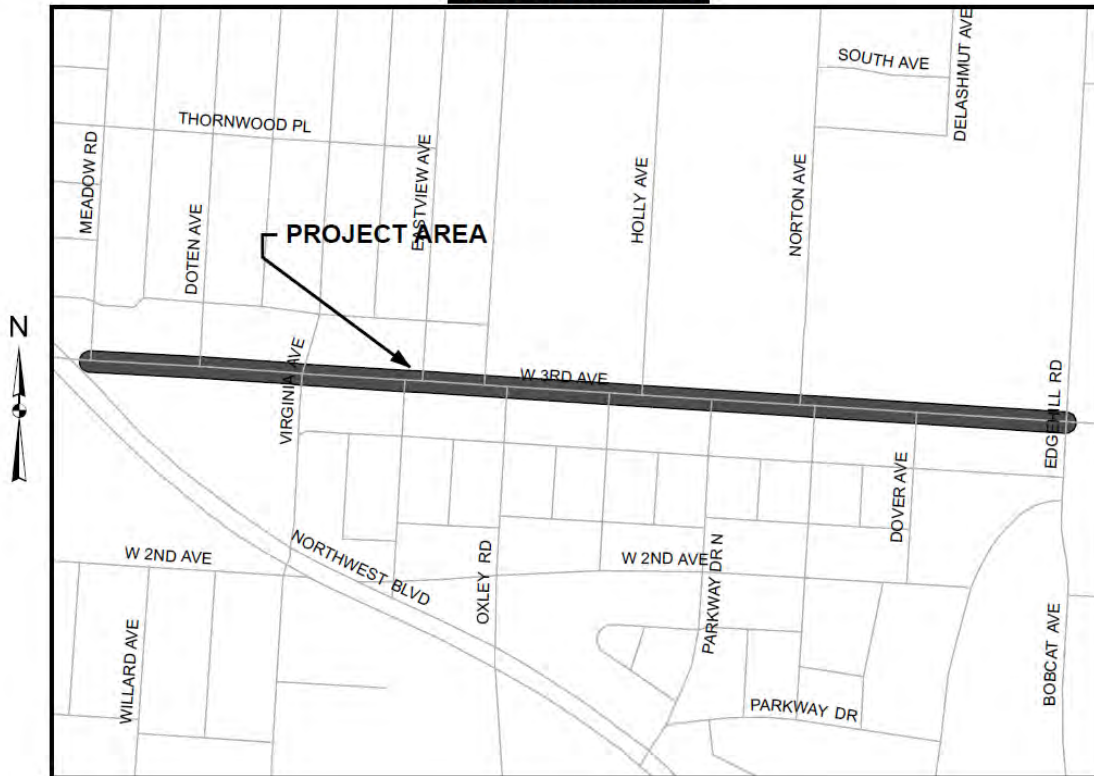
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Exhibit 1: Project location map



Exhibit 2: Project location map

Third Avenue Relief Sewer Phase 3
CIP 650768-10003



LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE