



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Anne M. Vogel, Director

May 2, 2023

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Maple Heights - Cuyahoga County
Schreiber Road Sewer Improvements and SSO Elimination
Loan number: CS390566-0010**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer project in Maple Heights 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, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Schreiber Road Sewer Improvements & SSO Elimination

Applicant: City of Maple Heights
5353 Lee Road
Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

Loan Number: CS390566-0010



Figure 1. Cuyahoga County

Project Summary

The City of Maple Heights in Cuyahoga County has requested \$380,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Schreiber Road Sewer Improvements & SSO Elimination project.

Work for this project includes increasing the size and slope of the existing sanitary sewer that serves a residential area to eliminate a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) that discharges several times per year in front of a residence.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Maple Heights, in Cuyahoga County (see Figure 1), directs its sanitary sewage to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). In February 2022, the NEORS completed the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor - Local Sewer System Evaluation Study (CVI-LSES) to address sanitary sewer infrastructure problems that adversely affect human health and the environment. The LSES projects are large-scale planning studies using field investigations, flow monitoring, hydraulic modeling, and other traditional sewer system evaluation study tools to identify existing sanitary sewer system problems, with potential improvements suggested.

A sanitary manhole located along Schreiber Road is known to surcharge several times per year. The highest recorded frequency occurred in 2015 with a total of 14 events. The existing sanitary sewer system within the project area transitions from an 18-inch diameter sewer on Schreiber Road through a drop manhole to a downstream system consisting of 10-inch and 12-inch diameter sewers before again increasing to an 18-inch diameter gravity sewer just upstream of the NEORS CVI connection. This existing sanitary sewer system has undersized pipe, flat pipe, significant hydraulic losses due to drop manholes, as well as infiltration and inflow (I/I). Issues that occur due to these defects include: SSOs, basement back-ups (sometimes called water-in-basement, or WIBs), and illicit discharges to separate storm sewers. Improvements to the Schreiber Road sanitary sewers are essential to eliminate the SSOs to improve the health of residents within the area.

Project Description

The following gravity sanitary sewers are proposed to replace the existing 10-inch and 12-inch sanitary sewer:

- 77 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch diameter PVC pipe with a minimum slope of 0.98% and a maximum manhole spacing of 77 LF
- 1,082 LF of 18-inch diameter PVC pipe with a minimum slope of 3.98% and a maximum manhole spacing of 289 LF

The proposed gravity sanitary sewers will be installed within easements on the south side and parallel to Schreiber Road in front of residences and on property owned by the City of Maple Heights. The upsizing is in a separate trench from the existing system, flow will be rerouted upon completion of construction, and the existing sewer system will be abandoned in place.

See Figure 2 on page 3 for the proposed construction site plan.

Implementation

The City of Maple Heights is eligible for \$380,000 in principal forgiveness (loan amount that does not need to be repaid) from the Ohio WPCLF. With this favorable financing, Maple Heights will save \$548,848, compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 3.86% (interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested May award date).

The city indicated that no rate increases are associated with this project. The median household income (MHI) for Maple Heights is \$43,036. The average annual sewer bill in 2021 was \$85.44, which is 0.2% of the MHI. In 2023 rates were increased by 4.2%. The NEORS D has published an annual increase of 4.2% to their wastewater rates for the years 2024-2026.

Construction for this project is expected to begin in June 2023 and be completed by December 2023.

Public Participation

NEORS D held a public meeting on March 31, 2022, to share information on the Cuyahoga Valley and Mill Creek Interceptor LSES. The Schreiber Road Sewer Improvements and SSO Elimination project was presented during this time to provide a solution towards improving system hydraulics and eliminating the SSO.

The project was also discussed during city council meetings. The city's website allows for review of city council agendas, meeting minutes, and legislation that has been passed to provide the residents the ability to participate without attending the council meetings. Additionally, project updates are posted on the city's website, and the local newspaper has been used to notify the public of the project.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any concerns or opposition to this project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on the following webpage and can provide it upon request:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>

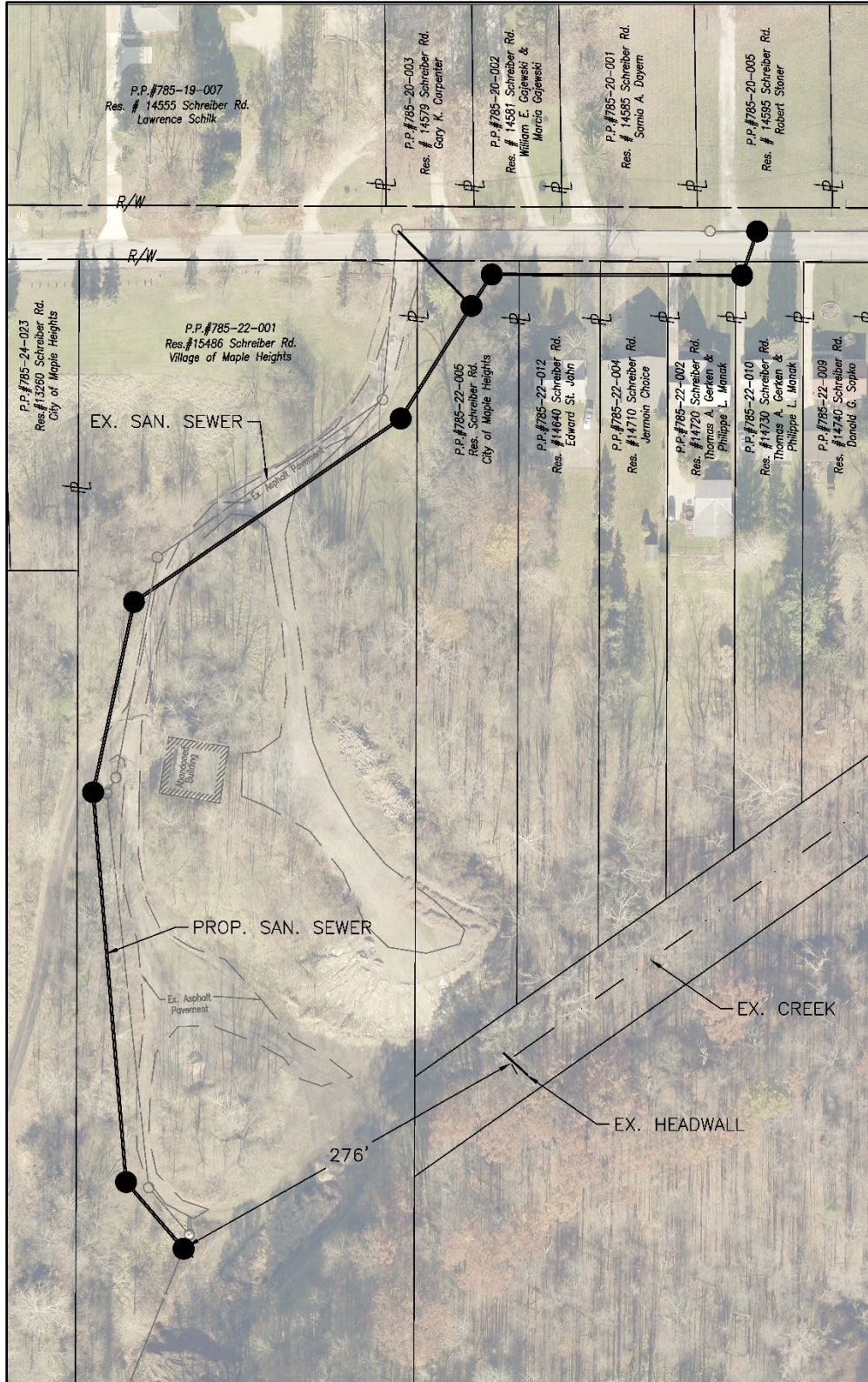


Figure 2. Site Plan

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the 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 infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because this project is in a prior-disturbed area and a developed residential community. There will be one tree removed, however, that removal will occur between September 30th and April 1st to avoid impacts to endangered bat species.

Is cost effective, and is not a controversial action as the alternative was selected to best utilize existing systems and to minimize environmental impacts and costs. A “no-action” alternative would result in continued SSO activity in front of residences. There is no known opposition to the proposed project and the cost of the project will not impact ratepayers due to the Principal Forgiveness received.

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 to receiving waters because the new sewer will be replacing an existing sewer and no new homes or businesses will be added. No new or increased discharge will occur because of this project, as it is primarily focused on addressing current public health needs.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population since the improvements are not related to serving new growth or increasing capacity at the wastewater treatment facility.

Based upon Ohio EPA’s review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

The proposed project is a cost-effective way to address necessary improvements of existing infrastructure. Once implemented, the project will eliminate a known SSO at the Schreiber Road sanitary manhole, protecting the health of residents within the area.

Contact Information

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