



February 27, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Springfield – Clark County
West High Street Storm Sewer Replacement
Loan number: CS390880-0025**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a storm sewer replacement project in Springfield which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: West High Street Storm Sewer Replacement

Applicant: City of Springfield
76 East High Street
Springfield, Ohio 45502

Loan Number: CS390880-0025



Figure 1. Clark County

Project Summary

The City of Springfield is requesting a loan from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance their West High Street Storm Sewer Replacement project. Work for this project will include replacing failing storm sewer lines along West High Street.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Springfield is located in Clark County (Figure 1). Springfield owns and operates their own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection system. The city has separate storm sewers that discharge to Buck Creek. Springfield has been having issues with flooding during wet weather events around West High Street, an area that contains homes over 100 years of age. When the storm sewers were inspected, it was found that they have been experiencing groundwater infiltration. This has left mineral deposits inside of the pipes, restricting their capacity and resulting in flooding. Given the age and condition of the pipes, Springfield determined that the best option for solving the problem would be to replace them.

Project Description

The project will consist of replacing approximately 1,700 linear feet of 15-inch storm sewer along West High Street, between Thompson Avenue and Bechtel Avenue. The project will also replace 12 manholes, and 21 catch basins. The street will be repaved at the conclusion of the project. Springfield will be completing multiple projects concurrently, and drinking water lead service line replacement will occur in the area when encountered through another loan.

See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.

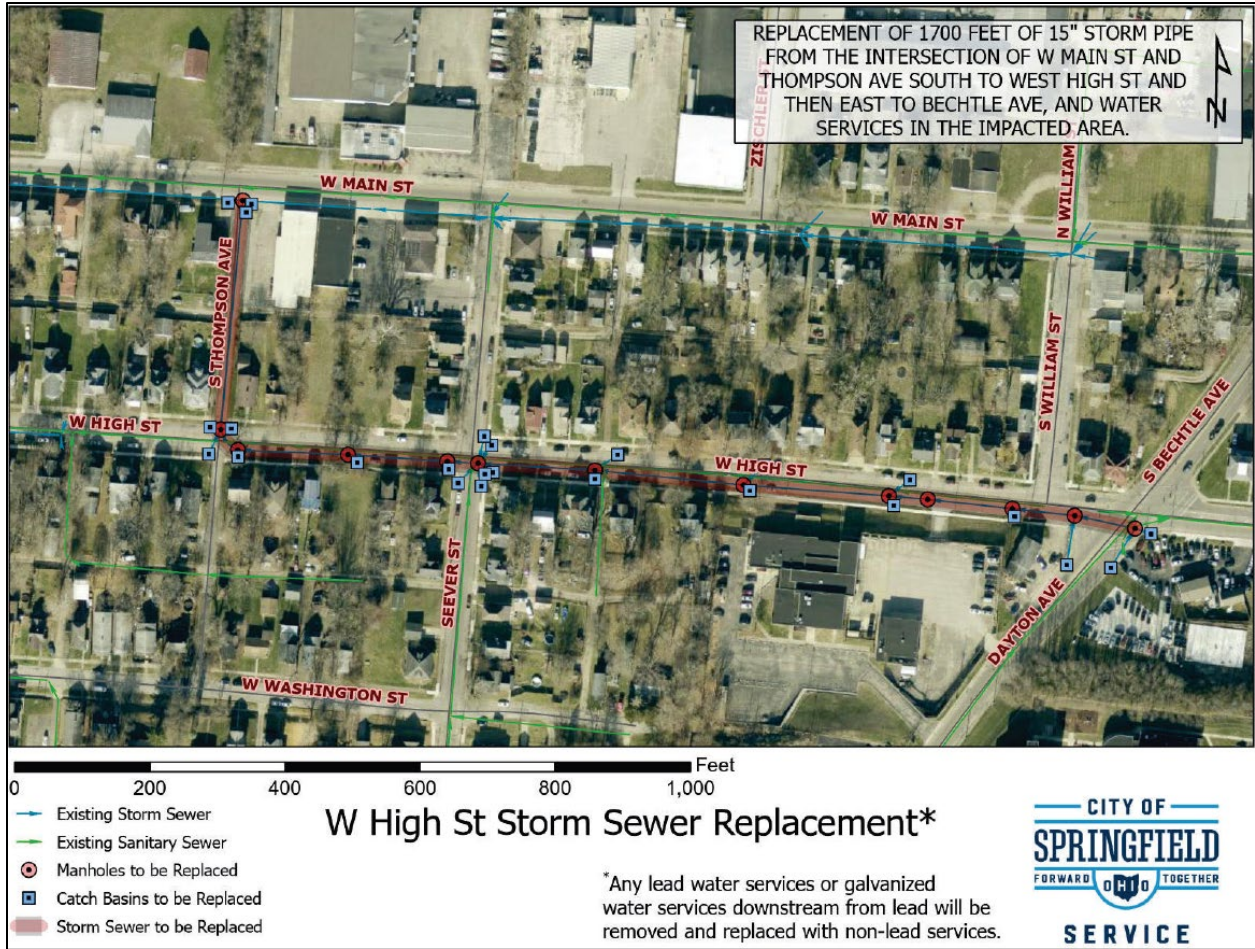


Figure 2. Map of the project area

Implementation

The City of Springfield has requested approximately \$850,000 from the Ohio WPCLF at the standard interest rate of 3.44%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount in WPCLF dollars could save Springfield approximately \$232,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate, 4.74%.

Springfield operates a sewer and stormwater system and collects a stormwater user fee along with the monthly sewer bill. Springfield has enacted a cost-of-living sewer rate increase of 1%, which went into effect January 1, 2026. The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Springfield is \$409. This is 0.9% of the median household income (MHI: \$45,883) and lower than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$528. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2026 and to be completed in approximately five months.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed at public meetings. It is also posted on the city website and has been advertised in the city newspaper. Private property owners are contacted via mail and Springfield obtains their permission before working on their property.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Springfield to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing stormwater collection system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because no environmentally sensitive resources are likely present in the prior-disturbed road rights-of-way where the storm sewer replacement will take place. No trees will be removed.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action because there is no alternative for the necessary replacement of failing storm sewer lines that cause flooding. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, 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, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because this project merely replaces existing storm sewer lines and has no effect on discharges. Service will not be extended in any way nor provide additional capacity.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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. This project will result in reduced flooding during storm events in the City of Springfield.

Contact Information

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