APPENDIX L

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

April 25, 2025

Theodore Burch, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Michigan Division
315 West Allegan St., Room 201
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Theodore Burch:

The Cities of Novi and Wixom are proposing the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project to enhance and widen a 5.3-mile segment of Beck Road in Oakland County, Michigan. Beck Road is a minor arterial road connecting communities in Oakland and Wayne Counties with major trunklines such as I-96, M-14, and US-12. The limits of the Project are proposed to extend from just south of 9 Mile Road in Novi to Pontiac Trail in Wixom.

Please find below a link to a pre-distribution copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project. This document contains the revisions requested by your staff during their review of the preliminary draft.

_FINAL_EA_Beck Road_04-25-2025.pdf

We are requesting Federal Highway Administration's approval of the EA and permission to distribute electronic copies of the document for public and agency information, review, and comment. Once you have signed the title sheet for the document, we will schedule and hold a public hearing.

If you have further questions, please contact either me or Deena Woodward, Environmental Services Section Manager at WoodwardD2@Michigan.gov or 517-927-5378.

Sincerely,

E-SIGNED by Demetrius Parker
on 2025-04-28 07:13:04 EDT

Demetrius A. Parker, PE
Director
Bureau of Development
Michigan Department of Transportation

Enclosure

cc: Mahreen Nabi, MDOT
Deena Woodward, MDOT
Bruce Kadzban, MDOT
Taryn Nance, FHWA
Eric Purkiss, FHWA
Andy Pickard, FHWA
Rachael Tupica, FHWA

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Michigan Division

315 W. Allegan St., Rm. 201
Lansing, MI 48933
517-377-1844 (office)
Michigan.FHWA@dot.gov

April 29, 2025

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-MI

Mr. Demetrius A. Parker, P.E.
Director, Bureau of Development
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Approval of Environmental Assessment for
Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, just south of 9 Mile Road in the City of Novi to Pontiac Trail in the City of Wixom, Oakland County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Parker,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) received your request to approve the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, from just south of 9 Mile Road in the City of Novi to Pontiac Trail in the City of Wixom, Oakland County, Michigan.

The FHWA approves your request; the signed EA is attached. In accordance with 23 CFR 771.119(d), please make the EA available for public inspection and transmit the notice of availability to the affected public, federal, and local government units.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Pickard, Environmental, Reality, and Planning Team Leader, by email at andy.pickard@dot.gov or (517) 702-1827.

Sincerely,

ERIC J PURKISS

Digitally signed by ERIC J PURKISS
Date: 2025.04.29 13:50:47 -04'00'

Eric J. Purkiss
Program Development Unit Director

For: Theodore G. Burch, P.E.
Division Administrator

GEF
Enclosures:
Beck Road FHWA Approval letter 4.25.2025_signed.pdf
Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project - Environmental Assessment.pdf
By e-mail

cc: Mahreen Nabi, MDOT
Deena Woodward, MDOT
Bruce Kadzban, MDOT
Thomas Fisher, FHWA
Taryn Nance, FHWA
Andy Pickard, FHWA
Eric Purkiss, FHWA
Rachael Tupica, FHWA
Theodore Burch, FHWA

File Directory: O:\FHWA Records\ENVI Environmental - Planning and Program Development\ENVI 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Related Documents
File Name: Approval of Beck Rd EA_TJN_APR292025.pdf

CITY COUNCIL

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Department of Public Works
26300 Lee BeGole Drive
Novi, Michigan 48375
248.735.5640
248.735.5659 fax

cityofnovi.org

August 8, 2024

Mahreen Nabi
NEPA Coordinator, Local Agency Program Environmental Unit
MDOT Environmental Services Section (ESS)
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: JN 219309 Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project
Request to initiate Environmental Assessment with the FHWA

Dear Ms. Nabi:

The City of Novi and the City of Wixom, in coordination with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), respectfully request that MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiate an Environmental Assessment (EA) for planned improvements along Beck Road in Oakland County. The proposed EA will cover the corridor spanning from south of 9 Mile Road in the City of Novi to Pontiac Trail in the City of Wixom. The Class of Action for this project was approved by the FHWA on January 21, 2024.

Early scoping explored widening Beck Road to either a 5-lane roadway or a 4-lane boulevard. These two alternatives will be identified as alternatives considered in the EA but ultimately a hybrid of the two was selected as the preferred alternative because it best aligns with the purpose and need of the project. The hybrid alternative would widen the road to a 4-lane boulevard in the southern portions of the corridor and a 5-lane roadway in the northern portions. The preferred alternative and a no-build scenario will be further evaluated in the EA.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project is to decrease congestion resulting from the surrounding population and economic growth, improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians, and enhance the corridor's ride quality by improving infrastructure condition throughout the corridor. The need for the project is based on the following factors:

Insufficient Operational Capacity: The Beck Road corridor is facing significant traffic congestion, with peak hour volume ranging up to 2,084 vehicles per hour, exceeding the roadway's capacity and causing operational inefficiencies. The current lane configuration is inadequate, leading to a Level of Service (LOS) ranging from B to E during peak hours, with several

intersections experiencing poor LOS. Traffic volumes in 2023 have already surpassed capacity, and projections for 2045 indicate even greater congestion.

Infrastructure Condition and Aesthetics: Poor pavement conditions add to the road safety concerns of the roadway. The majority of this road section's pavement surface was deemed to be in poor condition, according to the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating System (PASER). This assessment indicates that more than just surface-level repairs are needed. Additionally, integrating trees and landscaping into the roadway design could enhance the corridor's aesthetic appeal and contribute to a healthier environment.

High Crash Activity: Traffic crash data from 2018 to 2022 along Beck Road from 8 Mile Road to Pontiac Trail reveals significant safety concerns. The total number of crashes at the eleven studied intersections varied widely, ranging from 11 to 135, with nine “A” level injury crashes reported. Similarly, the eight road segments experienced between 20 and 182 crashes, with five “A” level injury crashes. Rear-end collisions were the most common type of crash, accounting for over 60% of all incidents at both intersections and road segments. Traffic congestion and backups are key contributors to these rear-end crashes.

Incomplete Multi-Modal Network: The Beck Road corridor currently lacks adequate infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists with noticeable gaps in sidewalks and nonmotorized crossings. A significant gap in the sidewalk infrastructure is evident between 9 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue, and inconsistencies in pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure can be observed between Grand River and West Road. Furthermore, the extension of the SMART bus system’s services in 2024 to intersect with the Beck Road corridor north of the I-96 interchange has amplified the need for comprehensive pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor.

Construction funding has been secured for the segment from 11 Mile Road to Grand River Avenue from the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), which has earmarked approximately $4.8 million for construction. The construction phase must be obligated by September 30, 2025, to secure this funding. Hence, the EA must be initiated as soon as possible to ensure the funding is not put at risk. Further details and plans for funding the remaining segments of the project are detailed in the attached funding plan.

We have provided an approximate timeline of the project milestones below using the MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) FY 2025 Project Planning Guide. The proposed schedule is based on a November 7, 2025, letting which we believe to be the last letting that can utilize construction funds obligated by September 30, 2025, the obligation deadline for the Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending issued in the Fiscal Year 2022 Highway Infrastructure Programs.

FHWA initiates the EA	August 19, 2024
Draft EA submittal to MDOT	December 20, 2024
Revised Draft EA submittal to MDOT for initial informal FHWA review	February 7, 2025
Revised EA submittal to MDOT for final FHWA review	March 21, 2025
FHWA publishes final EA	April 18, 2025
Public meeting for public review of EA	May 16, 2025
FONSI submittal to MDOT	May 30, 2025
Submit GI Documents to MDOT LAP*	June 9, 2025
FHWA Issues FONSI	June 27, 2025
Approximate GI Meeting*	July 9, 2025
Submit Final Property Certification*	August 8, 2025

Submit Complete Biddable Package to MDOT LAP*	August 22, 2025
Submit Final Bid Proposal Package to MDOT S&E*	September 19, 2025
Letting*	November 7, 2025

*For JN 219309 only (11 Mile Rd to Grand River Ave)

We appreciate your understanding of our eagerness to commence work on the Environmental Assessment to ensure that the funding granted to the City of Novi can be captured. Should you have any questions, please contact our consultant, AECOM, Inc.

Mr. Sean Kelsch, PE
AECOM Project Manager
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Sean.kelsch@aecom.com
(616) 574-8500

Mr. Nick VanWoert
AECOM Environmental Coordinator
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
nick.vanwoert@aecom.com
(269)381-1042

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Herczeg
Director of Public Works, City of Novi

cc: Sean Kelsch, AECOM
Nick VanWoert, AECOM

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

September 9, 2024

Theodore Burch
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Michigan Division
315 West Allegan St., Room 201
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Subject: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) Initiation Request for the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, City of Novi and City of Wixom, Michigan

Dear Theodore Burch:

The City of Novi and the City of Wixom, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), are requesting to initiate an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements of the Beck Road Corridor, from south of 9 Mile Road to Pontiac Trail. Our staff have recently coordinated with Taryn Nance, your Environmental Specialist to prepare for this official initiation request.

Attached you will find a purpose and need statement, a schedule, and a project map.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Margaret Barondess at 517-335-2621 or by email at BarondessM@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

E-SIGNED by Demetrius Parker
on 2024-09-09 08:24:02 EDT

Demetrius A. Parker, P.E.
Director
Bureau of Development
Michigan Department of Transportation

Enclosure

cc: Mahreen Nabi, MDOT
Margaret Barondess, MDOT
Deena Woodward, MDOT
Bruce Kadzban, MDOT
Taryn Nance, FHWA

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Michigan Division

315 W. Allegan St., Rm. 201
Lansing, MI 48933
517-377-1844 (office)
Michigan.FHWA@dot.gov

September 19, 2024

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-MI

Mr. Demetrius A. Parker, P.E.
Director, Bureau of Development
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Response to the Request for Environmental Assessment Initiation
for Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project (MDOT JN 211155)

Dear Mr. Parker,

The Federal Highway Administration, Michigan Division, approves the initiation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, from South of 9 Mile Road to Pontiac Trail, City of Novi and City of Wixom, Oakland County, Michigan, per your request letter dated September 9, 2024 (attached).

The EA must be completed within one year (by September 19, 2025) and contain no more than 75 pages (not including appendices), as required by 40 CFR 1501.10(b) and 40 CFR 1501.5(f), respectively.

If you have any questions, please contact Taryn Nance by email at taryn.nance@dot.gov or by phone at (517) 702-1827.

Sincerely,

ERIC J PURKISS

Digitally signed by ERIC J PURKISS
Date: 2024.09.19 12:12:28 -04'00'

Eric J. Purkiss
Program Development Director

For: Theodore G. Burch, P.E.
Division Administrator

GEF
Enclosures:
Beck Road Improvement Project_Letter of Initiation_8.23.24.pdf
RevisedEABeckRoadLetter_08-08-2024.pdf
Beck Road EA Limits Map.pdf

By e-mail
cc: Margaret Barondess, MDOT
Brad Peterson, MDOT
Mahreen Nabi, MDOT
Deena Woodward, MDOT
Bruce Kadzban, MDOT
Adnan Iftikhar, FHWA
Andy Pickard, FHWA
Eric Purkiss, FHWA
Mark Dionise, FHWA
Rachael Tupica, FHWA
Theodore Burch, FHWA

File Directory: O:\FHWA Records\ENVI Environmental – Planning and Program Development\ENVI 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Related Documents
File Name: Beck Rd EA initiation-TJN-SEP192024.pdf

CITY COUNCIL

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City Engineer
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cityofnovi.org

August 1, 2024

To: Regulatory and Resource Agencies

RE: Proposed Environmental Assessment for the widening of a 5.1-mile section of Beck Road in Oakland County, Michigan.

Figure 1 - Beck Road Study Area

The cities of Novi and Wixom, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to a 5.1-mile segment of Beck Road in Oakland County, Michigan. Beck Road is a minor arterial local road that varies between two and five lanes, connecting Wixom, Novi, and other communities to major thoroughfares such as US-12, M-14, and I-96. The segment proposed for improvements extends from south of 9 Mile Road in the city of Novi to north of Pontiac Trail in the city of Wixom (see Figure 1). The purpose of this project is to address aging infrastructure throughout the corridor and decrease congestion resulting from the surrounding population and economic growth, which will lead to enhanced safety for vehicles and pedestrians. The need for the project is based on the following factors:

- **Infrastructure Condition and Aesthetics:** Poor pavement conditions add to the road safety concerns of the roadway. The majority of this road section's pavement surface was deemed to be in poor condition, according to the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating System (PASER). This assessment indicates that more than just surface-level repairs are needed. Additionally, integrating trees and landscaping into the roadway design could enhance the corridor's aesthetic appeal and contribute to a healthier environment.

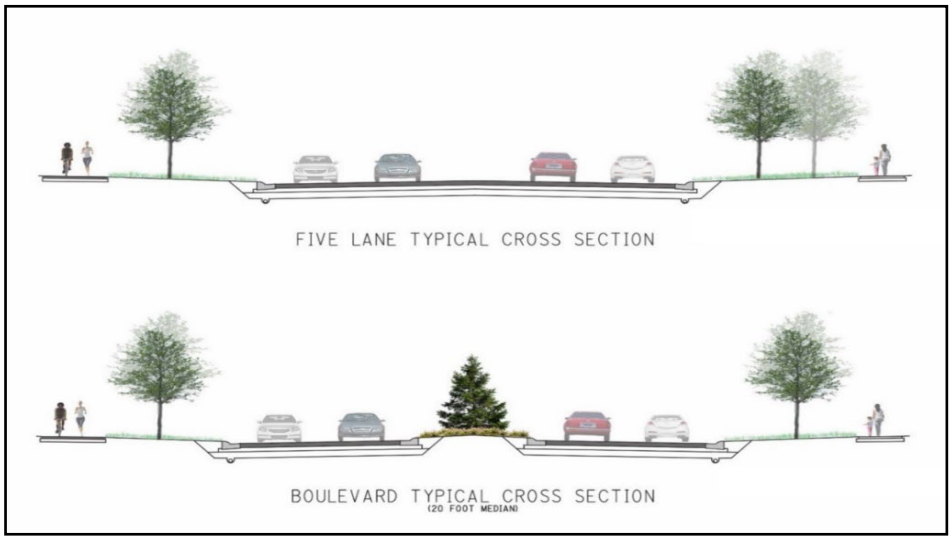
- **Insufficient Operational Capacity:** The Beck Road corridor is facing significant traffic congestion, with peak hour volume ranging up to 2,084 vehicles per hour, exceeding the roadway's capacity and causing operational inefficiencies. The current lane configuration is inadequate, leading to a Level of Service (LOS) ranging from B to E during peak hours, with several intersections experiencing poor LOS. Traffic volumes in 2023 have already surpassed capacity, and projections for 2045 indicate even greater congestion.

- **High Crash Activity:** Traffic crash data from 2018 to 2022 along Beck Road from 8 Mile Road to Pontiac Trail reveals significant safety concerns. The total number of crashes at the eleven studied intersections varied widely, ranging from 11 to 135, with nine "A" level injury crashes reported. Similarly, the eight road segments experienced between 20 and 182 crashes, with five "A" level injury crashes. Rear-end collisions were the most common type of crash, accounting for over 60% of all incidents at both intersections and road segments. Traffic congestion and backups are key contributors to these rear-end crashes.

- **Incomplete Multi-Modal Network:** The Beck Road corridor currently lacks adequate infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists with noticeable gaps in sidewalks and nonmotorized crossings. A significant gap in the sidewalk infrastructure is evident between 9 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue, and inconsistencies in pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure can be observed between Grand River and West Road. Furthermore, the extension of the SMART bus system's services in 2024 to intersect with the Beck Road corridor north of the I-96 interchange has amplified the need for comprehensive pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor.

Early scoping explored widening Beck Road to either a 5-lane roadway or a 4-lane boulevard. These two alternatives will be identified as alternatives considered in the EA but ultimately a hybrid of the two was selected as the preferred alternative because it best aligns with the purpose and need of the project. The hybrid alternative would widen the road to a 4-lane boulevard in the southern portions of the corridor and a 5-lane roadway in the northern portions (see Figure 2). The preferred alternative and a no-build scenario will be further evaluated in the EA.

Figure 2 – Five-Lane and Four-Lane Boulevard Typical Cross Section



As we commence this EA, the project team is gathering data on right-of-way (ROW) needs and various environmental aspects, including wetlands, endangered species, public parks and trails, historic properties, and areas possibly affected by contamination, among others. The proposed improvements will be made predominantly within the existing ROW; however, the preferred alternative does necessitate acquiring some additional ROW due to the increased width of the road cross section. For a summary of identified environmental resources in the study area, please refer to the enclosed Beck Road EA Environmental Considerations Update.

The project will receive partial funding from the FY 22 Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending as part of the federal Highway Infrastructure Programs, which has allocated approximately $4.8 million to the city of Novi to support building the segment between 11 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. The remaining portion is currently not funded for construction while the cities seek additional funding opportunities. The project team is striving to complete environmental clearance to allow for a 2025 letting, with construction beginning in 2026. For additional information, please visit the project website: https://www.becktothefuture.org.

Input from interested agencies is sought and your comments are requested on:

- Specific areas of concern,
- Available technical information for the area of potential effects, and
- Permits or mitigation requirements which may need to be considered during the NEPA phase.

We encourage you to share this information with others in your agency. However, establishing an identified single point of contact for this study who can effectively represent your agency for future correspondence would greatly facilitate communication and coordination efforts. Your response within 10 days, by August 11, 2024, would be greatly appreciated. Please address all responses to our consultant, AECOM, Inc.

Mr. Sean Kelsch, PE
AECOM Project Manager
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
sean.kelsch@aecom.com
(616) 574-8500

Mr. Nick VanWoert
AECOM Environmental Coordinator
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
nick.vanwoert@aecom.com
(269) 381-1042

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Herczeg
Director of Public Works, City of Novi

cc: Taryn Nance, FHWA
Mahreen Nabi, MDOT
Tim Sikma, City of Wixom
Sean Kelsch, AECOM
Nick VanWoert, AECOM

Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project
Environmental Considerations Update
July 2024

Early planning and evaluation activities, including scoping studies performed in 2006 and 2018, collected information on various environmental resource categories, including rivers, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, soil disturbance, threatened and endangered species, parks, 4(f)/6(f) properties, and potentially contaminated sites. Additional studies regarding these subject areas, as well as studies pertaining to greenhouse gases, cultural resources, and noise impacts, are currently being examined as part of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Wetlands

AECOM performed a wetland delineation of the study area in 2021. During the field survey, 54 wetlands were identified within the study area, ranging from 0.001 acres to 0.637 acres in size. While wetland boundaries may extend beyond the study area, only portions of wetlands within and immediately adjacent to the study area were delineated. A representative from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) attended a field meeting on October 27, 2023, to review the Beck Road natural resource features and make regulatory determinations. EGLE determined that out of the 55 delineated wetlands (EGLE identified one additional wetland that AECOM did not), only 27 were subject to Part 303 regulation. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will likely be fulfilled by purchasing wetland credits from an established wetland bank, possibly through the Michigan Wetland Board. It is also important to note that there are six EGLE conservation easements within 100 feet of the project centerline that will need to be avoided.

Streams/Drains

Streams were identified by AECOM ecologists during the wetland delineation. A total of seven streams were identified within the project corridor, including four unnamed drains, Shaw Creek, Novi/Lyon Drain-Branch No. 1, and an unnamed tributary to Thornton Creek. A subsequent investigation by EGLE determined that only three of the delineated streams were subject to Part 301 regulation. Stream impacts are expected to be limited to replacing existing culverts with slight extensions.

Floodplains

Only two streams in the project area appear on FEMA maps as having mapped floodplains, and neither of these has a mapped floodway. Email correspondence with EGLE confirmed that none of the stream crossings within the study area have a drainage area of two square miles or greater. Therefore, permits under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, will not be necessary for any of the stream crossings.

Agriculture

There is no farmland along Beck Road in the project area. Neither of the jurisdictions along Beck Road (the cities of Novi and Wixom) have an agriculture zoning district, and both are fully urbanized areas. As a result, no further Farmland Protection Policy Act review will be necessary for this project, and there will be no need to submit a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form to the United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS).

Parks and Potential 4(f)/6(f) Properties

The project will affect two publicly owned recreational properties protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act: Bosco Fields and the ITC Corridor Trail, both located in the city of Novi. Bosco Fields is located in the southwest quadrant of Beck Road and 11 Mile Road while the ITC Corridor Trail, a public trail jointly owned by the city of Novi and ITC Holdings Corp, intersects Beck Road just north of Heritage Drive. Minor right-of-way acquisition will be needed from Bosco Fields, but it will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities that qualifies the property for 4(f) protection; the city of Novi will seek a de minimis approval. The proposed use of the ITC Corridor Trail is anticipated to be temporary to accommodate roadway construction. Further details about these determinations will be provided in the EA.

AECOM's analysis has determined no 6(f) properties exist within the environmental limits. These findings will be addressed within the EA.

Threatened and Endangered Species

An Official Species List was generated for the project using the USFWS IPaC screening tool. This list identifies the following federally listed species and their likely impacts based on the IPaC determination key:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis* – Federal Endangered): Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis* – Federal Endangered): NLAA
- Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus* – Proposed Endangered): No Effect
- Whooping crane (*Grus americana* – Experimental Population, Non-Essential): No Effect
- Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus* – Federal Threatened): Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA)
- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* – Federal Candidate): No Effect

Although the determination key indicated a LAA determination for the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake (EMR), subsequent coordination with the USFWS concluded that a No Effect determination is appropriate due to the lack of suitable EMR habitat.

An analysis of state-listed endangered, threatened, and special concern species will be provided in the EA.

Noise

The addition of one through traffic lane in each direction classifies this as a Type 1 project under federal regulations. There are noise-sensitive land uses within the proposed project limits including Bosco Fields and numerous residential areas. A noise analysis was conducted, and preliminary results indicated that there are impacted receptors. However, noise abatement in the form of noise walls was determined to be neither reasonable nor feasible.

Contamination

An online review of several online resources revealed the presence of 44 sites potentially affected by environmental contamination along the project corridor. These sites include eight Part 201 sites of environmental contamination, three active Part 211 sites, six closed Part 211 sites, and three closed Part 213 leaking underground storage tank sites, as well as numerous RCRA sites. Each of these locations will undergo investigation as part of the EA, with an evaluation to determine if a Preliminary Site Investigation or soil testing is warranted to assess the extent of contamination.

From:	Herczeg, Jeff
To:	Kowal, Kathleen
Cc:	VanWoert, Nick
Subject:	RE: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input
Date:	Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:37:00 AM
Attachments:	facebook_32x32_ca835b9a-3f99-4d31-aca7-46784e565986.png twitter_32x32_a45dccd3-caa0-4721-8a6f-2dc9d0a04a28.png linkedin_32x32_d133d896-e5e2-4245-a9a3-3c4991b79aca.png instagram_32x32_e8528fff-e278-4ef7-9185-e175c3943c8c.png

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Report Suspicious

Yes, we have a Congressional Directed Federal Funding for one of the segments and FHWA is involved in the EA.

From: Kowal, Kathleen <kowal.kathleen@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Herczeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Jeff,
Does this project involve Federal Highway Administration?
Thanks,
Kathy

From: Herczeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:32 AM
To: R5NEPA@epa.gov.
Cc: Kowal, Kathleen <kowal.kathleen@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Apologies,

This bounced back from your organization contact. Please see below and attached.

From: Herczeg, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:52 PM
To: environmental_review@ios.doi.gov; mwro_compliance@nps.gov; westlake.kenneth@epa.gov; Rachel.T.Nys@usace.army.mil; Regadmin.LRERegAdmin@usace.army.mil; christina.salenbien@usda.gov; laura.jostock@usda.gov; mary.t.weidel@hud.gov; Duane.Castaldi@fema.dhs.gov; Garry.lee@mi.usda.gov; misty.peavler@faa.gov; michelle_kane@fws.gov; susan.weber@dot.gov; William.B.Stanifer@uscg.mil; BoringT1@michigan.gov; MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov; HertelE@michigan.gov; creaghk@michigan.gov; vaukp@michigan.gov; watlingj@michigan.gov; skubinnaJ@Michigan.gov; SlagorS2@michigan.gov; MSHDA@michigan.gov; dcsmail@rcoc.org; oleary@semcog.org
Cc: Tim Sikma <TSikma@wixomgov.org>; VanWoert, Nick <Nick.VanWoert@aecom.com>; Sean Kelsch <sean.kelsch@aecom.com>; Nabi, Mahreen (MDOT) <NabiM@michigan.gov>; taryn.nance@dot.gov; Muck, Jeffrey <jmuck@cityofnovi.org>; CS@wixomgov.org
Subject: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Good Afternoon Agencies Representatives,

As part of the Environmental Assessment process, we (Cities of Novi and Wixom) are seeking comments from your respective agencies that may have an interest in the proposed Beck Road widening project. Please see the attached letter and supplemental information sheet included herein.

Forward any questions and/or comments to our consulting engineer AECOM (contacts below and in packet) by August 11, 2024.

Mr. Sean Kelsch, PE
AECOM Project Manager
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
sean.kelsch@aecom.com
(616) 574-8500

Mr. Nick VanWoert
AECOM Environmental Coordinator
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
nick.vanwoert@aecom.com
(269) 381-1042

Thank you for consideration during our EA process.

Jeff Herczeg | Director
Department of Public Works
City of Novi | 26300 Lee BeGole Dr | Novi, MI 48375
t: +1 248.735.5606 | c: 248.361.6097 | cityofnovi.org

To receive monthly e-news and more social media options, click here.

From: Herczeg, Jeff
To: VanWoert, Nick
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 11:46:11 AM
Attachments: facebook_32x32_ca835b9a-3f99-4d31-aca7-46784e565986.png
twitter_32x32_a45dccd3-caa0-4721-8a6f-2dc9d0a04a28.png
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instagram_32x32_e8528fff-e278-4ef7-9185-e175c3943c8c.png

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FYI

From: Kowal, Kathleen <kowal.kathleen@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Herczeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Jeff,
We will not provide comments concerning this project due to staffing constraints. Thank you for sending the documents to us for consideration.

Please send electronic copies of future NEPA documents pertaining to this project to R5NEPA@epa.gov.

Take care,
Kathy

From: Herzeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:32 AM
To: R5NEPA@epa.gov.
Cc: Kowal, Kathleen <kowal.kathleen@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

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Apologies,

This bounced back from your organization contact. Please see below and attached.

From: Herczeg, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:52 PM
To: environmental_review@ios.doi.gov; mwro_compliance@nps.gov; westlake.kenneth@epa.gov; Rachel.T.Nys@usace.army.mil; Regadmin.LRERegAdmin@usace.army.mil; christina.salenbien@usda.gov; laura.jostock@usda.gov; mary.t.weidel@hud.gov; Duane.Castaldi@fema.dhs.gov; Garry.lee@mi.usda.gov; misty.peavler@faa.gov; michelle_kane@fws.gov; susan.weber@dot.gov; William.B.Stanifer@uscg.mil; BoringT1@michigan.gov; MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov; HertelE@michigan.gov; creaghk@michigan.gov; yaukp@michigan.gov; watlingj@michigan.gov; skubinnaJ@Michigan.gov; SlagorS2@michigan.gov;

MSHDA@michigan.gov; dcsmail@rcoc.org; oleary@semcog.org
Cc: Tim Sikma <TSikma@wixomgov.org>; VanWoert, Nick <Nick.VanWoert@aecom.com>; Sean Kelsch <sean.kelsch@aecom.com>; Nabi, Mahreen (MDOT) <NabiM@michigan.gov>; taryn.nance@dot.gov; Muck, Jeffrey <jmuck@cityofnovi.org>; CS@wixomgov.org
Subject: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Good Afternoon Agencies Representatives,

As part of the Environmental Assessment process, we (Cities of Novi and Wixom) are seeking comments from your respective agencies that may have an interest in the proposed Beck Road widening project. Please see the attached letter and supplemental information sheet included herein.

Forward any questions and/or comments to our consulting engineer AECOM (contacts below and in packet) by August 11, 2024.

Mr. Sean Kelsch, PE
AECOM Project Manager
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
sean.kelsch@aecom.com
(616) 574-8500

Mr. Nick VanWoert
AECOM Environmental Coordinator
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
nick.vanwoert@aecom.com
(269) 381-1042

Thank you for consideration during our EA process.

Jeff Herczeg | Director
Department of Public Works
City of Novi | 26300 Lee BeGole Dr | Novi, MI 48375
t: +1 248.735.5606 | c: 248.361.6097 | cityofnovi.org

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From: Herczeg, Jeff
To: VanWoert, Nick; Kelsch, Sean
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:03:07 AM
Attachments: image006.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png
image011.png
facebook_32x32_ca835b9a-3f99-4d31-aca7-46784e565986.png
twitter_32x32_a45dccd3-caa0-4721-8a6f-2dc9d0a04a28.png
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See below from RCOC. I'm not sure it matters but our GIS also refers to the segment north of GR as other jurisdiction.

From: Knight, Brad <bknight@rcoc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Herczeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Hey Jeff,

Below is a couple of comments from my staff. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

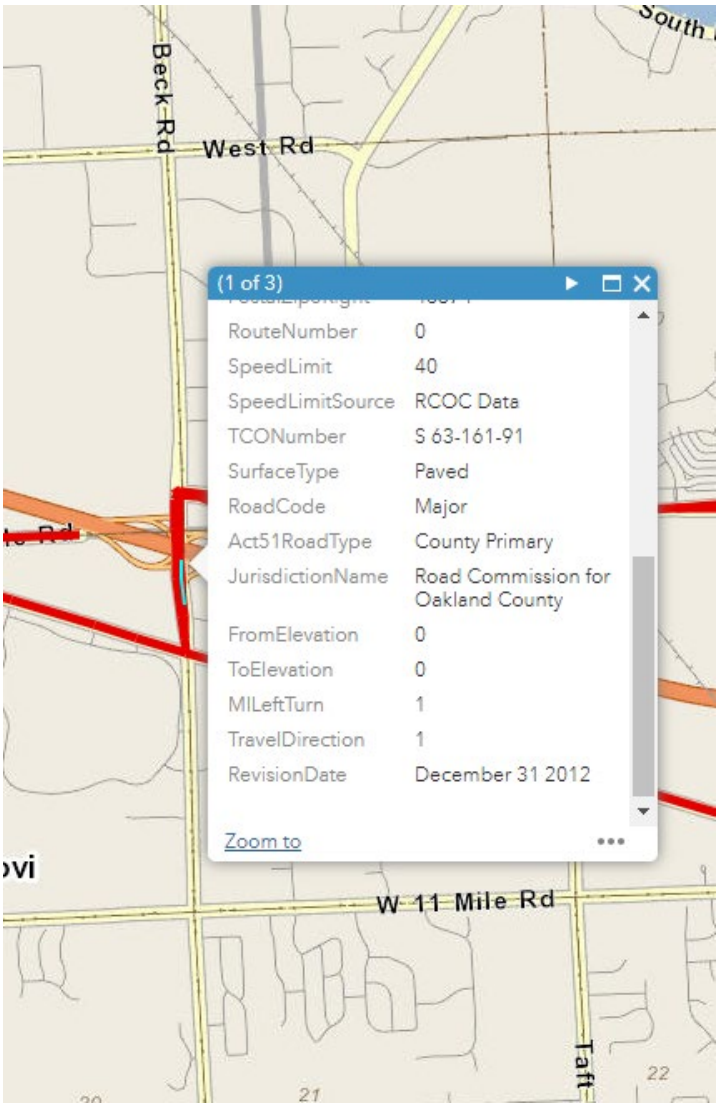
Brad

Brad Knight, Director
Planning & Environmental Concerns
Information Technology
Road Commission for Oakland County
bknight@rcoc.org

From: Jessee, Nathaniel <njessee@rcoc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Knight, Brad <bknight@rcoc.org>
Subject: RE: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Brad,
I reviewed this document and have 2 comments. First, we do not have any, documented, institutional controls in the project area, so that's good. Second, it appears as if RCOC own the portion of Beck Rd that crosses 96. I don't know what that means, but I am letting you know (screenshot below).

I have no other comments or concerns.



Nate

From: Knight, Brad <bknight@rcoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Jessee, Nathaniel <njessee@rcoc.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

---

From: Czerniakowski, David <dczerniakows@rcoc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 5:34 PM
To: Knight, Brad <bknight@rcoc.org>; Fitzer, Samuel <sfitzer@rcoc.org>; Obrien, Jeff <jobrien@rcoc.org>
Cc: Piotrowicz, Gary <gpiotrowicz@rcoc.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

All,
Please see the email below.

Thanks
Dave

From: DCSMail <dcsmail@rcoc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:26 PM
To: Czerniakowski, David <dczerniakows@rcoc.org>
Subject: FW: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

Please review/advise.

From: Herczeg, Jeff <jHerczeg@cityofnovi.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:52 PM
To: environmental_review@ios.doi.gov; mwro_compliance@nps.gov; westlake.kenneth@epa.gov; Rachel.T.Nys@usace.army.mil; Regadmin.LRERegAdmin@usace.army.mil; christina.salenbien@usda.gov; laura.jostock@usda.gov; mary.t.weidel@hud.gov; Duane.Castaldi@fema.dhs.gov; Garry.lee@mi.usda.gov; misty.peavler@faa.gov; michelle_kane@fws.gov; susan.weber@dot.gov; William.B.Stanifer@uscg.mil; BoringT1@michigan.gov; MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov; HertelE@michigan.gov; creaghk@michigan.gov; yaukp@michigan.gov; watlingj@michigan.gov; skubinnaJ@Michigan.gov; SlagorS2@michigan.gov; MSHDA@michigan.gov; DCSMail <dcsmail@rcoc.org>; oleary@semcog.org
Cc: Tim Sikma <tsikma@wixomgov.org>; VanWoert, Nick <Nick.VanWoert@aecom.com>; Sean Kelsch <sean.kelsch@aecom.com>; Nabi, Mahreen (MDOT) <NabiM@michigan.gov>; taryn.nance@dot.gov; Muck, Jeffrey <jmuck@cityofnovi.org>; CS@wixomgov.org
Subject: Beck Road Environmental Assessment Regulatory and Resources Agency Input

You don't often get email from jherczeg@cityofnovi.org. Learn why this is important

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Good Afternoon Agencies Representatives,

As part of the Environmental Assessment process, we (Cities of Novi and Wixom) are seeking comments from your respective agencies that may have an interest in the proposed Beck Road widening project. Please see the attached letter and supplemental information sheet included herein.

Forward any questions and/or comments to our consulting engineer AECOM (contacts below and in packet) by August 11, 2024.

Mr. Sean Kelsch, PE
AECOM Project Manager
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
sean.kelsch@aecom.com
(616) 574-8500

Mr. Nick VanWoert
AECOM Environmental Coordinator
3950 Sparks Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
nick.vanwoert@aecom.com
(269) 381-1042

Thank you for consideration during our EA process.

Jeff Herczeg | Director
Department of Public Works
City of Novi | 26300 Lee BeGole Dr | Novi, MI 48375
t: +1 248.735.5606 | c: 248.361.6097 | cityofnovi.org

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

April 7, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Jeffrey Herczeg
City of Novi
26300 Lee Begole Drive
Novi, Michigan 48375

Dear Mr. Herczeg:

SUBJECT: Transportation Preliminary Database Search
Project Name: Beck Road Widening
Site Name: 63 - Beck Road
Submission Number: HP7-D7MP-072Z1
Location: T01N, R08E, Section 04

This letter provides the results of the Transportation Preliminary Database Search that was requested on March 22, 2021, for the above subject project. The Transportation Preliminary Map/Database Review includes a database search for the following concerns within 500-feet of the project location:

- Historical occurrences of state-listed threatened or endangered (T&E) species within the MNFI database*
- Tier 1 Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (EMR) designated habitat
- Michigan Mussel Protocol Group 1/Group 2 (state) and Group 3 (federal) T&E Mussels
- Known contamination locations
- State-regulated 303 wetlands
- Section 10 regulated waterways

The following T&E species are listed in the database as having been observed within 500 feet of your project area:

- Redside dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*): state listed endangered species. The database lists the occurrence of this animal species in the far northern portion of the project area north of Admore Court and in Johnson Creek.
- Gravel pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis letsoni*): state listed special concern species. The database lists the occurrence of this animal species in the far northern portion of the project area north of Admore Court and in Johnson Creek.

The following Michigan mussels are listed in the database as having been observed within 500 feet of your project area:

- Michigan Mussels – Group 2; state listed threatened species. Mussels are in Johnson Creek.

Given the presence of Group 2 mussels and the T&E species in your project area, you will need to consult with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for further guidance prior to performing work or applying for permits. MDNR contact information is provided further below.

The following contamination site is listed in the database as having been observed within 500 feet of your project area:

- Part 201 Site: Pontiac Trail and Beck Road.
- Speedway Station #2367 – SW corner of Pontiac Trail and Beck Road.

Mapped 303 regulated wetlands are listed in the database as having been observed within 500 feet of your project area at the following locations:

- Beck Road from Pontiac Trail extending south approximately 270 LF.
- Beck Road from the vicinity of Andersen Court extending north approximately 270 LF.
- Beck Road (east side) between 200 LF and 400 LF south of Cartier Drive.
- Beck Road (west side) approximately 150 LF south of Avente Drive.
- Beck Road (west side) between 100 LF and 200 LF north of Liberty Drive.
- Beck Road (west side) between 420 LF and 570 LF south of Progress Drive.
- Beck Road approximately 170 LF NE of the Beck Road/Grand River intersection.
- Beck Road, primarily soil areas which contain wetland soils, from Central Park Boulevard extending north approximately 330 LF.
- Beck Road between 870 LF and 1,080 LF north of 11-Mile Road.
- Beck Road between 70 LF and 330 LF north of 11-Mile Road.
- Beck Road between 350 LF and 840 LF south of Kirkway Boulevard.
- Beck Road from Ashley Boulevard extending north approximately 770 LF.
- Beck Road from approximately 40 LF south of Alpine Drive extending south to approximately 180 LF south of White Pines Drive.
- Beck Road from approximately 170 LF north of Beckenham Boulevard extending south to approximately 520 LF south of 9-Mile Road.
- Beck Road in the vicinity of Stratford Lane.
- Beck Road (east side) between 150 LF and 300 LF north of Holmbury Road.
- Beck Road from 250 LF north of West Main Street extending south approximately 1,200 LF.
- Beck Road between 420 LF and 700 LF north of 7-Mile Road.
- Beck Road from Creekside Court extending north to the vicinity of Manorwood Drive.
- Beck Road (west side) from Curtis Road extending north approximately 500 LF.
- Beck Road, primarily soil areas which contain wetland soils, from Blue Haven Court extending north approximately 710 LF.

The database did not indicate the presence of the Northern long-eared bat or the Indiana bat which are federally listed as an endangered species. Indiana bats, however, are considered potentially present wherever suitable habitat exists within their range. Your project location is within the range of the Indiana bat in Michigan. You should consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to performing work or applying for permits.

The database search did not indicate any occurrences for EMR habitat and Section 10 waterways.

** Historical occurrence data for state-listed T&E species were provided to the Water Resources Division (WRD) by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). These data are not based on a comprehensive inventory of the state. The lack of data for any geographical area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present. In addition, although the MNFI maintains high standards of quality control, there is no warranty as to the fitness of the data for any purpose, nor that the data are necessarily accurate or complete.*

The only way to obtain a definitive statement on the status of threatened and endangered species is to have a qualified biologist perform a complete field survey of the proposed project area. Under Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, . . . fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an endangered species permit from the MDNR. The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development but may require alterations to the project. To obtain or submit an endangered species permit, please contact Ms. Casey Reitz, MDNR, at 517-284-6210 or ReitzC@Michigan.gov.

This review does not include a comprehensive search for federally listed species. The project location must be screened using the self-service USFWS IPaC website. If your project will potentially impact a federally listed T&E species, you should contact USFWS Ecological Services Field Office at 517-351-2555 or eastlansing@fws.gov to begin the consultation process. If your project requires a permit from the WRD, the application submission should include documentation from USFWS of concurrence/approval.

This letter does not include a review of potential lake, stream, wetland, or floodplain impacts caused by your project that may require a permit from our office. A copy of this letter should be provided as an attachment to any future Joint Permit Application submitted for this location. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at PrysbyM1@Michigan.gov or 517-899-7316.

Sincerely,

Michael Prysby, P.E.
Transportation Review Unit
Water Resources Division

cc: USFWS
Ms. Casey Reitz, MDNR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

AARON B. KEATLEY
ACTING DIRECTOR

May 22, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Jeffrey Herczeg
City of Novi
26300 Lee Begole Drive
Novi, Michigan 48375

Dear Jeffrey Herczeg:

SUBJECT: Transportation Preliminary Database Search
Project Name: Beck Road Project
Site Name: 63 - Beck Road Widening
Submission Number: HP7-99XN-7SF9R
Location: T01N, R08E, Section 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32 & 33 in Oakland County

This letter provides the results of the Transportation Threatened & Endangered (T&E) Species Database Search that was requested on May 4, 2023, for the above subject project. As part of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Local Agency Threatened & Endangered Species Review Process, projects receiving federal funding must be cleared for all impacts to state and federally-listed T&E species. The EGLE T&E database search includes the following concerns within 500-feet of the project location:

- Occurrences of state-listed threatened or endangered (T&E) species within the MNFI database*
- Tier 1 Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (EMR) designated habitat
- Michigan Mussel Protocol Group 1/Group 2 (state-listed) T&E Mussels

The following T&E species are listed in the database as having been observed within 500 feet of your project area:

Species intersects at the northern end of the project range.

- Pyrgulopsis letsoni

** Occurrence data for state-listed T&E species were provided to the Water Resources Division (WRD) by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). These data are not based on a comprehensive inventory of the state. The lack of data for any geographical area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present. In addition, although the MNFI maintains high standards of quality control, there is no warranty as to the fitness of the data for any purpose, nor that the data are necessarily accurate or complete.*

The only way to obtain a definitive statement on the status of threatened and endangered species is to have a qualified biologist perform a complete field survey of the proposed project area. Under Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, "a person shall not take, possess, transport,. . . fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an endangered species permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development but may require alterations to the project. To obtain or submit an endangered species permit, please contact Amy Bleisch, MDNR, at 517-449-4630 or BleischA@Michigan.gov;

This review does not include a search for federally listed species. Pursuant to the MDOT Local Agency Threatened & Endangered Species Review Process, the project owner must also screen the project location using the self-service United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC website. If your project will potentially impact a federally listed T&E species, you should contact USFWS Ecological Services Field Office at 517-351-2555 or eastlansing@fws.gov to begin the consultation process. If your project requires a permit from the WRD, the application submission should include documentation from USFWS of concurrence/approval.

This letter does not include a review of potential lake, stream, wetland, or floodplain impacts caused by your project that may require a permit from our office. A copy of this letter should be provided as an attachment to any future Joint Permit Application submitted for this location. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at MatejewskiR@Michigan.gov; or 517-331-2913.

Sincerely,

Rachel Matejewski

Rachel Matejewski
Transportation Review Unit
Water Resources Division

cc: USFWS
Amy Bleisch, MDNR

From: Skubinna, John (EGLE)
To: VanWoert, Nick
Cc: jherczeg@cityofnovi.org; Burns, Jim; Leopold, Bill
Subject: vpr 63 Beck Rd Reconstruction; Pontiac Trail to 9 Mile Rd
Date: Friday, December 8, 2023 3:54:03 PM
Attachments: Culvert and Wetland Table Beck Rd Reconstruction.xlsx

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Hi Nick,

Thanks for meeting on-site on October 25 to review this project. I have compiled my field notes, and finalized jurisdictional determinations for this project. The attached spreadsheet is a summary of those determinations.

After reviewing aerial imagery, and other GIS data, I have confirmed all of the jurisdictional determinations that we discussed on-site for both wetlands, and culverts along the route. There are no changes from what we discussed on-site.

Wetlands:

In the comments column of the wetlands spreadsheet, I've noted any location where we adjusted the wetland delineation while on-site. There also were no changes in those adjustments from what we discussed on-site after reviewing aerial imagery. They are as follows:

Wetland 5: Was not delineated, but does not need to be delineated, because it is an exempt stormwater basin.
Wetland 7: Is exempt wetland within the railroad roadside ditch, except a portion of the wetland that is approx. 70 ft. SE of Beck Rd, and likely outside project limits.
Wetland 12: The northern half of this wetland was regulated. The southern half was exempt wetland within roadside ditch.
Wetland 55: Was not delineated, and is regulated. So it should be delineated and shown on project plans.

All other delineations were accurate.

There were several locations where structures, or ditch/drainage features along the existing roadway were acting as hydraulic control of adjacent regulated wetland. In these locations, care will need to be taken to ensure that secondary hydrology impacts do not occur as a result of completing the project. The locations are as follows:

Wetland 44: The hydraulic control of this wetland is the ditch/swale present immediately upstream of the wetland equalization culvert (WEC). The Wetland 44/52 WEC culvert is not the hydraulic control. So modification of the design of the WEC will not likely impact the hydrology of the wetland. However, modifying the ditch/swale immediately upstream of the culvert will. If there is a need to modify this ditch/swale, care will need to taken to replicate its depth, width, and bottom elevations with a similar feature along the side of the new roadway.

Wetland 46: This wetland has a water control weir structure at the entrance of the WEC. In this case, if that water control structure needs to be replaced, or relocated to accommodate the new road design, it should be replaced with a structure with the same size, weir elevations, and hydraulic capacity.

Wetland 53: The hydraulic control of this wetland is the Beck Rd west roadside ditch where it exits the wetland. If it is necessary to modify this ditch, that will be a regulated activity, and the new roadside ditch should be designed with the same width, depth, and bottom elevations to replicate the hydraulic characteristics of the existing ditch where it exits the wetland.

There were several wetlands that had existing boardwalks acting as the sidewalk through the wetland: Wetlands 32, 33, 38, and 46. Replacing these boardwalks will be regulated under Part 303, so they should be included in your permit application. As a general rule of thumb, if the impact to an individual wetland exceeds Minor Project criteria for pathways (0.10 acres) for construction of a sidewalk, then boardwalk should be used to cross the wetland with a sidewalk. If the impact to an individual wetland is < 0.10 acres, then the sidewalk can be designed with fill in the wetland, and does not need to be boardwalk.

There were also several wetlands that were located within existing Conservation Easements (CE) held by EGLE: Wetlands 25, 27, 38, 50, and 51. With the exception of the CE at Wetland 27, our GIS data indicates that the existing sidewalks/boardwalks through these wetlands are outside of the boundary of the CE. However, the boundary appears to be located on the immediate outside edge of the sidewalk/boardwalk. We will request that the slope stake line of the project does not cross over the CE boundary at these locations. So care will need to be taken to design the sidewalks/boardwalks so that construction does not cross into the CE.

The location where there was some space between the CE boundary and the sidewalk was Wetland 27 where the CE boundary appeared to be approx. 50 ft. west of the wetland boundary.

This will need to be confirmed when the plans are developed for this project. The CE boundaries at all of these locations should be located, surveyed, and included on project plans, so that it is clear where the slope stake line of the project is relative to the CE boundary on the plans.

<u>Culverts:</u>

Culverts crossing Beck Rd at the Novi-Lyon Drain Branch #1 (stream 1), and the Tributary of the Novi-Lyon Drain Branch #1 (stream 2) were determined to be stream culverts regulated under Part 301. Culverts crossing Beck Rd between Wetlands 44 and 52, and crossing 9 Mile Rd between Wetlands

46 and 52 were confirmed to be WEC regulated under Part 303. The culvert crossing Beck Rd at Stream 3 was determined to be a stormwater outfall regulated under Part 301.

When replacing the Stream 3 stormwater outfall, we will not be particular about the design of the culvert, as long as its replacement is not perched.

Comments on replacing the 2 WEC are included above in the Wetlands section.

Novi-Lyon Drain Branch #1 Culvert crossing (stream 1): Field notes from our inspection of this culvert are also attached. The stream at this location was a mildly unstable F-Channel stream with low power. Both the Beck Rd culvert, and the sidewalk culvert appeared to be undersized, and having a mild impact on stability. So if replacing these structures our recommendation is that they span the bankfull width of the stream (5 ft.), have the same alignment as the existing culverts, and have invert elevations below the stream bottom elevation so that natural material establishes in the bottom of the culvert.

The drainage area of this culvert is likely under 2 sq. mi., so it is not likely regulated under Part 31 Floodplains. If the sidewalk culvert and Beck Rd culvert are combined into one culvert, or the proposed culvert is increased in length > 10 ft., the replacement culvert size should be increase proportionally so that the new culvert has similar hydraulic capacity as the existing culvert. We will not require hydraulic modeling at this location, so it does not need to be exactly the same. But should be relatively close to the hydraulic capacity as the existing culvert.

Tributary of the Novi-Lyon Drain Branch #1 (stream 2): Field notes from our inspection of this culvert are also attached. This stream was barely a stream. It barely had enough power to maintain a stream channel upstream of the culvert, and downstream of the culvert the stream channel disappeared into Wetland 38. So the existing culvert was having no impact on stream channel stability.

The existing culvert spanned bankfull (3 ft.). So we do not recommend any changes in design of this culvert, other than to approximate the same hydraulic capacity if lengthening the culvert, as discussed above for the Stream 1 culvert.

We have screened this project for potential T&E species impacts, and did not find any, other than T&E bats, Northern Longeared Bat, and Indiana Bat. So you will need to screen this project using the on-line USFWS iPAC screening tool, and provide the USFWS clearance letter generated from this process for T&E bats.

Fisheries Div is likely to request work limitations for the replacement of the Stream 1 culvert of the Novi-Lyon Drain Branch #1 from May 1 – June 30. But are unlikely to request work limitations for any of the other culvert crossings.

This is a big project, and much to digest in these comments. So if you have questions, or would like to discuss alternatives as you are working on design, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

John Skubinna
Transportation Review Unit
WRD-EGLE
517-256-1469

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Nick VanWoert
AECOM
3950 Sparks Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

September 28, 2023

Re: Rare Species Review #4680 – Beck Road Project, Oakland County, MI

Hello:

The location for the proposed project was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) natural heritage database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of existing data on Michigan's endangered, threatened, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, natural plant communities, and other natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features. The absence of records in the database for a particular site may mean that the site has not been surveyed. The only way to obtain a definitive statement on the status of natural features is to have a competent biologist perform a complete field survey.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, …fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Wildlife Division. Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the lists below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.

Several at-risk species and/or natural communities have been documented within 1.5 miles of the project location and it is possible that adverse impacts will occur. This response reflects a desktop review of the database and MNFI cannot fully evaluate this project without visiting the area. MNFI offers several levels of Rare Species Reviews, including field surveys which I would be happy to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Sanders

Michael Sanders
Environmental Review Specialist/Zoologist
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

MSU EXTENSION

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

PO Box 13036
Lansing MI 48901

(517) 284-6200
Fax (517) 373-9566

mnfi.anr.msu.edu

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

Comments for Rare Species Review #4680:

It is important to note that it is the applicant's responsibility to comply with both state and federal threatened and endangered species legislation. Therefore, if a state listed species occurs at a project site, and you think you need an endangered species permit please contact: Casey Reitz, DNR-Wildlife Division, 517-284-6210, or ReitzC@michigan.gov. If a federally listed species is involved and, you think a permit is needed, please contact Jessica Pruden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing office, 517-351-8316, or Jessica_Pruden@fws.gov.

NOTE: Special concern species and natural communities are not protected under endangered species legislation, but efforts should be taken to minimize any or all impacts. Please consult MNFI's Rare Species Explorer for additional information on Michigan's rare plants and animals.

Table 1: Occurrences of Threatened & Endangered Species within 1.5 miles of Project Site

Element Category	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	G Rank	S Rank	EO Rank	First Observed Date	Last Observed Date
Animal	*Clinostomus elongatus*	Redside dace		E	G3G4	S2	BC	1991-06	2012-05-25
Plant	*Hydrastis canadensis*	Goldenseal		T	G3G4	S2	H	1925	1925-06-04
Plant	*Galearis spectabilis*	Showy orchis		T	G5	S2	H	1917	1917-06-15
Plant	*Galearis spectabilis*	Showy orchis		T	G5	S2	B	1928	1928-05-22
Plant	*Cypripedium candidum*	White lady slipper		T	G4	S2	H	1927	1928-06-03
Animal	*Sistrurus catenatus*	Eastern massasauga	LT	T	G3	S3	CD	1994	1995
Animal	*Sistrurus catenatus*	Eastern massasauga	LT	T	G3	S3	D	1988	2009-06-16
Animal	*Myotis lucifugus*	Little brown bat		T	G3G4	S1	H	1921-07-25	1928-08-09
Plant	*Panax quinquefolius*	Ginseng		T	G3G4	S2S3	H	1977-08	1977-08

Comments for Table 1:

Eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*)

Habitat

Known to occur in the area. Eastern Massasaugas have been found in a variety of wetland habitats. Populations in southern Michigan are typically associated with open wetlands, particularly prairie fens, while those in northern Michigan are known from open wetlands and lowland coniferous forests, such as cedar swamps. Some populations of Eastern Massasaugas also utilize open uplands and/or forest openings for foraging, basking, gestation and parturition (i.e., giving birth to young). Massasaugas usually hibernate below the frost line in crayfish or small mammal burrows, tree root networks or rock crevices in or along the edge of wetlands or in upland areas with presumably high water tables. Massasauga habitats generally appear to be characterized by the following: (1) open, sunny areas intermixed with shaded

areas, presumably for thermoregulation; (2) presence of the water table near the surface for hibernation; and (3) variable elevations between adjoining lowland and upland habitats.

Management Recommendations

Protection of extant populations and suitable wetland and adjacent upland habitats is crucial for successful conservation of the Eastern Massasauga. Maintaining or restoring open habitat conditions is critical for this species. Fragmentation of suitable wetland-upland habitat complexes by roads or other barriers should be avoided or minimized. Land management practices such as timber harvesting, mowing, disking or prescribed burning should be conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to massasaugas (e.g., conducting management activities during the snakes' inactive season (November through early March) or on days when snakes are less likely to be active on the surface during the active season). Protecting suitable hibernation sites also is critical. Hydrological alterations such as drawdowns should be conducted prior to or after hibernation to reduce the potential for causing winter mortality due to desiccation or freezing. Sudden and/or permanent increases or decreases in water levels during the active season also can cause adverse impacts. Education and outreach efforts to raise public awareness and understanding of the Eastern Massasauga also are critical for conserving this species. Any suspected illegal collection of Eastern Massasaugas should be reported to local authorities. Massasaugas that need to be moved or translocated should be relocated to suitable habitat as close to where snakes were found and ideally within the snake's home range and within the same wetland complex.

For more information, see the *Sistrurus catenatus* species page on the MNFI website.

Table 2: Occurrences of Special Concern Species and Natural Communities within 1.5 miles of Project Site

Element Category	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	G Rank	S Rank	EO Rank	First Observed Date	Last Observed Date
Animal	*Pyrgulopsis letsoni*	Gravel pyrg		SC	GU	SH	H	1943	1943
Plant	*Carex richardsonii*	Richardson's sedge		SC	G5	S3S4	H	1964	1964-05-10
Plant	*Prosartes maculata*	Nodding mandarin		X	G4	SX	X	1922	1922-05-07
Plant	*Astragalus canadensis*	Canadian milk vetch		SC	G5	S1S2	H	1875	1914-07-19
Animal	*Cistothorus palustris*	Marsh wren		SC	G5	S3	E	2006-06-02	2006-06-02
Animal	*Pandion haliaetus*	Osprey		SC	G5	S4	E	2016	2019
Animal	*Pandion haliaetus*	Osprey		SC	G5	S4	E	2016	2019

Animal	*Emydoidea blandingii*	Blanding's turtle		SC	G4	S2S3	E	2014-06-08	2014-06-08
Animal	*Lithobates palustris*	Pickerel frog		SC	G5	S3S4	H	1996-04-18	1997-04-04
Animal	*Emydoidea blandingii*	Blanding's turtle		SC	G4	S2S3	E	2019-07-09	2019-07-09
Animal	*Emydoidea blandingii*	Blanding's turtle		SC	G4	S2S3	E	2021-04-15	2021-04-15

Comments for Table 2:

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

Habitat

Known to occur in the area, Blanding's Turtles inhabit clean, shallow waters with abundant aquatic vegetation and soft muddy bottoms over firm substrates. This species is found in ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs, wet prairies, river backwaters, embayments, sloughs, slow-moving rivers, and lake shallows and inlets. Blanding's Turtles also occupy terrestrial habitats in the spring and summer during the mating and nesting seasons and in the fall to a lesser extent. Females nest in open uplands adjacent to wetland habitats, preferring sunny areas with moist but well-drained sandy or loamy soil. They will nest in lawns, gardens, plowed fields or even gravel road embankments if suitable natural nesting habitat is not available.

Management Recommendations

The most critical conservation need for this species is protection and management of suitable wetland and adjacent upland habitats. Maintaining good water quality, restricting herbicide and pesticide use in or near wetlands, implementing minimum development set-back distances, leaving buffer zones during timber harvest, grazing and agricultural operations, and minimizing the construction of roads in or near suitable wetlands would be beneficial to this species. Timber harvesting can benefit this species by creating or maintaining open habitat conditions for thermoregulation and nesting. Minimizing adult mortality or removal is crucial for population viability given this species' life history. Thus, habitat management activities should be conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the potential for causing take of adults (e.g., timber harvesting during the inactive season). Minimizing road mortality and illegal collection also would beneficial to this species. In some cases, on-site protection of nest sites and predator control may be necessary to facilitate or increase successful reproduction or population recruitment.

For more information, see the *Emydoidea blandingii* species page on the MNFI website.

Codes to accompany table

State Protection Status Code Definitions
E = Endangered
T = Threatened
SC = Special concern

Federal Protection Status Code Definitions
LE = listed endangered
LT = listed threatened
LELT = partly listed endangered and partly listed threatened
PDL = proposed delist
E(S/A) = endangered based on similarities/appearance
PS = partial status (federally listed in only part of its range)
C = species being considered for federal status

Global Heritage Status Rank Definitions (G RANK)
The priority assigned by NatureServe's national office for data collection and protection based upon the element's status throughout its entire world-wide range. Criteria not based only on number of occurrences; other critical factors also apply. Note that ranks are frequently combined.
G1 = critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences range-wide or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
G2 = imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g. a single western state, a physiographic region in the East) or because of other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range; in terms of occurrences, in the range of 21 to 100.
G4 = Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
Q = Taxonomy uncertain

State Heritage Status Rank Definitions (S RANK)
The priority assigned by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory for data collection and protection based upon the element's status within the state. Criteria not based only on number of occurrences; other critical factors also apply. Note that ranks are frequently combined.
S1 = Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation in the state.
S2 = Imperiled in state because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state.
S3 = Rare or uncommon in state (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences). S4 = apparently secure in state, with many occurrences.
S5 = demonstrably secure in state and essentially ineradicable under present conditions.
SX = apparently extirpated from state.

EO Rank Codes

Element Occurrence (EO) ranks refer to the viability or ecological integrity of the occurrence; they provide an assessment of the likelihood that if current conditions prevail the EO will persist for a defined period of time, typically 20-100 years.

A - Excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
A? - Possibly excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
AB - Excellent or good estimated viability/ecological integrity
AC - Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
B - Good estimated viability/ecological integrity
B? - Possibly good estimated viability/ecological integrity
BC - Good or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
BD - Good, fair, or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
C - Fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
C? - Possibly fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
CD - Fair or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
D - Poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
D? - Possibly poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
E - Verified extant (viability/ecological integrity not assessed)
F - Failed to find
F? - Possibly failed to find
H - Historical
H? - Possibly historical
X - Extirpated
X? - Possibly extirpated
U - Unrankable
NR - Not ranked

Section 7 Comments for Rare Species Review #4680
Beck Road Project, Oakland County, MI
Nick VanWoert
AECOM
3950 Sparks Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

September 28, 2023

For projects involving Federal funding or a federal agency authorization

The following information is provided to assist you with Section 7 compliance of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA directs all Federal agencies "to work to conserve endangered and threatened species. Section 7 of the ESA, called "Interagency Cooperation," is the means by which Federal agencies ensure their actions, including those they authorize or fund, do not jeopardize the existence of any listed species."

The project falls within the range of the following federally listed/proposed/candidate species which have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to occur in Oakland County, Michigan:

Federally Endangered

Indiana bat - there appears to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) are found only in the eastern United States and are typically confined to the southern three tiers of counties in Michigan. Indiana bats that summer in Michigan winter in caves in Indiana and Kentucky. This species forms colonies and forages in riparian and mature floodplain habitats. Nursery roost sites are usually located under loose bark or in hollows of trees near riparian habitat. Indiana bats typically avoid houses or other artificial structures and typically roost underneath loose bark of dead elm, maple, and ash trees. Other dead trees used include oak, hickory, and cottonwood. Foraging typically occurs over slow-moving, wooded streams and rivers as well as in the canopy of mature trees. Movements may also extend into the outer edge of the floodplain and to nearby solitary trees. A summer colony's foraging area usually encompasses a stretch of stream over a half-mile in length. Upland areas isolated from floodplains and non-wooded streams are generally avoided.

Management and Conservation: the suggested seasonal tree cutting range for Indiana bat is between October 1 and March 31 (i.e., no cutting April 1-September 30). This applies throughout the Indiana bat range in Michigan.

Poweshiek skipperling - there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. In Michigan, the poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek)* inhabits alkaline wetlands known as fens. This habitat is characterized by scattered tamaracks, poison sumac, and dogwood clones with a ground cover of sedges and other herbaceous species. This rare insect has a single generation each year. Egg laying is believed to occur on sedges and rushes sometime around early July. Poweshiek larvae (caterpillar stage) hibernate through the winter on the food source on which they have been feeding on. In early April, they become active and continue developing until they pupate and emerge as adult butterflies. Adults have a lifespan of only 1-2 weeks and can be seen in late June through the first three weeks of July. Nectar plants include black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and palespike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*).

Management and Conservation: the primary threat to the continued survival of this species is habitat loss and modification. Many of the wetland complexes occupied currently have been altered or drained for agriculture or development. Wetland alteration also can lead to invasion by exotic plant species such as glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and the common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Snuffbox – there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. The snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra)* inhabits rivers and streams with cobble, gravel, or sand bottoms in swift currents and usually is deeply buried in the substrate. Freshwater mussels require a fish host to complete their life cycle. Eggs are fertilized and develop into larvae within the gills of the female mussel. These larvae, called glochidia, are released into the water and must attach to a suitable fish host to survive and transform into the adult mussel. In Michigan, the only host fish known for snuffbox is the log perch (*Percina caprodes*). In other parts of their range the banded sculpin (*Cottus carolinae*) is also a known host. After completing the parasitic stage and reaching adulthood, this mussel remains relatively sessile on the river bottom, living between 8-10 years. The best time to survey for snuffbox is April through September.

Management and Conservation: this mussel is sensitive to river impoundment, siltation, and disturbance, due to its requirement for clean, swift current and relative immobility as an adult. To maintain the current populations in Michigan, rivers need to be protected to reduce silt loading and run-off. Maintaining or establishing vegetated riparian buffers can aid in controlling many of the threats to mussels. Control of zebra mussels is critical to preserving native mussels. And as with all mussels, protection of their hosts habitat is also crucial. Because the life cycle of the snuffbox is inherently linked with that of the logperch in Michigan, conservation and management of this fish species is needed to ensure that of the snuffbox.

Rayed bean – there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. The rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*) mussel typically inhabits smaller, headwater creeks and streams, but can also be found in larger rivers and glacial lakes. It prefers sand or gravel substrates and is often found around roots of aquatic vegetation. Limits of the breeding season are not known but gravid specimens have been found in May. Freshwater mussels require a fish host to complete their life cycle. Eggs are fertilized and develop into larvae within the gills of the female mussel. These larvae, called glochidia, are released into the water and must attach to a suitable fish host to survive and transform into the adult mussel. This small mussel is usually less than 1.5 inches long. The smooth textured shell is green, yellowish-green, or brown with several dark green lines. The rayed bean mussel has experienced a 73 percent reduction across its range. Dams and pollution have contributed to this reduction.

Management and Conservation: the rayed bean is historically rare in Michigan. Like other mussels, threats to the rayed bean include: natural flow alterations, siltation, channel disturbance, point and non-point source pollution, and exotic species. Maintenance or establishment of vegetated riparian buffers can help protect mussel habitats from many of their threats. Control of zebra mussels is critical to preserving native mussels. And as with all mussels, protection of their hosts habitat is also crucial.

Northern long-eared bat - Northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) numbers in the northeast US have declined up to 99 percent. Loss or degradation of summer habitat, wind turbines, disturbance to hibernacula, predation, and pesticides have contributed to declines in Northern long-eared bat populations. However, no other threat has been as severe to the decline as White-nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is a fungus that thrives in the cold, damp conditions in caves and mines where bats hibernate. The disease is believed to disrupt the hibernation cycle by causing bats to repeatedly awake thereby depleting vital energy reserves. This species was federally listed in May 2015 primarily due to the threat from WNS.

Although no known hibernacula or roost trees have been documented within 1.5 miles of the project areas, this activity occurs within the designated WNS zone (i.e., within 150 miles of positive counties/districts impacted by WNS. Also, there appears to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project.

Also called northern bat or northern myotis, this bat is distinguished from other *Myotis* species by its long ears. In Michigan, northern long-eared bats hibernate in abandoned mines and caves in the Upper Peninsula; they also commonly hibernate in the Tippy Dam spillway in Manistee County. This species is a regional migrant with migratory distance largely determined by locations of suitable hibernacula sites.

Northern long-eared bats typically roost and forage in forested areas. During the summer, these bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both living and dead trees. Roost trees are selected based on the suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. Common roost trees in southern Lower Michigan include species

of ash, elm and maple. Foraging occurs primarily in areas along woodland edges, woodland clearings and over small woodland ponds. Moths, beetles and small flies are common food items. Like all temperate bats this species typically produces only 1-2 young per year.

Management and Conservation: when there are no known roost trees or hibernacula in the project area, we encourage you to conduct tree-cutting activities and prescribed burns in forested areas during October 1 through March 31. When that is not possible, remove trees prior to June 1 or after July 31 to help protect young bats that may be in forested areas but are not yet able to fly.

Federally Threatened

Eastern prairie fringed orchid – there does not appear to be suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of the project. The federally threatened and state endangered prairie fringed orchid *(Platanthera leucophaea)* occurs in two distinct habitats in Michigan - wet prairies and bogs. It thrives best in the lakeplain wet or wet-mesic prairies that border Saginaw Bay and Lake Erie. This species frequently persists in degraded prairie remnants, ditches, railroad rights-of-ways, fallow agricultural fields, and similar habitats where artificial disturbance creates a moist mineral surface conducive to germination.

Unlike many other *Platanthera* species, *P. leucophaea* is long-lived, with individuals documented to live more than 30 years. Flowering occurs during late June through early July. The white blossoms produce a heavy fragrance at dusk that attracts many moths, including the primary pollinators of *P. leucophaea*, hawkmoths (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae). Hawkmoths are likely co-adapted pollinators, since their tongues are long enough to reach the nectar that lies deep in the spur of the flower. Capsules mature in September, releasing hundreds of thousands of airborne seeds. Plants may not flower every year but frequently produce only a single leaf above ground, possibly even becoming dormant when conditions are unsuitable, such as the onset of drought.

Management and Conservation: this species requires the maintenance of natural hydrological cycles and open habitat. Activities such as shrub removal are likely to benefit the species, but other management such as prescribed fire is not well understood. Caution and proper monitoring should be employed if using prescribed fire in occupied habitat. Spring fires should be conducted prior to emergence (mid-April). Poaching is also a threat.

Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR) – T**he project falls near EMR Tier 1 Habitat** as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see spatial data). Tier 1 Habitat represents areas known to be occupied by EMR or highly likely to be occupied. The federally threatened and state special concern eastern massasauga rattlesnake *(Sistrurus catenatus)* is Michigan's only venomous snake and is found in a variety of wetland habitats including bogs, fens, shrub swamps, wet meadows, marshes, moist grasslands, wet prairies, and floodplain forests. Eastern massasaugas occur throughout the Lower Peninsula but are not found in the Upper Peninsula. Populations in southern Michigan are typically associated with open wetlands, particularly prairie fens, while those in northern Michigan are better known from lowland coniferous forests, such as cedar swamps. These snakes normally overwinter in crayfish or small mammal burrows often close to the groundwater level and emerge in spring as water levels rise. During late spring, these snakes move into adjacent uplands they spend the warmer months foraging in shrubby fields and grasslands in search of mice and voles, their favorite food.

Often described as "shy and sluggish", these snakes avoid human confrontation and are not prone to strike, preferring to leave the area when they are threatened. However, like any wild animal, they will protect themselves from anything they see as a potential predator. Their short fangs can easily puncture skin and they do possess potent venom. Like many snakes, the first human reaction may be to kill the snake, but it is important to remember that all snakes play vital roles in the ecosystem. Some may eat harmful insects. Others like the massasauga consider rodents a delicacy and help control their population. Snakes are also a part of a larger food web and can provide food to eagles, herons, and several mammals.

Management and Conservation: maintaining or restoring open habitat conditions is critical for this species. Fragmentation of suitable wetland-upland habitat complexes by roads or other barriers should be avoided or minimized.

Land management practices such as timber harvesting, mowing, disking or prescribed burning should be conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to massasaugas (e.g., conducting management activities during the snakes' inactive season (November through early March) or on days when snakes are less likely to be active on the surface during the active season). Protecting suitable hibernation sites also is critical. Hydrological alterations such as drawdowns should be conducted prior to or after hibernation to reduce the potential for causing winter mortality due to desiccation or freezing. Sudden and/or permanent increases or decreases in water levels during the active season also can cause adverse impacts.

USFWS Section 7 Consultation Technical Assistance can be found at:

https://www.fws.gov/service/esa-section-7-consultation

The website offers step-by-step instructions to guide you through the Section 7 consultation process with prepared templates for documenting "no effect." as well as requesting concurrence on "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" determinations.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Michael Sanders
Environmental Review Specialist/Zoologist
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823-6360
Phone: (517) 351-2555 Fax: (517) 351-1443

In Reply Refer To: 11/14/2024 14:51:03 UTC
Project Code: 2023-0075804
Project Name: Beck Road Widening

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Official Species List
The attached species list identifies any Federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes designated critical habitat if present within your proposed project area or affected by your project. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement section 7 of the Endangered Species Act), the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. You may verify the list by visiting the IPaC website (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation. To update an Official Species List in IPaC: from the My Projects page, find the project, expand the row, and click Project Home. In the What's Next box on the Project Home page, there is a Request Updated List button to update your species list. Be sure to select an "official" species list for all projects.

Consultation requirements and next steps
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize Federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-Federal representative) must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service if they determine their project may affect listed species or critical habitat.

There are two approaches to evaluating the effects of a project on listed species.

Approach 1. Use the All-species Michigan determination key in IPaC. This tool can assist you in making determinations for listed species for some projects. In many cases, the determination key

will provide an automated concurrence that completes all or significant parts of the consultation process. Therefore, we strongly recommend screening your project with the **All-Species Michigan Determination Key (Dkey)**. For additional information on using IPaC and available Determination Keys, visit https://www.fws.gov/media/mifo-ipac-instructions (and click on the attachment), or for a video overview, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfcerNCiL0I. Please carefully review your Dkey output letter to determine whether additional steps are needed to complete the consultation process.

Approach 2. Evaluate the effects to listed species on your own without utilizing a determination key. Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC, although in most cases using a determination key should expedite your review. If the project is a Federal action, you should review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations: https://www.fws.gov/office/midwest-region-headquarters/midwest-section-7-technical-assistance. If you evaluate the details of your project and conclude "no effect," document your findings, and your listed species review is complete; you do not need our concurrence on "no effect" determinations. If you cannot conclude "no effect," you should coordinate/consult with the Michigan Ecological Services Field Office. The preferred method for submitting your project description and effects determination (if concurrence is needed) is electronically to EastLansing@fws.gov. Please include a copy of this official species list with your request.

For all **wind energy projects**, please contact this field office directly for assistance, even if no Federally listed plants, animals or critical habitat are present within your proposed project area or may be affected by your proposed project.

Migratory Birds
Please see the "Migratory Birds" section below for important information regarding incorporating migratory birds into your project planning. Our Migratory Bird Program has developed recommendations, best practices, and other tools to help project proponents voluntarily reduce impacts to birds and their habitats. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits the take and disturbance of eagles without a permit. If your project is near an eagle nest or winter roost area, see our Eagle Permits website at https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management to help you avoid impacting eagles or determine if a permit may be necessary.

Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your consideration of threatened and endangered species during your project

planning. Please include a copy of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

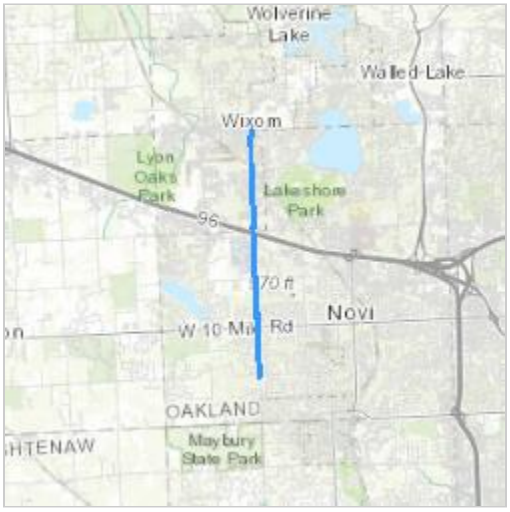
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823-6360
(517) 351-2555

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0075804
Project Name: Beck Road Widening
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: The Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, funded under FY 2022 Community Project Funding (Demo ID MI324), focuses on widening Beck Road from 11 Mile Road to Grand River Avenue to include two lanes in each direction, a center turn lane, and potential right turn lanes. Roundabouts, a new bridge over the CSX railroad crossing, and various infrastructure improvements such as drainage, multi-use paths, and wetland mitigation are also under consideration. Additional right-of-way may be required for these enhancements.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@42.487159199999994,-83.51535769085177,14z



Counties: Oakland County, Michigan

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/5UHUF2NMRBG4FGJ7CFHLJKUEHM/documents/generated/6982.pdf	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) *Sistrurus catenatus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: ▪ For all Projects: Project is within EMR Range Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/5UHUF2NMRBG4FGJ7CFHLJKUEHM/documents/generated/5280.pdf	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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1. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds elsewhere

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

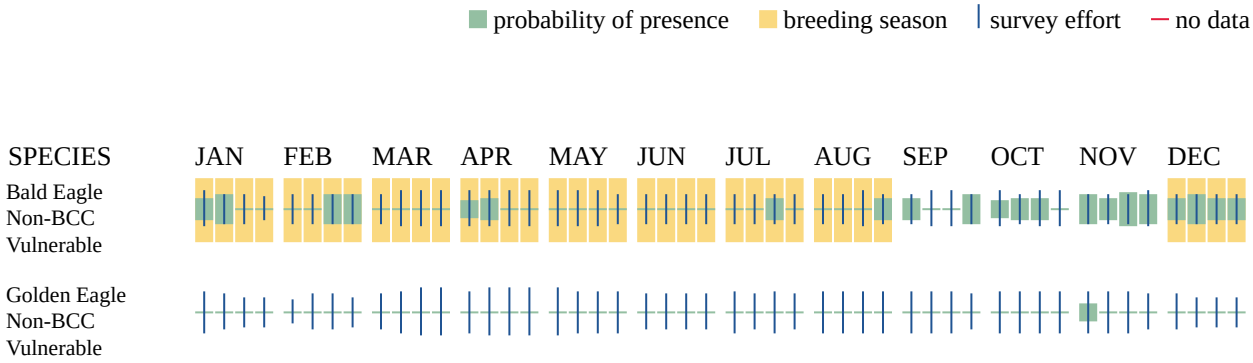
Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management

- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamenisis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974	Breeds Apr 22 to Jul 20
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds elsewhere
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Henslow's Sparrow *Centronyx henslowii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561	Breeds elsewhere
Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9294	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

WETLANDS

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM5Cd
- PEM1F
- PEM5Cx
- PEM1Cd
- PEM5C
- PEM1C

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1Cd
- PFO1/SS1D
- PSS1D
- PSS1C
- PFO1C

RIVERINE

- R2UBFx
- R2UBH

FRESHWATER POND

- PABHx
- PUBHx

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Josh Hall
Address: 3950 Sparks Dr SE
City: Grand Rapids
State: MI
Zip: 49546
Email josh.hall@aecom.com
Phone: 5172401603

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Novi city
Name: Dana Reinke
Email: Dana.Reinke@dot.gov
Phone: 5177021836

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823-6360
Phone: (517) 351-2555 Fax: (517) 351-1443

In Reply Refer To: 11/14/2024 15:12:07 UTC
Project code: 2023-0075804
Project Name: Beck Road Widening

Subject: Consistency letter for 'Beck Road Widening' for specified federally threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your proposed project area consistent with the Michigan Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species (Michigan Dkey).

Dear Josh Hall:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **November 14, 2024** your effect determination(s) for the 'Beck Road Widening' (the Action) using the Michigan DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Michigan DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) (*Sistrurus catenatus*)	Threatened	May affect
Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)	Endangered	NLAA
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)	Candidate	No effect
Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)	Proposed Endangered	No effect
Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)	Experimental Population, Non-Essential	No effect

Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act requirements are not complete.

Eastern Massasauga (EMR):
EMR may be present in the Action area. The following projects are not within the scope of the Michigan DKey: prescribed fire; new roads or trails that create a permanent barrier to EMR movement; projects that alter hydrology permanently, or temporarily if during the inactive season; projects that are large in scale; and projects that do not apply recommended conservation measures. Project-specific review is needed for these types of projects. **Please coordinate with the Michigan Ecological Services Field Office to further evaluate effects of the Action on EMR.**

Northern Long-eared Bat:

Effective March 31, 2023, the northern long-eared bat was reclassified from a threatened species to an endangered species (87 FR 73488, 88 FR 4908). This reclassification changed the northern long-eared bat's protections under the ESA, removing the previous 4(d) rule, as these can only be applied to threatened species. As with the Indiana bat, unpermitted take of northern long-eared bat occurring on or after March 31, 2023, is now prohibited by section 9 of the ESA. To assist with the transition from the 4(d) rule, the Service developed an Interim Consultation Framework that considers projects that are consistent with the 4(d) rule. The Interim Consultation Framework and associated Standing Analysis only consider and address the effects of covered actions that are expected to occur from March 31, 2023 until April 1, 2024; however, we are extending the interim northern long-eared bat tools and guidance until summer 2024 (at which time we expect final tools to be issued). The new tools will be posted on the Service's Northern Long-eared Bat page.

Your project is consistent with a "not likely to adversely affect" determination under the Interim Consultation Framework. If new information about your action indicates listed bats may be present and adversely affected in a manner not considered as part of this consultation, please reinitiate consultation with our office. For more information on how to avoid adverse effects to listed bats, please refer to the guidance available on the Service's Northern Long-eared Bat page.

Bats of Conservation Concern:
Implementing protective measures for bats, including both federally listed and non-listed species, indirectly helps to protect Michigan's agriculture and forests. Bats are significant predators of nocturnal insects, including many crop and forest pests. For example, Whitaker (1995) estimated that a single colony of 150 big brown bats (Eptesicus fuscus) would eat nearly 1.3 million pest insects each year. Boyles et al. (2011) noted the "loss of bats in North America could lead to agricultural losses estimated at more than $3.7 billion/year, and Maine and Boyles (2015) estimated that the suppression of herbivory by insectivorous bats is worth >1 billion USD globally on corn alone. In captive trials, northern long-eared bats were found to significantly reduce the egg-laying activity of mosquitoes, suggesting bats may also play an important role in controlling insect-borne disease (Reiskind and Wund 2009). Mosquitoes have also been found to be a consistent component of the diet of Indiana bats and are eaten most heavily during pregnancy (6.6%; Kurta and Whitaker 1998). Taking proactive steps to help protect bats may be very valuable to agricultural and forest product yields and pest management costs in and around a project area. Such conservation measures include limiting tree clearing during the bat active

season (varies by location) and/or the non-volant period (June through July), when young bats are unable to fly, and minimizing the extent of impacts to forests, wetlands, and riparian habitats.

Bald and Golden Eagles:
Bald eagles, golden eagles, and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits, except when authorized by an Eagle Act permit, the "taking" of bald and golden eagles and defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." The Eagle Act's implementing regulations define disturb as "…to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

If the Action may impact bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Eagle Act may be required. For more information on eagles and conducting activities in the vicinity of an eagle nest, please visit https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/all-about-eagles. In addition, the Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (May 2007) in order to assist landowners in avoiding the disturbance of bald eagles. The full Guidelines are available at https://www.fws.gov/media/national-bald-eagle-management-guidelines-0.

If you have further questions regarding potential impacts to eagles, please contact Chris Mensing, Chris_Mensing@fws.gov or 517-351-2555.

Monarch butterfly and other pollinators
In December 2020, after an extensive status assessment of the monarch butterfly, we determined that listing the monarch under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded by higher priority actions to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Therefore, the Service added the monarch butterfly to the candidate list. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

The Endangered Species Act does not establish protections or consultation requirements for candidate species. Some Federal and State agencies may have policy requirements to consider candidate species in planning. We encourage implementing measures that will remove or reduce threats to these species and possibly make listing unnecessary.

For all projects, we recommend the following best management practices (BMPs) to benefit monarch and other pollinators.

Monarch and Pollinator BMP Recommendations

Consider monarch and other pollinators in your project planning when possible. Many pollinators are declining, including species that pollinate key agricultural crops and help maintain natural plant communities. Planting a diverse group of native plant species will help support the nutritional needs of Michigan's pollinators. We recommend a mix of flowering trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants so that something is always blooming and pollen is available during the active periods of the pollinators, roughly early spring through fall (mid-March to mid-October). To benefit a wide variety of pollinators, choose a wide range of flowers with diverse colors, heights,

structure, and flower shape. It is important to provide host plants for any known butterfly species at your site, including native milkweed for Monarch butterfly. Incorporating a water source (e.g., ephemeral pool or low area) and basking areas (rocks or bare ground) will provide additional resources for pollinators.

Many pollinators need a safe place to build their nests and overwinter. During spring and summer, leave some areas unmowed or minimize the impacts from mowing (e.g., decrease frequency, increase vegetation height). In fall, leave areas unraked and leave plant stems standing. Leave patches of bare soil for ground nesting pollinators.

Avoid or limit pesticide use. Pesticides can kill more than the target pest. Some pesticide residues can kill pollinators for several days after the pesticide is applied. Pesticides can also kill natural predators, which can lead to even worse pest problems.

Planting native wildflowers can also reduce the need to mow and water, improve bank stabilization by reducing erosion, and improve groundwater recharge and water quality.

Resources:

https://www.fws.gov/initiative/monarchs
https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/pollinators

Coordination with the Service is not complete if additional coordination is advised above for any species. Please email our office at MIFO_DKey@fws.gov and attach a copy of this letter, so we can discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

Bat References

Boyles, J.G., P.M. Cryan, G.F. McCracken, T.H. Kunz. 2011. Economic Importance of Bats in Agriculture. Science 332(1):41-42.
Kurta, A. and J.O. Whitaker. 1998. Diet of the Endangered Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) on the Northern Edge of Its Range. The American Midland Naturalist 140(2):280-286.
Reiskind, M.H. and M.A. Wund. 2009. Experimental assessment of the impacts of northern long-eared bats on ovipositing Culex (Diptera: Culicidae) mosquitoes. Journal of Medical Entomology 46(5):1037-1044.
Whitaker, Jr., J.O. 1995. Food of the big brown bat Eptesicus fuscus from maternity colonies in Indiana and Illinois. American Midland Naturalist 134(2):346-360.

Summary of conservation measures for your project You agreed to the following conservation measures to avoid adverse effects to listed species and our concurrence is only valid if the measures are fully implemented. These must be included as permit conditions if a permit is required and/or included in any contract language.

Listed bats: The action will not include temporary or permanent lighting of roadway(s), facility(ies), and/or parking lot(s).

Listed bats: Any cutting/trimming of potential roost trees for northern long-eared bat (trees ≥3 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices, cavities, and/or exfoliating bark) will occur outside the northern long-eared bat summer roosting period (that is, limited to the period of October 1 through April 14). Prescribed fire and/or pesticide/herbicide application will also occur during October 1 through April 14 where potential roost trees are present.

Tree cutting/trimming and/or prescribed burning will not clear ≥20 contiguous acres of forest or fragment a connective corridor between 2 or more forest patches of at least 5 acres.

Listed bats: Any cutting/trimming of potential roost trees for Indiana bat (trees ≥5 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices and/or exfoliating bark) will be limited to the inactive season for Indiana bat (October 1 through April 14). Prescribed fire and/or pesticide application will also occur during the inactive season where potential roost trees are present.

Tree cutting/trimming and/or prescribed burning will not clear ≥10 contiguous acres of modeled forested habitat or fragment a connective corridor between 2 or more forest patches of at least 5 acres.

Listed bats: Tree cutting/trimming and/or prescribed burning will not clear ≥10 contiguous acres of forest (including both modeled and unmodeled potential habitat) or fragment a connective corridor between 2 or more forest patches of at least 5 acres.

Action Description
You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

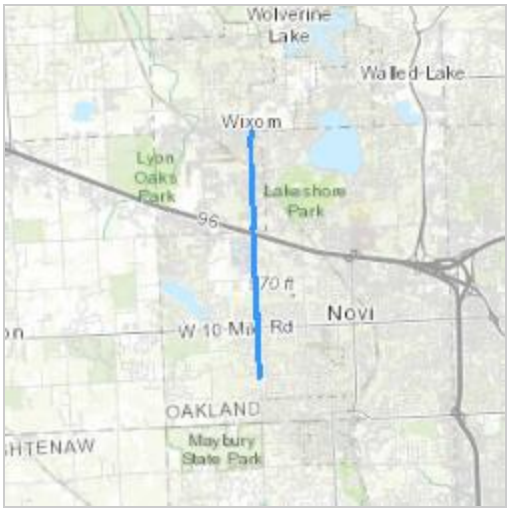
Beck Road Widening

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Beck Road Widening':

> The Beck Road Corridor Improvement Project, funded under FY 2022 Community Project Funding (Demo ID MI324), focuses on widening Beck Road from 11 Mile Road to Grand River Avenue to include two lanes in each direction, a center turn lane, and potential right turn lanes. Roundabouts, a new bridge over the CSX railroad crossing, and various infrastructure improvements such as drainage, multi-use paths, and wetland mitigation are also under consideration. Additional right-of-way may be required for these enhancements.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@42.487159199999994,-83.51535769085177,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Are there any possible effects to any listed species or to designated critical habitat from your project or effects from any other actions or projects subsequently made possible by your project?

   Select "Yes" even if the expected effects to the species or critical habitat are expected to be 1) extremely unlikely (discountable), 2) can't meaningfully be measured, detected, or evaluated (insignificant), or 3) wholly beneficial.

   Select "No" to confirm that the project details and supporting information allow you to conclude that listed species and their habitats will not be exposed to any effects (including discountable, insignificant, or beneficial effects) and therefore, you have made a "no effect" determination for all species. If you are unsure, select YES to answer additional questions about your project.

   Yes

2. This determination key is intended to assist the user in the evaluating the effects of their actions on Federally listed species in Michigan. It does not cover other prohibited activities under the Endangered Species Act (e.g., for wildlife: import/export, Interstate or foreign commerce, possession of illegally taken wildlife, purposeful take for scientific purposes or to enhance the survival of a species, etc.; for plants: import/export, reduce to possession, malicious destruction on Federal lands, commercial sale, etc.) or other statutes. Click yes to acknowledge that you must consider other prohibitions of the ESA or other statutes outside of this determination key.

   Yes

3. Is the action the approval of a long-term (i.e., in effect greater than 10 years) permit, plan, or other action? (e.g., a new or re-issued hydropower license, a large-scale land management plan, or other kinds of documents that provide direction for projects or actions that may be conducted over a long term (>10 years) without the need for additional section 7 consultation).

   No

4. Is the action being funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency?

   Yes

5. Does the action involve the installation or operation of wind turbines?

   No

6. Are there at least 30 days prior to your action occurring? Endangered species consultation must be completed before taking any action that may have effects to listed species. The Service also needs 30 days to review projects before we can verify conclusions in some dkey output letters. For example, if you have already started some components of the project on the ground (e.g., removed vegetation) before completing this key, answer “no” to this question. The only exception is if you have a Michigan Field Office pre-approved emergence survey (i.e., if you have conducted pre-approved emergence surveys for listed bats before tree removal, you can still answer yes to this question).

   Yes

7. Does the action involve constructing a new communications tower or modifying an existing communications tower?

   No

8. Does the activity involve aerial or other large-scale application of any chemical (including insecticide, herbicide, etc.)?

   No

9. Does your project include water withdrawal (ground or surface water) greater than 10,000 gallons/day?

   No

10. Will your action permanently affect hydrology?

    No

11. Will your action temporarily affect hydrology?

    Yes

12. Will your project have any direct impacts to a stream or river (e.g., Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), hydrostatic testing, stream/road crossings, new storm-water outfall discharge, dams, other in-stream work, changes to water quality or hydrology, etc.)?

    Yes

13. Does your project have the potential to indirectly impact the stream/river or the riparian zone (e.g., cut and fill, horizontal directional drilling, hydrostatic testing, construction, vegetation removal, discharge, changes to water quality or hydrology, etc.)?

    Yes

14. Are you applying for one of the following Michigan EGLE/Army Corps of Engineers joint permit application Minor Permit (MP) Categories:
MP 3 - Boat Hoist; MP 5 - Boal Wells; MP 7 - Completed Enforcement Actions; MP 13 - Dock;
MP 22 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Structures;
MP 25 - Ford Stream Crossings for Commercial Forestry Operations;
MP 31 - Maintenance and Repair of Serviceable Structures;
MP 52 - Temporary Recreational Structures;
MP 54 - Wetland Habitat Restoration and Enhancement?

    Verify the MP category number and associated description matches your project/ application (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/WRD-Minor-Project-Categories_733320_7.pdf). If you don't know what category applies for your project, answer no to this question.

    No

15. Are you applying for one of the following Michigan EGLE/Army Corps of Engineers joint permit application General Permit (GP) Categories:
GP A - Aids to Navigation;
GP C - Clear Span Bridge;
GP J - Dry Fire Hydrant;
GP O - Minor Permit Revisions and Transfers;
GP Q - Mooring Buoy;
GP W - Scientific Measuring Devices;
GP X - Snow Road Stream Crossings for Forestry Operations;
GP Z - Spring Piles and Piling Clusters?

    Verify the GP category number and associated description matches your project/ application (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-general-permit-categories_555828_7.pdf). If you don't know what category applies for your project, answer no to this question.

    No

16. Will your action disturb the ground or existing vegetation? This includes any off road vehicle access, soil compaction, digging, seismic survey, directional drilling, heavy equipment, grading, trenching, placement of fill, pesticide application, vegetation management (including removal or maintenance using equipment or chemicals), cultivation, development, etc.

    Yes

17. Is the action a utility-scale solar development project?

    Note: Solar projects are considered utility scale if they will be 1 megawatt or larger.

    No

18. [Hidden semantic] Does the action intersect the MOBU AOI?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

19. Under the ESA, monarchs remain warranted but precluded by listing actions of higher priority. The monarch is a candidate for listing at this time. The Endangered Species Act does not establish protections or consultation requirements for candidate species. Some Federal and State agencies may have policy requirements to consider candidate species in planning. We encourage implementing measures that will remove or reduce threats to these species and possibly make listing unnecessary. If your project will have no effect on monarch butterflies (for example, if your project won't affect their habitat or individuals), then you can make a "no effect" determination for this project. Are you making a "no effect" determination for monarch?

    Yes

20. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action intersect the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake area of influence?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

21. Does your action involve prescribed fire?

    No

22. Will this action occur entirely in the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake inactive season (October 16 through April 14)?

    No

23. Will this action occur entirely in the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake active season (April 15 through October 15)?

    No

24. Will the action result in permanent loss of more than one acre of wetland or conversion of more than 10 acres of uplands of potential Eastern massasauga rattlesnake habitat (uplands associated with high quality wetland habitat) to other land uses?

    Yes

25. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the whooping crane (ex. Pop) area of influence?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

26. Have you determined that the action will have no effect on individuals within the whooping crane nonessential experimental population (NEP)?

    Yes

27. The project has the potential to affect federally listed bats. Does the action area contain any known or potential bat hibernacula (natural caves, abandoned mines, or underground quarries)?

    No

28. Has a presence/absence bat survey or field-based habitat assessment following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Summer Survey Guidelines been conducted within the action area?

    No

29. Does the action involve removal/modification of a human structure (barn, house or other building) known to contain roosting bats?

    No

30. Does the action include removal/modification of an existing bridge or culvert?

    Yes

31. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the third county tier?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

32. Is the bridge/culvert within 1000 feet of forested habitat?

    Yes

33. Does the bridge/culvert work include modification/removal of (1) an existing bridge and/or (2) a culvert at least 4 feet (1.2 meters) high and 50 feet (15 meters) long?

    No

34. Does the action include temporary or permanent lighting of roadway(s), facility(ies), and/or parking lot(s)?

    No

35. Does the action include one or more of the following: (1) tree cutting/trimming, (2) prescribed fire, (3) pesticide (including insecticide and/or rodenticide), and/or (4) herbicide/fungicide application?

    Yes

36. Does the action include herbicide application?

    No

37. Will the action clear >10 acres of contiguous forest (i.e., connected by 1,000 feet or less) or fragment a riparian or other connective forested corridor (e.g., tree line) between 2 or more forest patches of at least 5 acres? For more information, see Appendix II.

    No

38. Does the action area contain potential NLEB bat roost trees (trees ≥3 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices, cavities and/or exfoliating bark)? For more information, see Appendix IV.

    Yes

39. Does the action area contain potential Indiana bat roost trees (trees ≥5 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices and/or exfoliating bark)? For more information, see Appendix III.

    Yes

40. Does the action include emergency cutting/trimming of hazard trees in order to prevent imminent loss of human life and/or property?

    No

41. [Semantic] Is any portion of the action area within 5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

    Automatically answered
    No

42. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the SE_LP_S Michigan Modeled Bat Habitat?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

43. Your project intersected modeled bat habitat.

    Will all tree cutting/trimming, prescribed fire, and/or insecticide/rodenticide application be restricted to the inactive (hibernation) season for listed bats (that is, conducted during October 1 through April 14)?

    Select N/A if the project does not include at least one of these activities.

    Yes

44. Will the action clear >10 acres of modeled bat habitat?

    To determine whether it is >10 acres, you can download the shapefile or kmz here: Indiana bat model. For more information on the development of the Indiana bat habitat suitability model, see Appendix I.

    No

45. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the Indiana bat AOI?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

46. [Hidden Semantic] Does this project intersect the northern long-eared bat area of influence?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

47. [Hidden semantic] Does the action intersect the Tricolored bat AOI/SLA/range?

    Automatically answered
    Yes

48. The tricolored bat was proposed for listing as endangered on September 13, 2022. In Michigan, the tricolored bat was rare pre-white nose syndrome (WNS) and is exceedingly rare post-WNS. The species has been observed in 12 Michigan counties to date, largely during the fall or winter. With very few exceptions, the species has not been observed in Michigan in the summer months, and no maternity colonies have been found. During winter, tricolored bats hibernate in caves, abandoned mines, and abandoned tunnels ranging from small to large in size. During spring, summer and fall months, they roost primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead deciduous/hardwood trees.

    Are you making a no effect determination on this project for the tricolored bat?

    Yes

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