

## PRESS RELEASE FOR RECREATIONAL SECTION 4(f) *de minimis* IMPACTS

The City of Solon Engineering Department proposes widening and reconstruction of 1.1 miles of State Route 43 (Aurora Road) from just southeast of State Route 91 to Andre Lane and on Liberty Road from Spicebush Lane north to the abandoned railroad tracks in the City of Solon, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. A 10' wide multi-use path will be constructed on the south side of State Route 43 from just southeast of State Route 91 to Liberty Road. The 10' wide multi-use path will continue south on Liberty Road to Spicebush Lane. Additional improvements include a new traffic signal at Portz Parkway, new storm sewer drainage, and a new watermain.

The 10' wide multi-use path, new traffic signal installation and storm sewer upgrades will require 0.035-acre of temporary right-of-way and 0.027-acre of permanent right-of-way from the Solon Community Center, an identified 4(f) property. Detours will be necessary for the construction activities to widen Aurora Road and the reconstruction of the Portz Parkway intersection. Through phasing and under part-width construction, northbound Aurora Road traffic will be detoured to the SOM Center Road entrance of the Solon Community Center for the duration of the project construction while southbound traffic will be maintained. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring of 2022 and is expected to last approximately 18 months.

The Solon Community Center is a recreation facility located at 35000 Portz Pkwy. As a public recreational facility, the Solon Community Center is considered a recreational resource under Section 4(f) of the *Department of Transportation Act of 1966* (23 CFR 774) and is provided protection from adverse impacts due to federal-aid transportation projects. The City of Solon Engineering Department will implement the following measures to minimize harm to the Solon Community Center:

- Access to Solon Community Center shall be maintained at all times during construction activities
- Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing 4(f) property and the public
- Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of the Solon Community Center of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points
- The staging and/or storage of construction equipment or materials shall not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the 4(f) property
- The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT, the City of Solon, and the Solon Community Center director prior to the start of construction activities

The Solon City Engineer has coordinated the project's involvement with the Director of Recreation. The Recreation Department has concurred that the project will not adversely affect the protected recreational activities, features or attributes associated with the Solon Community Center. The proposed project is considered to have a *de minimis* impact on the Solon Community Center.

Due to the necessary acquisition of land associated with Solon Community Center, the City of Solon Engineering Department is seeking public input regarding the effects of the project on the Solon Community Center. Please provide comments to Mr. John J. Busch, City Engineer, via email or by phone: [jbusch@solonohio.org](mailto:jbusch@solonohio.org) or (440) 349-6745. Comments must be received by March 27, 2020.

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 11, 2015, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.*