



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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July 27, 2021

Matthew Dutkevicz
Executive Director
Butler County Regional Transit Authority
3045 Moser Court
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

RE: Environmental Review Approval for the Chestnut Fields Multimodal Transit Center

Dear Mr. Dutkevicz,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has evaluated environmental review documents submitted by the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) for the proposed Chestnut Fields Multimodal Transit Center at 131 West Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio, 45056. FTA finds that the project meets the criteria for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion in accordance with 23 CFR § 771.118(c)(9) and the project will be an undertaking requiring federal approval.

The BCRTA (the grantee) is proposing to construct a multimodal passenger facility, administrative office, and maintenance facility. The facility structure is projected to encompass approximately 70,000 square feet and be no more than two stories tall based on final funding and design. The total project area including parking and excavation is estimated between three to five acres. Demolition of the existing Talawanda School Bus Facility and removal/relocation of the existing fuel island will also be incorporated as part of this project, including two pumps and two underground tanks.

The completed project will fund and create a multimodal transportation center for bus drop-off/pickup, canopy/covered waiting area, indoor passenger waiting area and restrooms, bike parking, ticket office, administrative offices, bus maintenance and transit bus parking garage, bus fuel pumps, and a bus wash.

The new facility will serve approximately 30 BCRTA operators, 3 BCRTA administration employees, and 4 BCRTA mechanics. The passenger area will serve more than 525,000 annual local and interurban bus trips.

The environmental records reviewed by FTA consisted of a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) checklist dated July 7, 2021 and additional supporting information. On April 26, 2021, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FTA provided the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office

(SHPO) with the following determinations: Area of Potential Effect (APE); National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) eligibility determinations; and an effects assessment finding of no adverse effect. The Ohio SHPO provided its concurrence in correspondence on June 10, 2021.

The use of any Federal funds for this project is contingent upon further review and approval by FTA if any of the following conditions arise:

- Discovery of prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities; and
- Encountering unanticipated hazardous materials.

This NEPA determination applies only to the proposed project as described in the DCE checklist and supporting materials. Any changes to the proposed project which could result in significant environmental impacts not outlined in the DCE checklist, including the disclosure of new information or previously unidentified environmental concerns, will require a re-evaluation of this proposed project under NEPA.

This confirmation of a categorical exclusion does not provide FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this proposed project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to those costs being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have further questions regarding this determination, please contact Matthew Lange at 312-353-4118 or matthew.lange@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Jay M. Ciavarella
Director, Office of Planning & Program Development

cc: Elizabeth Breiseth, FTA
Anthony Greep, FTA
Matthew Lange, FTA
Stewart McKenzie, FTA