



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

June 2, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Urbana - Champaign County
Phase 2 Water Main Replacement Project
Loan number: FS390933-0010**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a waterline replacement project in Urbana which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bernstein

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Phase 2 Water Main Replacement Project

Applicant: Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration
City of Urbana
205 South Main Street
Urbana, Ohio 43078

Loan Number: FS390933-0010

Project Summary

The City of Urbana has applied to the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loan to replace water mains in Scioto Street, Crescent Drive, Finch Street, Ames, and Amherst Drive. The project will replace 2,042 linear feet of 8-inch water main and 6,790 linear feet of 12-inch water main.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Urbana, located in Champaign County (See Figure 1 for general location, See Figure 2 for map of Urbana), owns a public water system that is 100 years old, consisting of approximately 87 miles of water main ranging from 1-inch to 16-inch diameters. The city has four elevated water storage tanks that collectively provide 2.25 million gallons of water storage and have been renovated in the past ten years. Urbana relies on two wellfields to supply an average daily demand of 2.1 million gallons per day. These two wellfields, Old Troy Pike and State Route 29 West, consist of five operating wells that are located in the Miami Valley Buried Aquifer, and each wellfield has its own respective treatment facility. In 2004, a granular activated carbon treatment facility was constructed at the Old Troy Pike wellfield to treat a plume of volatile organic compounds that had been detected in the water since 1980. To protect the State Route 29 wellfield, Urbana purchased 30 acres of land and a 10-acre conservation easement was acquired to create a 300-foot isolation radius around the wells.

In 2012, Urbana initiated a multi-phase plan to replace failing water mains and water lines throughout its water system. Phase 1 was completed in 2015, replacing approximately 15,000 linear feet of 4- to 6-inch water mains with new 8-inch water mains in city areas that were the oldest and had the most frequent breaks.

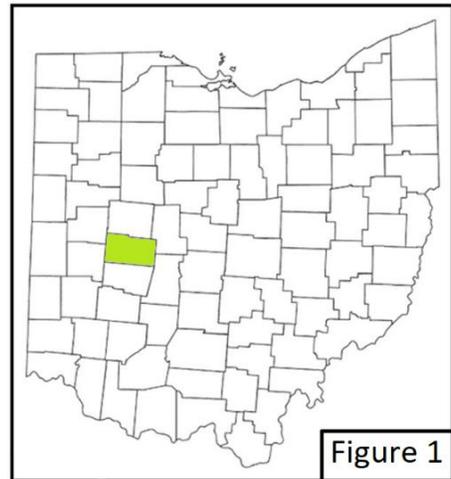


Figure 1

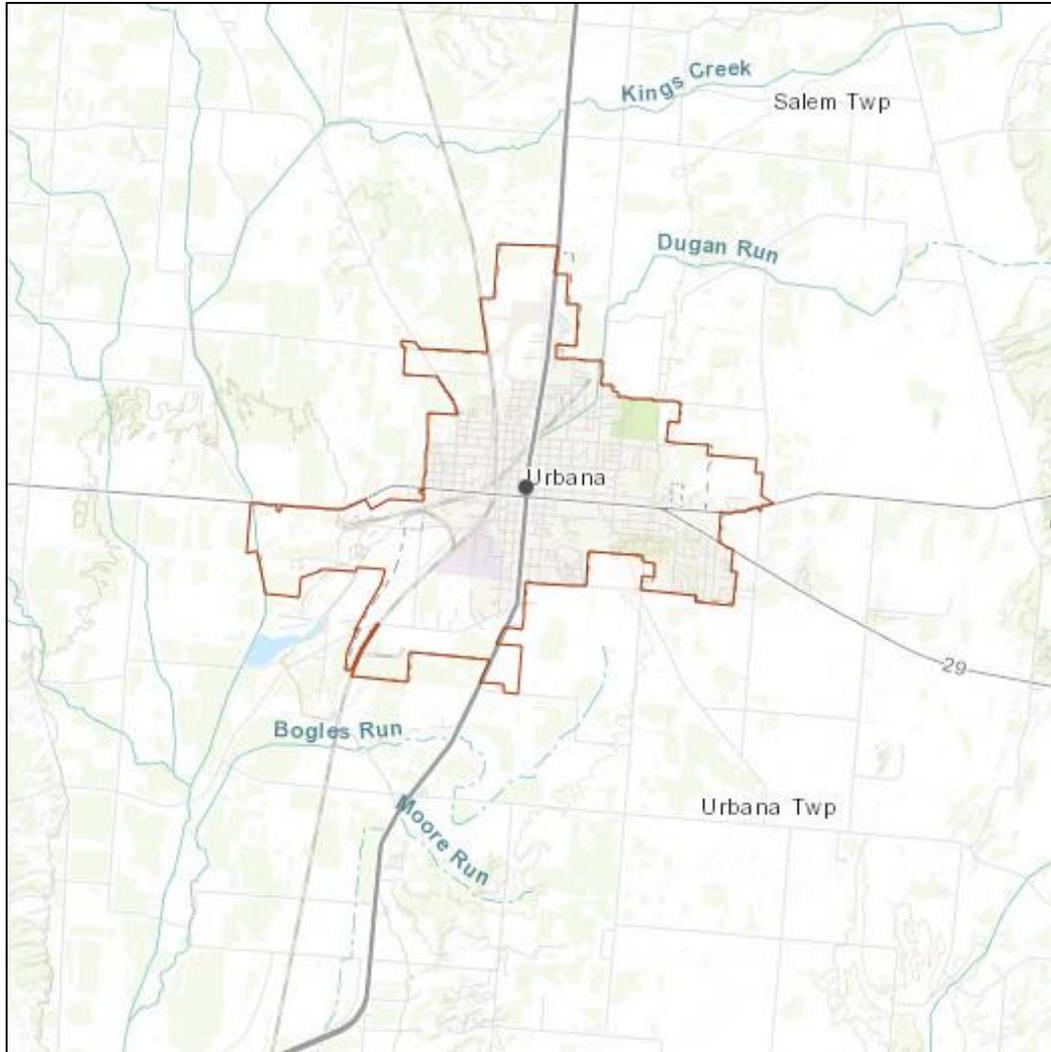


Figure 2. Map of Urbana, Ohio in Champaign County.

Project Description

This project will replace deteriorating water mains on Scioto Street between Jefferson and Ames Avenues; Crescent Drive between Finch Street and Ames Avenue; Finch Street between Scioto Street and Amherst Drive; and Ames Avenue between Scioto street and Amherst Drive. This area has had at least 9 water main breaks since 2009. The project involves replacing 2,042 linear feet of 8-inch water main and 6,790 linear feet of 12-inch water main (see Figure 3).

In addition to addressing water main breaks, this project will address undersized waterlines, unaccounted-for water loss, and may include replacement of unknown lead service lines in the City's distribution system. Undersized 4-inch water mains currently in use for fire hydrants on Ames Avenue do not provide adequate flow rates or pressure, and will be upgraded to 8-inch minimum water mains to be brought up to modern City ordinance requirements.

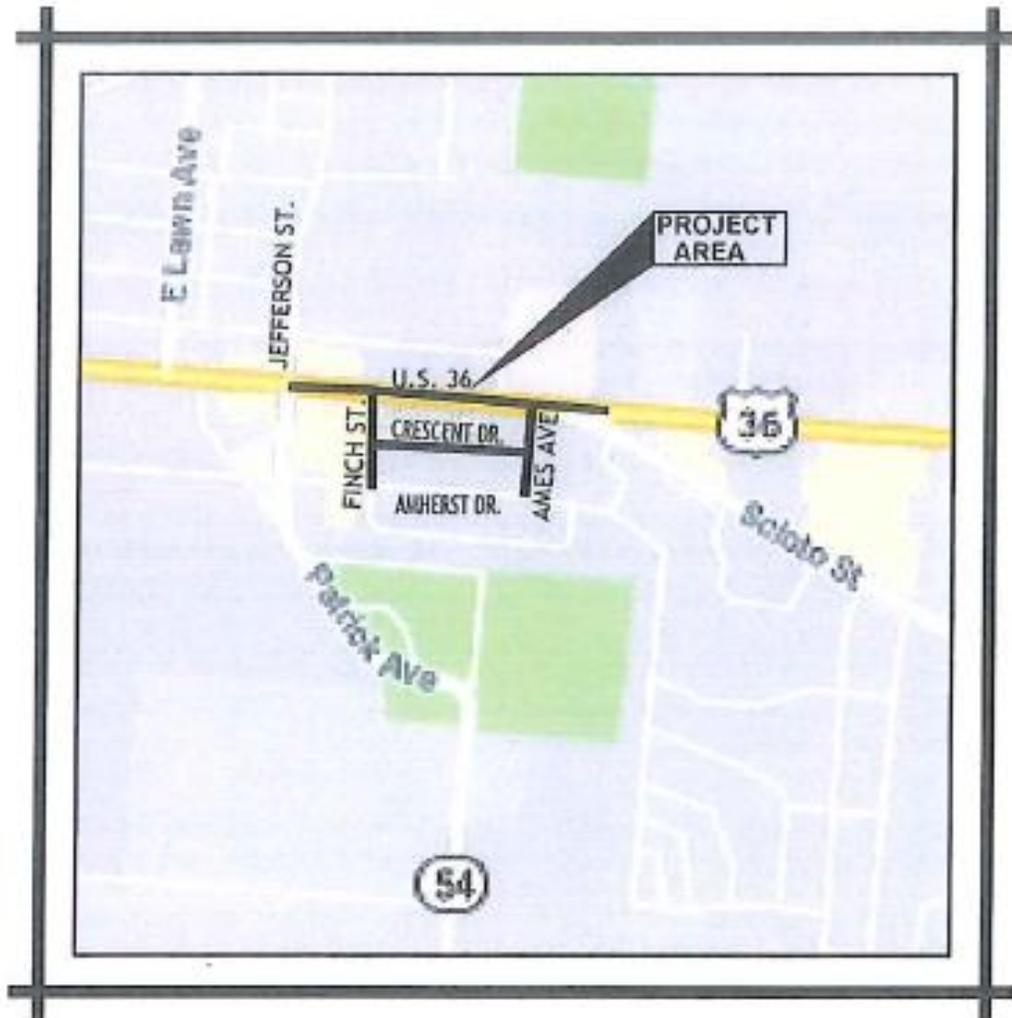


Figure 3. Map of project area showing streets along which water main will be replaced.

Implementation

Urbana will borrow approximately \$1,416,900 from the WSRLA at the standard interest rate (now 1.12 %). During the 20-year loan period, Urbana will save approximately \$201,900 by using WSRLA dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.37%.

Urbana plans to replace the existing sanitary sewer main and laterals on Scioto Street from Jefferson Avenue eastward to US Route 36. Sewer along the State Route 29 split near Berwick Drive and Bon Air Drive will also be replaced. Sanitary sewer improvements will be funded through the Ohio Water Development Authority, with debt being paid through Urbana's sewer enterprise fund amounting to \$331,600. This construction will occur simultaneously with the waterline for efficiency, and to reduce traffic disturbance to the State Route by excavating it once for these projects.

Urbana serves a population of 11,519. The current water rate is \$325 per year, and the projected to increase to approximately \$411 per year by 2022 to pay for water system improvements. This

amount would be 1.05 % of the median household income of \$39,259 in Urbana, which is generally considered affordable.

Project Schedule

Pending loan award in June 2020, construction will begin summer 2020 and be completed by spring 2021.

Public Participation

The City of Urbana has demonstrated a detailed and thorough effort to hold public meetings and inform its residents about the waterline improvement projects. Residents will be invited to a public meeting during the summer of 2020 detailing the project, timeline of work, and funding sources. A 2019 water consumer confidence report is also available to residents on Urbana's City website. The local newspaper, Urbana Daily Citizen, published an article in May discussing the project scope, costs, and water rates.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx#169638770-wsrla-documents-for-review-and-comment> and distribute it to interested parties. Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing water mains. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation, because this project will be replacing existing water mains underneath Urbana city and neighborhood streets, which are previously disturbed areas. Standard construction best management practices will be used to address things like noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Small street trees that will need to be removed for this project do not provide favorable habitat to roosting or nesting endangered bat species. The Indiana and Long-eared bat prefer large host trees with loose, sloughing bark, crevices, or dead/dying trees with cavities.

Is cost-effective and is not a controversial action, as the sections of water main to be replaced have far outlived their useful life, and continually repairing multiple main breaks is not cost effective. Urbana has held multiple public meetings and released public notices informing residents about the water main improvement projects. Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to this project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters because this project will only be replacing water main

where waterlines already exist. No new discharges or withdrawals of water resources will occur for this project.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population, as the waterlines to be replaced will not connect any new users to the water system. Increases in water main size are due to insufficient water supply for fire hydrants in this area and will be increased to 8-inch minimum water main per City ordinances for fire hydrant supply.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, threatened or endangered species, or state and federal wildlife areas).

Contact information

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