



**Division of Surface Water
Response to Comments**

**Project: ODOT MOT-70-10.79 PID 76667
Ohio EPA ID #: 134313**

Agency Contacts for this Project

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Ohio EPA held a public hearing and comment period on June 4, 2014, regarding a section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the purpose of reconstructing and widening approximately four miles of I-70 and improving the I-70/SR 48 interchange. This document summarizes the comments and questions received at the public hearing and during the associated comment period, which ended on June 11, 2014.

Ohio EPA reviewed and considered all comments received during the public comment period. By law, Ohio EPA has authority to consider specific issues related to protection of the environment and public health. Often, public concerns fall outside the scope of that authority. For example, concerns about zoning issues are addressed at the local level. Ohio EPA may respond to those concerns in this document by identifying another government agency with more direct authority over the issue.

In an effort to help you review this document, similar comments were paraphrased.

Comment: Commenters were concerned about the possibility of an “environmental disaster” resulting from the project, and questioned how effective the changes to the highway would be. They asked whether the project was worth the risk.

Response: Ohio EPA is required to consider the impact of the project on water quality and confirm that the project will not violate state water quality standards. After review of this project, Ohio

EPA has concluded that this project, as proposed, will not violate state water quality standards and will not cause the loss of use to the Stillwater River.

Additionally, in a June 4, 2014, communication to Ohio EPA, ODOT provided the following information regarding the project purpose and need:

"The primary purpose of the proposed project is to ensure and maintain adequate pavement conditions and safety on the IR 70 corridor and the State Route 48 interchange. The project will also provide an opportunity to address the secondary needs of providing for maintenance of traffic consistent with the Permitted Lane Closure Map and accommodating existing and future traffic within the project segment."

End of Response to Comments