



From: **Office of the Mayor**

Sarah N. Johnson, Chief Communications Officer
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 9, 2023

Virtual Open House for Eagle Avenue Bridge Press Release

CLEVELAND – The City of Cleveland, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), would like to invite the public to participate in a virtual open house to learn more about the proposed project to remove the Eagle Avenue Bridge over the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. Due to its poor physical condition and increasingly rapid deterioration, the City of Cleveland has determined that removing the existing bridge is the safest and most cost-effective alternative that satisfies the purpose of the project.

Please follow the link below or scan the QR code for additional information.

<https://publicinput.com/q8483>



Questions? Contact Ron Mason, City of Cleveland Engineer at 216-664-3705.

Road construction invariably presents hazards to the public. All travelers are urged to use caution in construction zones. Public safety and the safety of workers is a top priority.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this important public improvement project.

About the City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, play, and do business. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at www.city.clevelandohio.gov, Twitter at @cityofcleveland or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland.



City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Mayor's Office of Capital Projects
Division of Engineering & Construction
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 518
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1015
216/664-2381 Fax 216/664-2289
www.city.cleveland.oh.us

June 12, 2023

RE: Virtual Open House for CUY-Eagle Avenue Bridge (PID 118527)

Dear Neighbor,

The City of Cleveland, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), would like to invite you to participate in a virtual open house to learn more about the proposed project to remove the Eagle Avenue Bridge over the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. Public input is an important part of the project development process and provides valuable feedback that helps guide decision-making through all phases of development. The purpose of this project is to address the poor condition of the bridge and associated safety issues.

The City of Cleveland, with the assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), evaluated four alternatives to address the poor condition of the bridge. The four alternatives include: (1) removal of the existing structure, (2) stabilization of the existing structure, (3) removal and relocation of existing structure for use as non-movable bridge, and (4) full replacement of the structure to become operational. After further analysis, the recommended alternative is alternative 1 - removal of the existing bridge. Additional work includes the installation of a guardrail or barrier at the river's edge following the bridge removal.

All work will take place within the existing right-of-way. There is a trail within the project area, the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, that is recognized as a recreational property and is afforded protection from adverse impacts associated with federal-aid transportation projects. It is anticipated that the project will require temporary closure of the trail. However, coordination with Cleveland Metroparks is ongoing, and measures will be taken to minimize impacts to the trail during construction. Other environmental impacts are anticipated due to this project including minor river impacts.

The Eagle Avenue bridge is the first vertical lift bridge in Cleveland and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Removal of the bridge will have an adverse effect on the historic bridge. Mitigation of the adverse effect will be determined through the standard historic review process. Individuals or organizations with a demonstrated interest in the effects of the undertaking on historic properties can apply to become a Consulting Party. The various Consulting Parties work together to discuss options, provide multiple viewpoints, and strive to seek common agreement on the variety of parties. If you are interested in becoming a Consulting Party for this project, please download and complete the Section 106 Consulting Party application posted on the project website.

The City of Cleveland is seeking public input regarding the project alternatives and impacts. The meeting will be held in a virtual open house style format from Monday, June 12, 2023, to Friday, July 14, 2023. All materials, including a recorded presentation, will be available on the website below so they can be viewed, and your comments submitted, at your convenience. We hope that you will visit the virtual public meeting website where we explain the overall project, present project alternatives and potential impacts, and receive your input.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
June 12, 2023 - July 14, 2023
Project information: <https://publicinput.com/g8483>



If you do not have internet access and would like these materials mailed to you, please contact the individual listed below.

In addition to the website, comments may also be submitted via:

Email: Ron Mason at: rmason@clevelandohio.gov
Mail to: City of Cleveland - Division of Engineering and Construction
Attn: Ron Mason
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 518
Cleveland, OH 44114 - 1015

We ask that comments be submitted by July 14, 2023, to be included in the project documents.

Individuals who would like to give input regarding the incorporation of historic preservation values into replacement of the bridge, can complete Section 106 Consulting Party Application shown on the website.

We sincerely appreciate your involvement!

Respectfully,

Richard J. Switalski, P.E.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "RJ Switalski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Administrative Manager
City of Cleveland
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects
Division of Engineering and Construction