SCOPE OF Services–
Interstate Route 73 Corridor Feasibility Study

Section 755.50 of House Bill 54 directs the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of an Interstate Route 73 corridor no later than December 31, 2026. The study is to examine the potential for establishing a continuous interstate connection between Toledo and Chesapeake, Ohio—generally following the U.S. Route 23 corridor—with the goal of enhancing connectivity between Interstate Routes 74 and 75 and the southeastern states.

Outlined below is the proposed scope of work for solicitation of consultant support to address this legislative requirement.

TASK 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The consultant will be responsible for overall project management, team coordination, schedule oversight, and contract compliance throughout the duration of the study. This task is intended to ensure effective communication between the consultant and ODOT, maintain alignment with project objectives, and proactively manage risks to scope, schedule, and quality. Task 1 will run concurrently with all other technical and engagement tasks and continue through the completion of the study.

1.1 Project Management Plan

The consultant will prepare and maintain a **Project Management Plan (PMP)** that outlines the organizational structure and protocols for delivering the study. The PMP should include information related to Project team roles, responsibilities, and contact information (consultant and ODOT),

- Schedule of major milestones and deliverables, and
- Internal and external review process for deliverables

The PMP will be submitted at project initiation and updated as needed to reflect changes in schedule and staffing.

Task 1.1 Deliverable(s):

- **Project Management Plan** (initial and updated versions)

1.2 Team Coordination

The consultant will lead regular coordination with the ODOT project manager and key team members. Coordination activities will include:

- **Bi-weekly or monthly check-in meetings** to review progress, discuss risks, and align on next steps
- Maintenance of a **project schedule** with updates on deliverable status and upcoming milestones
- Coordination with technical leads across Tasks 2–7 to ensure integration and consistency

Meeting agendas and summary notes will be prepared by the consultant for each check-in and distributed to all participants.

Task 1.2 Deliverable(s):

- **Meeting agendas and summary notes** for recurring check-ins
- **Updated project schedule** (as needed)

1.3 Contract Management

The consultant will support all contract management and administrative functions associated with the study. This includes:

- Submission of **monthly invoices and progress reports** in accordance with contract requirements
- Coordination with subconsultants to ensure timely billing and deliverable submission
- Preparation of documentation required by ODOT (e.g., status updates, labor documentation, or compliance forms)

All reporting will be submitted on time and in a format approved by ODOT.

Task 1.3 Deliverable(s):

- **Monthly invoices and progress reports**

TASK 2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The consultant will design and implement a targeted **stakeholder engagement plan** to inform the study process and ensure input is incorporated at key milestones.

The consultant will work with the ODOT team to identify key stakeholders, schedule and facilitate engagement opportunities, and prepare materials. Stakeholders may include MPOs and RTPOs, local, regional and state agencies, economic development organizations, freight and logistics interests, modal operators (e.g., rail, port, and transit agencies), and environmental resource agencies.

It is anticipated that engagement will be conducted through a mix of stakeholder meetings, small group sessions, working groups (if applicable), and virtual coordination as needed. The consultant will be responsible for managing logistics, developing **presentation materials, facilitating meetings, and summarizing** feedback. The consultant team will also be responsible for development of content and layout for a **project website** within ODOT's system.

Engagement will be structured to coincide with key study phases.

- Review of existing conditions and corridor deficiencies (Tasks 3–4)
- Input on the development of conceptual corridor alternatives (Task 5)
- Feedback on evaluation criteria and screening framework (Task 6)
- Review of findings and recommendations (Task 7)

The consultant will document stakeholder input at each stage within a **stakeholder engagement technical memorandum**, identify how feedback was considered or addressed, and include a summary of engagement outcomes in the Final Report.

To support regional coordination, it is anticipated that the project team will provide updates to stakeholder committees housed within the following planning organizations: KYOVA, OVRDC, MORPC/CORPO, WORPO, and TMACOG. These existing bodies will be leveraged to share study progress and gather feedback throughout the phases noted above. **Up to 20 meetings are anticipated with these stakeholder bodies**.

In addition, it is anticipated that the consultant will facilitate stakeholder meetings within ODOT Districts 1, 2, 6, and 9, focusing on review of alternatives and evaluation findings (Tasks 5–6). **Up to 8 district-level meetings are anticipated**.

Additionally, it is anticipated that the consultant team will support ODOT in **up to 2 meetings** with surrounding state DOTs.

At the conclusion of the study, the consultant will facilitate a **45-day public comment period** to gather input on the draft report. The consultant will prepare and publish online materials for the comment period using ODOT's PublicInput platform and will analyze and summarize all comments received. This summary will be incorporated into the Stakeholder Engagement Technical Memorandum.

Task 2 Deliverable(s):

- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan, outlining approach, schedule, and stakeholder list**
- **Meeting materials (presentations, handouts, agendas), Facilitation, and summary notes** for all stakeholder meetings (30 anticipated)
- **Project website,** content and layout
- **45-Day public Comment period** (marketing materials and survey development)
- **Stakeholder engagement technical memorandum**

TASK 3. SYSTEM INVENTORY

The consultant team will lead a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the existing alignment (see appendix for existing alignment details). This task is intended to provide a detailed understanding of the corridor's current physical infrastructure configurations and standards. This inventory will support identification of locations where the existing corridor may be upgraded to interstate standards, as well as segments that may require off-alignment alternatives due to insurmountable physical, geometric, or access limitations.

3.1 Base Map Development

The consultant will develop and maintain a project-specific, **consolidated file geodatabase** that serves as the authoritative repository for all spatial infrastructure data collected throughout the study. This should be developed for the entirety of the study area (see appendix for county-based study area. This geodatabase shall be structured to support advanced spatial analysis and integration of multiple data sources and will be maintained and updated throughout the life of the project. *Note – It is anticipated that ODOT will provide the selected team with a package of information and data that can be used to help populate this database.*

In parallel, the consultant will create a fully configured **ArcGIS Pro project file (.aprx)** that includes a dynamic base map of the corridor. This base map will incorporate corridor

limits, key physical assets, and thematically grouped data layers, and will be used throughout the project for analysis, scenario development, stakeholder engagement, and stakeholder-facing visualization. *Note – It is anticipated that ODOT will provide the selected team with a template package to help address this requirement*.

Task 3.1 Deliverable(s):

- **Consolidated project file geodatabase** containing all spatial infrastructure data.
- **ArcGIS Pro project file (.aprx)** with base map, symbology standards, and pre-configured data overlays.

3.2: Infrastructure Inventory

Using these tools, the consultant will conduct a detailed infrastructure inventory of all key corridor components. The inventory will be summarized in a standalone Infrastructure **Inventory Technical Memorandum** that includes narrative descriptions, tabular data, and geospatial representations of the following elements:

- **Corridor Alignment:** Documentation of the existing horizontal and vertical alignment, noting geometric constraints, non-standard features, or critical design challenges.
- **Land use Context**: Identification of adjacent land uses and their potential impact on future corridor improvements or access control measures.
- **Environmental**: Inventory of TIMS environmental data including: wetland, stream, scenic rivers, known species range info, forest, historic sites, community resources (parks, schools, emergency providers, etc.), state park land, prime farmland, hazardous waste areas (superfund sites), etc.
- **Typical Sections**: Cross-sectional details including number of through lanes, shoulder widths, median treatments, and overall pavement width. Typical sections will be evaluated against AASHTO and FHWA interstate standards to determine existing compliance and potential design exceptions.
- **Structures**: Inventory and condition assessment of all bridges and overpasses, including structural ratings, vertical and horizontal clearances, load limits, and sufficiency ratings.
- **Access Points**: Mapping and classification of all interchanges, intersections, and driveways.

- **Rail Crossings**: Identification and classification of at-grade and grade-separated rail crossings, with notes on crossing protections, geometric conditions, and any known safety concerns.
- **Speed Limits**: Compilation of posted speed limits for each segment of the corridor to assess design speed consistency and compatibility with interstate classification.
- **Access Control**: The consultant will assess the degree of access control along the corridor, identifying locations where full control is not currently in place and/or achievable.

The memorandum will identify corridor segments where existing physical infrastructure poses a barrier to future conversion or expansion, and will provide preliminary assessments of where off-alignment routing may be required. This will require a heavy focus on existing assets, conditions, and standards.

Note – It is anticipated that ODOT will provide the selected consultant with select information and datasets that aid in development of this memorandum. Specifically, information related to typical sections, access points, rail crossing locations, and posted speeds.

Task 3.2 Deliverable(s):

- **Infrastructure Inventory Technical Memorandum**, including tabular and mapped summaries of:
  - Existing typical sections
  - Structure inventory with ratings and clearances
  - Access point types and spacing
  - Rail crossing locations and safety features
  - Posted speed limits
  - Existing and potential access control features
  - Annotated corridor maps highlighting deficient segments and non-compliant areas

TASK 4. EXISTING & FUTURE CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

The consultant will compile, validate, and analyze current data from existing sources to assess corridor performance across four key domains (Volumes, Congestion, Condition Safety).

The consultant will evaluate both existing and forecasted corridor conditions to assess operational performance, safety, capacity constraints, and long-term travel demand. This analysis will inform feasibility assessments, identify high-priority segments for investment, and support the development and screening of corridor alternatives later in the project.

4.1 Existing Conditions Analysis:

Using data from a combination of existing sources, the consultant will develop a standalone technical memorandum summarizing performance assessment results across the following four performance areas:

- **Traffic Volumes**: Collection of Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) and vehicle classification data using existing sources (e.g., ODOT's TMS, TIMS and the STDA project files). Collection of new counts will be unnecessary as part of this study.
- **Congestion & Reliability**: Analysis of traffic operations to determine current levels of service (LOS), volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratios, and travel time reliability. The consultant will identify and document recurring bottlenecks and peak-period congestion patterns using tools such as ODOT's TOAST system and align measures and thresholds with recent studies, such as the with the Strategic Transportation & Development Analysis.
- **Roadway & Bridge Conditions**: Evaluation of pavement and bridge condition ratings using ODOT's pavement management and bridge condition data. The consultant will identify maintenance needs and structural deficiencies that would need to be addressed during corridor conversion.
- **Crash Data & Safety Hot Spots**: Analysis of multi-year crash data to identify high-crash locations, presence of severe crashes, and ODOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) priority locations.

Note – It is anticipated that ODOT will provide the selected consultant with select information and datasets that can aid in development of this memorandum. Specifically, information related to AADT by segment, V/C ratios for segments, locations of known bottlenecks and reliability concerns, and crash heat maps and priority hot spots.

Task 4.1 Deliverable(s):

- **Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum** summarizing performance assessment results across all four focus areas, including tabular and mapped summaries of:
    - AADT and vehicle classification by segment
    - LOS and V/C ratios for key segments
    - Locations of known bottlenecks and reliability concerns
    - Pavement and bridge condition ratings
    - Crash heat maps and identified safety hot spots
    - Annotated list of corridor segments where operational performance or asset condition may hinder future conversion to interstate standards.

4.2 Future Conditions Analysis:

The consultant will evaluate long-range travel demand and operational conditions along the existing (no-build) alignment. This will utilize existing statewide travel demand projections. The objective is to assess how the corridor is expected to perform under future growth scenarios and identify where additional capacity or connectivity improvements may be most needed. The future conditions analysis will include the following and be documents in a standalone **Future Conditions Technical Memorandum**:

- **Traffic Forecasting**: Development or refinement of traffic forecasts for key horizon years (e.g., 2045, 2050), in coordination with ODOT and MPO planning partners.
- **Future LOS and V/C Modeling**: Estimation of LOS under baseline (no-build) conditions, based on forecasted volumes.
- **Growth and Demand Generators**: Mapping of population, employment, freight growth, and emerging land uses that could influence future demand.

Note – It is anticipated that ODOT will provide the selected consultant team forecasted traffic volumes by segment for the no-build scenario and mapped locations of areas of expected growth along the corridor.

Task 4.2 Deliverable(s):

- **Future Conditions Technical Memorandum**, including tabular and mapped summaries of:
  - Forecasted AADT and traffic volume tables by segment
  - LOS and V/C projections for horizon years
  - Maps of growth areas, freight clusters, and regional demand generators
  - High-risk segments for future congestion or capacity shortfalls

TASK 5: ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT

Building on the findings of the system inventory (Task 3) and existing/future conditions analysis (Task 4), the consultant will lead the development of a comprehensive range of conceptual corridor alternatives for consideration. These alternatives will explore potential alignments (2000' wide travel routes)—both on and off the existing corridor—that could be

constructed, upgraded, or reconfigured to meet interstate highway design standards and functional objectives.

This task will form the foundation for subsequent corridor screening and evaluation activities. The alternatives must reflect the physical, operational, and contextual realities identified in prior tasks and should be developed with input from stakeholders and planning partners, minimize impacts to communities and the environment, and maximize the expected transportation benefit. (see Task 2).

5.1 Corridor Alternative Definition

The consultant will define a broad set of conceptual corridor alternatives that consider various alignments, design assumptions, and on/off alignment strategies. Each corridor will be developed to a planning-level of detail sufficient to support comparative analysis. Key parameters will include:

- Logical termini based on connectivity, continuity, and travel demand
- On-alignment and off-alignment routing to address deficiencies or avoid constraints
- Generalized cross-section assumptions (number of lanes, access control, median treatments)
- Integration with modal nodes (e.g., intermodal terminals, ports, rail facilities)
- Compatibility with known environmental, land use, or community constraints
- Input from stakeholder engagement and agency coordination activities

Each corridor will be mapped in GIS and coded by segment, with consistent symbology, metadata, and naming conventions for analysis and comparison.

Task 5.1 Deliverable(s):

- **GIS feature classes for all corridor alternatives**, including segment-level attributes
- **Base maps showing alternatives** with labeled termini, modal connections, and major features
- **Technical appendix** outlining alternatives with descriptive attributes, alternative development methodology, and data sources

5.2 Corridor Cost Estimation

The consultant will develop planning-level cost estimates for each corridor alternative and its associated segments. These estimates will support comparative screening and early-stage investment prioritization. The cost estimation process will include:

- Segment-specific cost per mile assumptions for urban and rural cross-sections
- Major structure costs (bridges, grade separations, interchanges)
- Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition estimates, based on land use context
- Environmental mitigation placeholders for segments within known sensitive areas
- Contingency factors based on design complexity and project uncertainty

All cost estimates will be documented in a **spreadsheet-based model** with clear inputs, consistent cost categories, and clear assumptions. The consultant will prepare a **technical appendix** summarizing the estimation methodology, unit cost factors, and data sources.

Task 5.2 Deliverable(s):

- **Spreadsheet-based cost estimation model** (Excel or compatible format), segmented by alternative segment and cost category
- **Technical appendix detailing:**
  - Cost assumptions (unit costs, contingencies, escalation)
  - Data sources and references
  - Notes on cost variability across segments

5.3 Documentation and Visualization

The consultant will compile all alternative alignments, supporting data, and cost information into a cohesive documentation package. This will include both technical content and stakeholder-facing materials to support review, feedback, and eventual screening.

The consultant will prepare an **Alternative Corridor Development Technical Memorandum**, which will summarize:

- The full range of developed alternatives, including maps and descriptive narratives
- Key differentiating factors (feasibility, mobility benefits, cost, constraints)
- Comparative data tables and maps showing logical termini, key design features, and notable issues

- Cost summaries by alternative and segment

In addition, the consultant will produce a stakeholder presentation package—including **large-format maps** and clear visuals—to support agency briefings, working group discussions, and public engagement efforts (including **presentation**).

Task 5.3 Deliverable(s):

- **Corridor Development and Comparison Technical Memorandum**, including:
    - Narrative descriptions and rationale for each alternative
    - Segment-level maps and figures
    - Comparative summary table of key design and performance attributes
    - Cost tables by alternative and segment
- **Annotated large format maps** for each Corridor showing, termini, interchanges, and key constraints
- **Presentation slide deck** summarizing alternatives for stakeholder engagement

TASK 6: CORRIDOR EVALUATION

The consultant will lead the evaluation of all corridor alternatives developed in Task 5. The objective of this task is to assess and compare conceptual alternatives to identify a subset of corridors for more detailed study. It is anticipated this evaluation will focus on criteria such as engineering feasibility, mobility and system benefits, economic relevance, land use compatibility, environmental constraints, and cost-effectiveness.

The evaluation will incorporate stakeholder feedback and apply quantitative and qualitative measures to screen the initial list of alternatives to a refined shortlist for future consideration. All assumptions, data sources, and methodologies must be documented to support defensible decision-making and prepare for potential environmental review.

6.1 Establish Evaluation Framework

The consultant will develop a structured **Evaluation Framework** to guide the assessment of all corridor alternatives. This framework will establish a consistent basis for comparative analysis and screening and include:

- A defined set of evaluation categories and subcriteria (e.g., engineering, mobility, economic, cost, environmental)

- A mix of quantitative and qualitative performance measures appropriate for planning-level evaluation
- Defined scoring scales, decision thresholds, and optional weighting methodologies
- A tiered approach to evaluation (if applicable), such as a fatal flaw review followed by detailed scoring

The framework will be documented in a **Technical Appendix**, which will also summarize applicable data sources and the rationale for selected criteria and measures.

Task 6.1 Deliverable(s):

- **Evaluation Framework Technical Appendix, outlining:**
  - Evaluation categories and subcriteria
  - Performance measures and scoring methodology
  - Screening tiers and decision thresholds

6.2 Comparative Evaluation of Corridors

Using the evaluation framework developed in Task 6.1, the consultant will perform a detailed comparative evaluation of the alternatives. Each corridor alternative will be scored across established evaluation criteria, supported by geospatial and tabular documentation. The evaluation will identify trade-offs and differentiating features between alternatives. The consultant will compile the results into an **Corridor Evaluation Matrix** and a full set of supporting materials (maps, tables, scoring summaries) to enable comparison. Based on this evaluation, the consultant will prepare a **Shortlist Recommendation Memorandum** that identifies a shortlist of alternatives for advancement into the final report and potentially more detailed analysis or environmental review. The consultant team will provide a **summary presentation** of findings to the project team and key stakeholders.

Task 6.2 Deliverable(s):

- **Corridor Evaluation Matrix,** presenting detailed scoring and analysis for each alternative
- **Shortlist Recommendation Technical Memorandum**, documenting:
    - Summary of strengths, weaknesses, and key differentiators for each alternative
    - Rationale for advancing or dismissing alternatives
- **Presentation slide deck** summarizing alternatives for stakeholder engagement

TASK 7. Final Documentation

The consultant will prepare a comprehensive **Final Report** that consolidates all technical memoranda, findings, maps, data products, and recommendations developed over the course of the study. The objective of this task is to produce a single, well-organized document that presents a clear summary of the analysis, including feasible corridor alignments, planning-level cost estimates, and associated impacts. The final documentation will serve as a standalone resource for project partners, planning agencies, funding entities, and other stakeholders to support future decision-making, grant applications, environmental review, and project development.

Note - The goal of this study is to provide objective and transparent information for stakeholders on the level of effort and resources needed to develop a new interstate within Ohio, not to develop an implementation plan for its construction.

The consultant will provide a **draft report** for project team review and incorporate feedback into the final version. The final report will include all supporting visuals, technical appendices, and a standalone executive summary. The consultant will also prepare a summary slide deck suitable for presentations and provide all deliverables in editable formats.

Task 7 Deliverable(s):

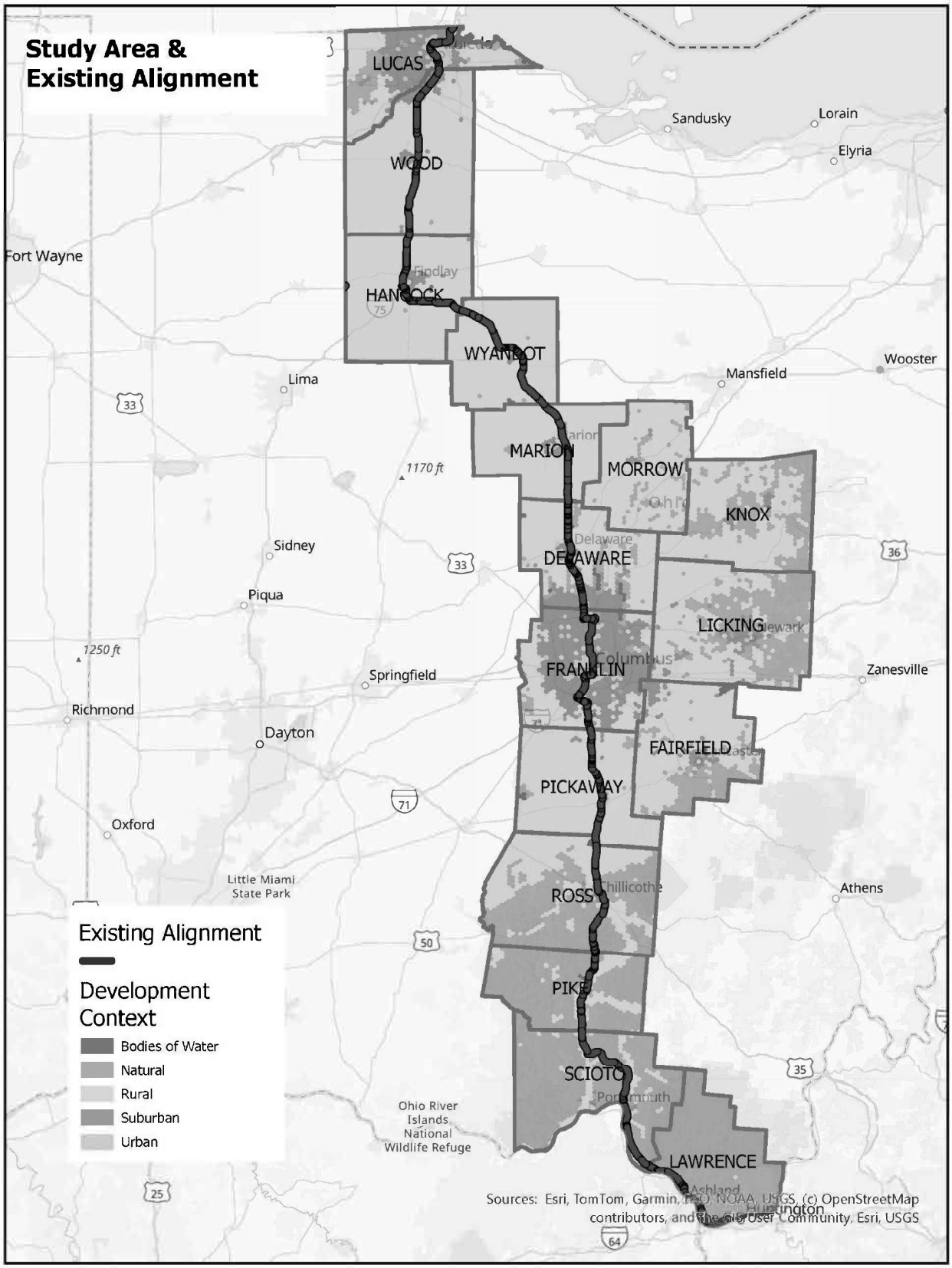
- **Draft Final Report**
- **Final Report**
- **Standalone Executive Summary**
- **Final project slide deck**
- **All project files** including but not limited to analysis and design files

List of Project Deliverables:

Task/Subtask	Deliverable
1.1	Project Management Plan (initial and updates)
1.2	Meeting agendas and summary notes
1.2	Updated project schedule
1.3	Monthly invoices and Progress reports
2	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
2	Meeting materials (presentations, handouts, agendas)
2	Project website, layout and content
2	Meeting facilitation and summary notes
2	45-Day Public Comment period
2	Stakeholder engagement technical memorandum
3.1	Project-specific file geodatabase
3.1	ArcGIS Pro project file (.aprx) with dynamic base map
3.2	Infrastructure Inventory Technical Memorandum
4.1	Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum
4.2	Future Conditions Technical Memorandum
5.1	GIS shapefiles of corridor alternatives
5.1	Base maps with labeled features
5.1	Technical appendix on alternatives
5.2	Spreadsheet-based cost model
5.2	Technical appendix on cost methodology
5.3	Alternative Corridor Development Technical Memorandum
5.3	Annotated large format maps
5.3	Stakeholder presentation materials (maps, visuals, presentation)
6.1	Evaluation Framework Technical Appendix
6.2	Alternative Evaluation Matrix
6.2	Shortlist Recommendation Memorandum
6.2	Summary presentation of evaluation findings

7	Draft Final Report (Word and PDF)
7	Final Report (Word and PDF)
7	Standalone Executive Summary
7	Final slide deck (PowerPoint and PDF)
7	All Project files

Appendix:


Study Area &
Existing Alignment
LUCAS
WOOD
HANCOCK
WYANDOT
MARION
MORROW
KNOX
DELAWARE
LICKING
FRANKLIN
FAIRFIELD
PICKAWAY
ROSS
PIKE
SCIOTO
LAWRENCE
Sandusky
Lorain
Elyria
Fort Wayne
Findlay
Lima
Mansfield
Wooster
1170 ft
Sidney
Piqua
1250 ft
Springfield
Zanesville
Richmond
Dayton
Oxford
Little Miami
State Park
Athens
Ohio River
Islands
National
Wildlife Refuge
Existing Alignment
Development
Context
Bodies of Water
Natural
Rural
Suburban
Urban
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap
contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS