8-Step Wetlands Decision Document

25-10 Patterson Road Improvements

Step 1: Based on a field investigation completed by an EMH&T environmental scientist on 08/28/2026, the project involves “new construction” (including grading, draining, and dredging) in a wetland (Wetland B) located north of Patterson Road between Airport Road and Bethel Maple Road.

Step 2: This proposed project will be posted to the Clermont County website on 10/29/2026. The public will be provided a 15-day comment period, which ends 11/13/2026.

The notice will include the project name, proposed location, and description of the activity; the related natural and beneficial functions and values of the wetland that may be adversely affected by the proposed activity; and the email to contact for information and to submit comments. A copy of the notice will be included in the environmental review record.
Step 3: The proposed project is a maintenance activity along approximately 0.7 mile of Patterson Road, including regrading the existing ditches and replacing driveway pipes to improve drainage along this portion of the road. There are no alternative sites for this project, as it is not feasible to relocate the roadway. There are no alternative methods to improve the drainage in this area other than removing built up sediment and regrading the ditches. Wetland B cannot be avoided as it is located immediately adjacent to the roadway and is located partly within the existing ditch. Wetland B is a Category 1 wetland under the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM), meaning it is a wetland of low quality, limited function, or severe degradation, and possesses minimal ecological value. Although portions of Wetland B within the ditch will be permanently impacted, the majority of Wetland B adjacent to the project will not be impacted. Ecological functions associated with the remainder of Wetland B will not be impacted by the project. The No Action alternative is neither feasible nor reasonable as the road and adjacent drainage facilities will continue to deteriorate and become unsafe for travelers and residents.

Step 4: The proposed action will directly impact a minor amount of Wetland B that is located in the existing ditch. Minor tree and brush clearing will also be necessary to facilitate construction. No long-term impact to the ecological function of adjacent wetlands is anticipated. Temporary impacts to Wetland B associated with construction will be minimal.

Step 5: To minimize impacts 1) the construction footprint and area of disturbance will be the minimum necessary to complete the project; 2) temporary construction fencing will be placed around the boundary of all wetlands to reduce the likelihood of unintentional impacts; 3) best management practices for sediment and erosion control will be used throughout construction and 4) once construction is complete, disturbed grounds will be revegetated.

Step 6: Reevaluate alternatives

a. There are no possible modifications that can completely avoid impacting Wetland B.

b. Is it possible to perform no action? No, allowing the roadway and drainage facilities to further deteriorate represents a hazard to local residents and the traveling public with roadway flooding and potential damage to property as a result of flooding.
c. As planned, the construction footprint is as minimal as it can be while still completing the project. Wetland impacts will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Step 7: The final public notice will be posted on the Clermont County website as part of the Notice of Intent Request for Release of Funds (NOI/RROF).

Step 8: Implement the action (project). Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2027.