



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Michigan Agency
2845 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Environmental Services

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIAN
RESERVATION
EAST MCKEESE ROAD AND M-22 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT/
Environmental Assessment (EA)**

SUMMARY:

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Reservation is proposing to add a paved walking path (sidewalk) along a portion of East McKeese Road and M-22, add a crosswalk along M-22 near existing tribal buildings and the Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge, and slightly widen portions of East McKeese Road and M-22. The project is in Peshawbestown, on the Grand Traverse Reservation in Leelanau County, Michigan (Sections 10 and 11 of Township 30 North, Range 11 West). The project extends along East McKeese Road/North Stallman Road from the intersection with Strongheart Way Road east to the intersection with M-22 and north along M-22 to East Bear Drive. The length of the project on East McKeese Road/North Stallman Road from North Strongheart Way to M-22 is approximately 0.25 mile. The length of the project on M-22 from East McKeese Road/North Stallman Road to north Bear Drive is approximately 0.9 mile. The proposed work to add the sidewalk and widen the existing roads (East McKeese and M-22) would occur in the existing right-of-way (ROW). The paved sidewalk would be limited to the south side of McKeese Road and the east side of M-22. The existing ROW is 66 feet wide on East McKeese Road/North Stallman Road and 100 feet wide on M-22. The project are is on Michigan DOT (MDOT) and Leelanau County ROW property. Based upon the entire administrative record including analysis in the October 2026 EA, the BIA makes a FONSI for the Proposed Action. This finding constitutes a determination that the Proposed Action is not a Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq., an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve pedestrian safety and mobility along M-22 and McKeese Road within the community of Peshawbestown, Michigan, by constructing sidewalks, marked crosswalks, and associated pedestrian infrastructure. The project is intended to reduce the risk of vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, improve safe access between residential areas and essential community destinations, and support the health, safety, and wellbeing of Tribal citizens and visitors traveling through the Grant Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' reservation lands.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Two alternatives are analyzed in the EA: the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. The Proposed Action is summarized above. Under the No Action Alternative, no federal actions would occur, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Reservation would not construct the Project for the foreseeable future. Additional details regarding the Proposed Action and Alternatives can be found in EA Section 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Potential impacts to land resources, water resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; transportation; land use and agriculture; public services; noise; hazardous materials; and visual resources were evaluated in the EA, with the following conclusions for the Proposed Action (see EA Section 3 for detailed analysis).

Land Resources

Land resources impacts could occur during the construction and operation of the project. No significant land resources impacts would occur.

Water Resources

Impacts to water resources would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Air Quality

Impacts to air quality would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Biological Resources

Impacts to biological resources would occur from the development of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Cultural Resources

Impacts to cultural resources could occur from the development of the project. The BIA initiated consultation from MISHPO on a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties within the area of potential effects. The BIA received concurrence from MISHPO in a letter dated June 18, 2026. As part of the letter, SHPO requested an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) be submitted prior to project related activities. The UDP was reviewed and approved by the BIA Regional Archaeologist and submitted to MISHPO on July 22, 2026. The UDP is intended to serve as a guide if archaeological material or human remains are encountered during project work. The conditions outlined in the UDP should be observed by the agency, project managers, those working on construction activities, heavy equipment operators, planners/designers, and consulting parties.

Transportation and Circulation

Impacts to transportation and circulation would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Land Use and Agriculture

Impacts to land use and agriculture would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Public Services

Impacts to public services would occur from the operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Noise

Noise and vibration impacts would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials impacts could occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Visual Resources

Impacts to visual resources would occur from the development of the project. No significant impact would occur.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:

A Notice of Availability for the EA and the FONSI is available at <https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/midwest/nepa-compliance-documents>

DETERMINATION:

It has been determined that the proposed Federal action to add a sidewalk and other pedestrian safety improvements for the East McKeese Road and M-22 Improvement Project does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq., an EIS is not required. This determination is supported by the findings described in this FONSI and the analysis contained in the entire administrative record, including the October 2026 EA and in consultation with the SHPO. This fulfills the requirements of NEPA as outlined in the Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (43 CFR 46), and the U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (516 DM 1).

Approved:

Date:

**SCOTT
VIRDEN** Digitally signed by
SCOTT VIRDEN
Date: 2026.10.20
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Superintendent (Acting)
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan Agency
