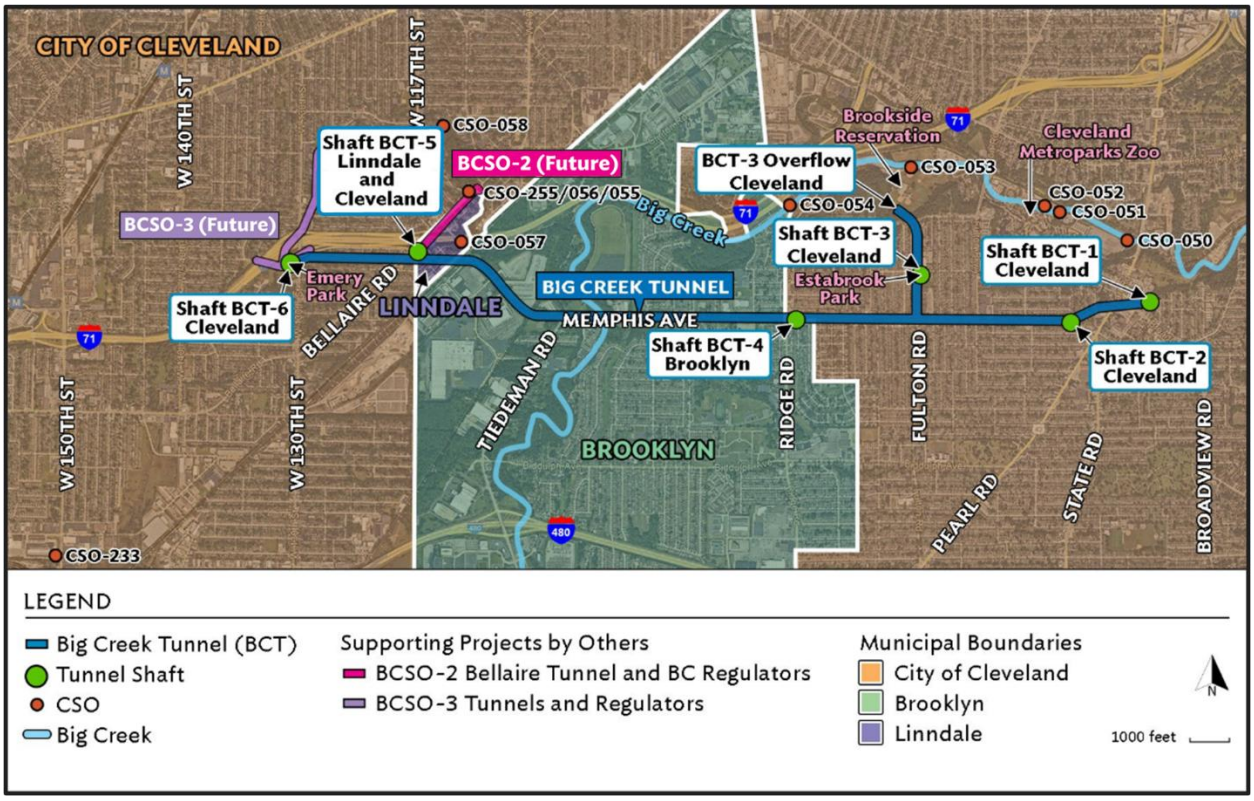
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District | PROJECT CLEAN LAKE

Big Creek Tunnel



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Big Creek Tunnel (BCT) project is part of Project Clean Lake, a $3 billion, 24-year program the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) began in 2011 to meet Clean Water Act standards. The BCT is NEORSD's final large diameter combined sewer overflow (CSO) storage tunnel that, along with other projects, will reduce 4.5 billion gallons of CSO released into Lake Erie and other local waterways in the Greater Cleveland area.

The BCT includes more than four miles of 20-ft diameter tunnel, built in rock, 50 to 100 feet beneath Cleveland, Linndale, and Brooklyn. The tunnel system will capture and store a combination of sanitary sewage and stormwater from 11 CSO outfalls. Upon completion of BCT, CSO volume discharged to Big Creek and its tributaries will be reduced by 550 million gallons annually.

PROJECT COST AND TIMELINE

The BCT design is complete with construction scheduled for fall 2026 – 2031. Construction cost is estimated to be $300 million.

Big Creek Tunnel Schedule

	Year							
Project Phase	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**
Design								
Bidding								
Construction								

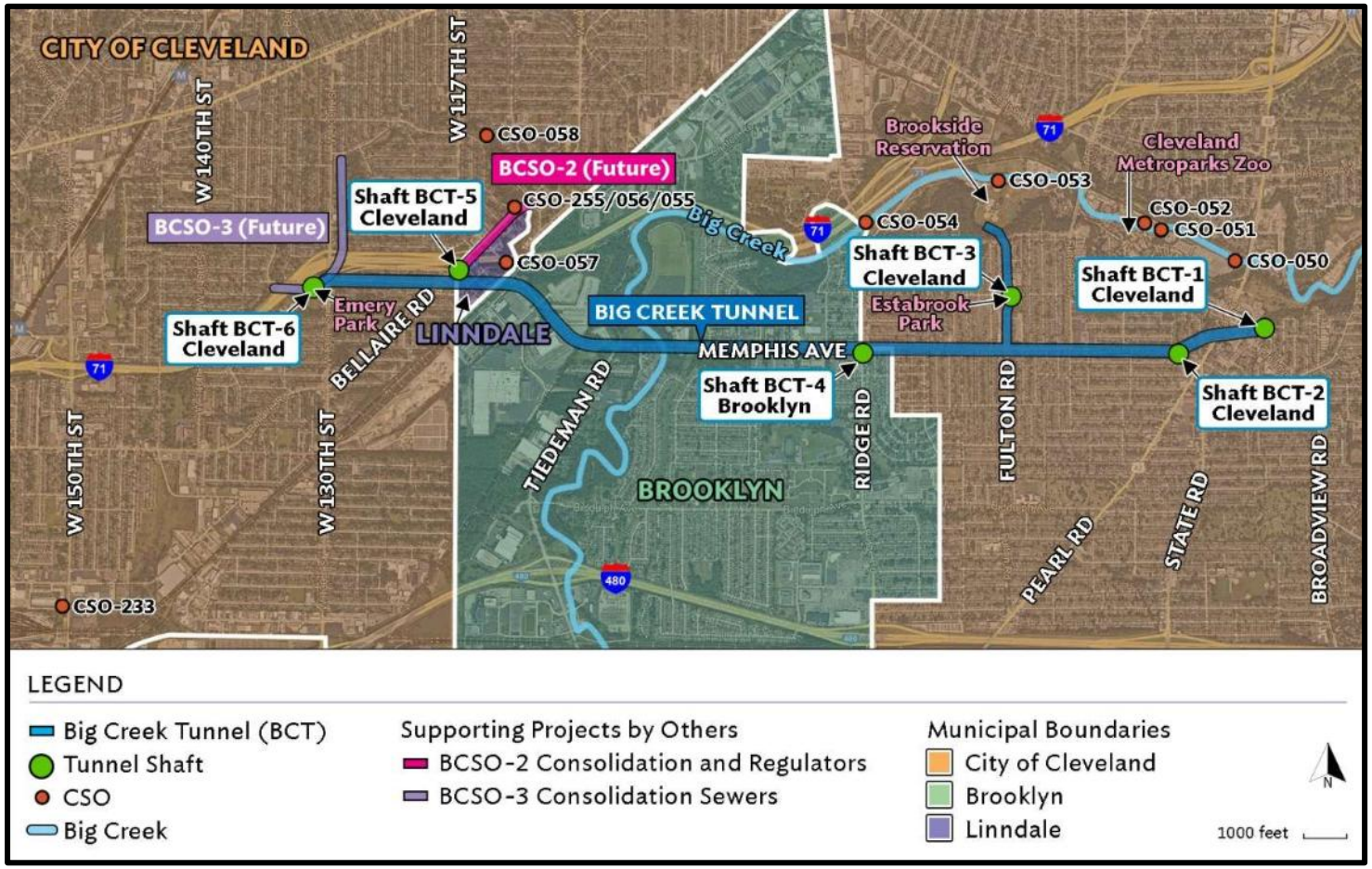
QUESTIONS? CONTACT Gina Miller | 216-881-2560 ext. 6475 | millerg@neorsd.org

Big Creek Tunnel

- The Big Creek Tunnel (BCT) project is part of Project Clean Lake and the Federal Consent Decree
- Storage tunnel system to capture combined sewage (CSO) from discharging to the Big Creek watershed
- Reduce annual CSO volume by approximately **550 million gallons**

Big Creek Tunnel (BCT) Project Overview

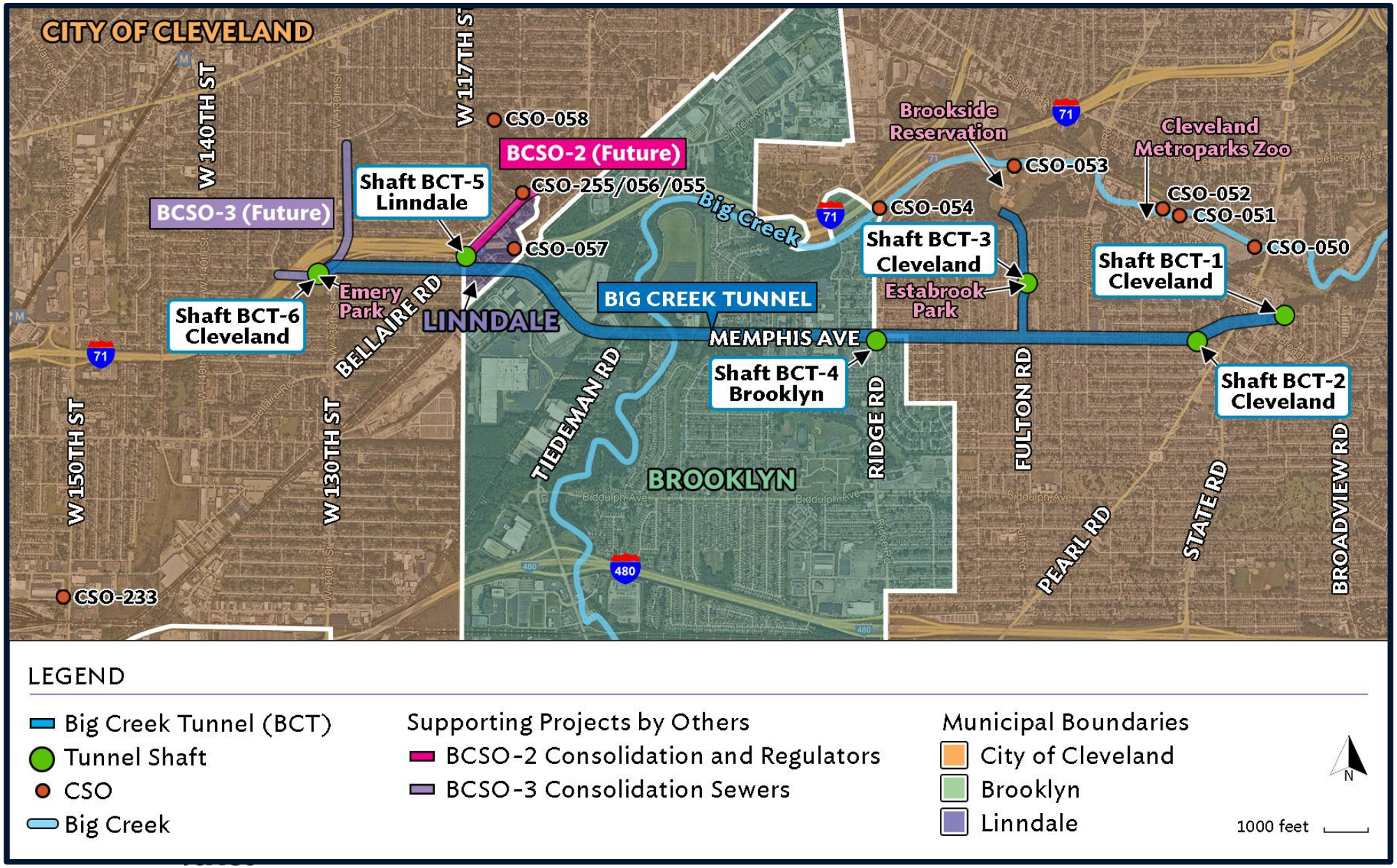
- Located in Cleveland, Linndale, and Brooklyn
- Alignment primarily along Memphis Ave from W. 130th St to W 24th St
- ~4 miles of 20-ft diameter storage tunnel constructed in rock
- 6 tunnel shafts, consolidation sewers, adits, gate and screening structures
- Mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation/control equipment



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

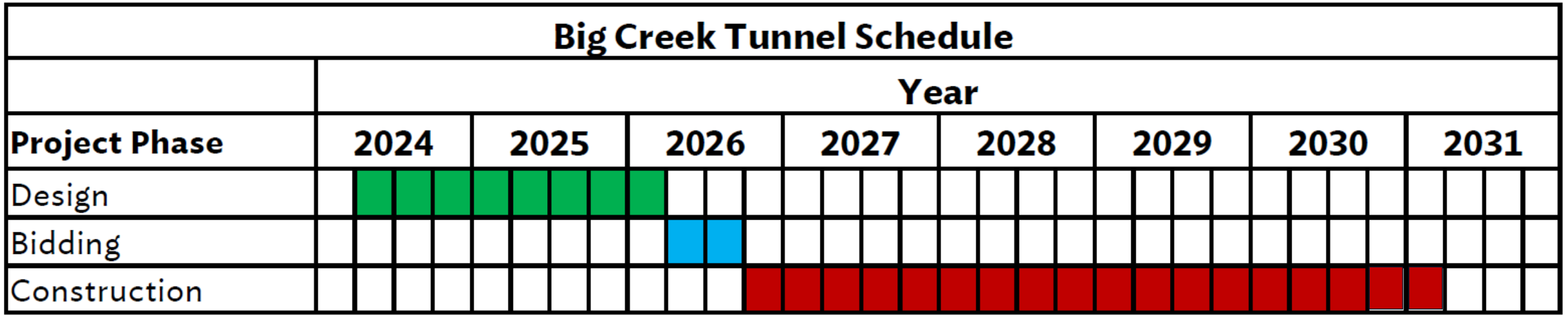
3/4/2026

Big Creek Tunnel (BCT) Project Overview

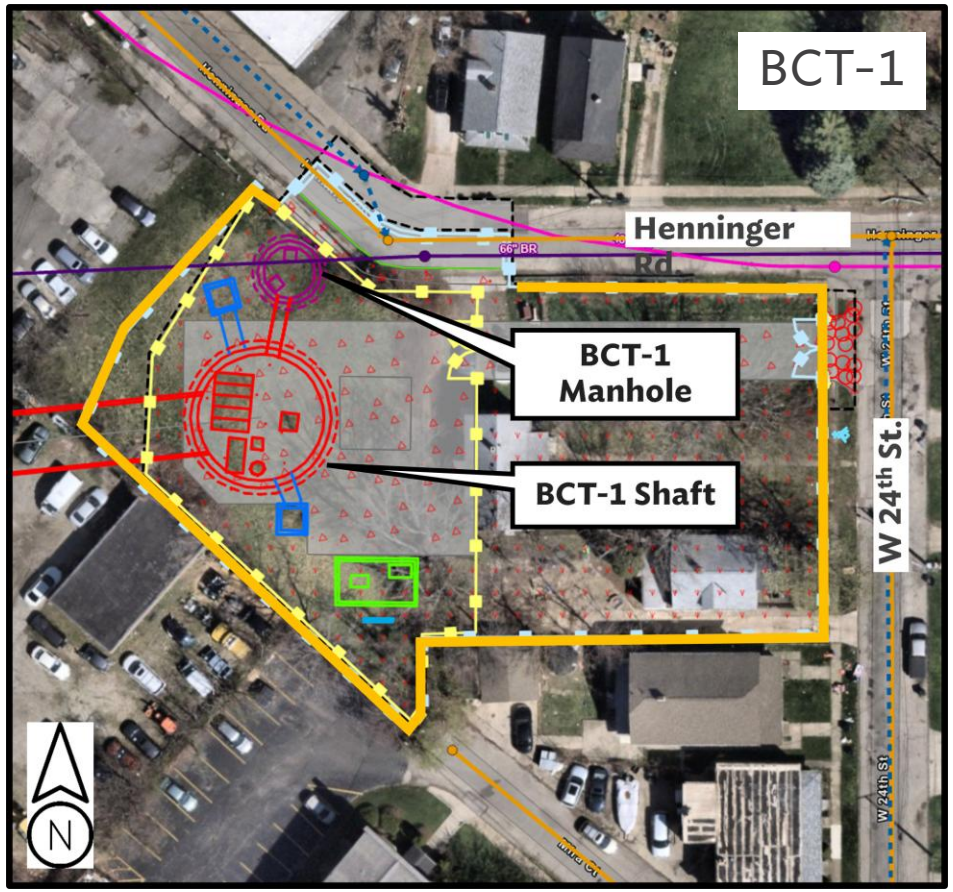


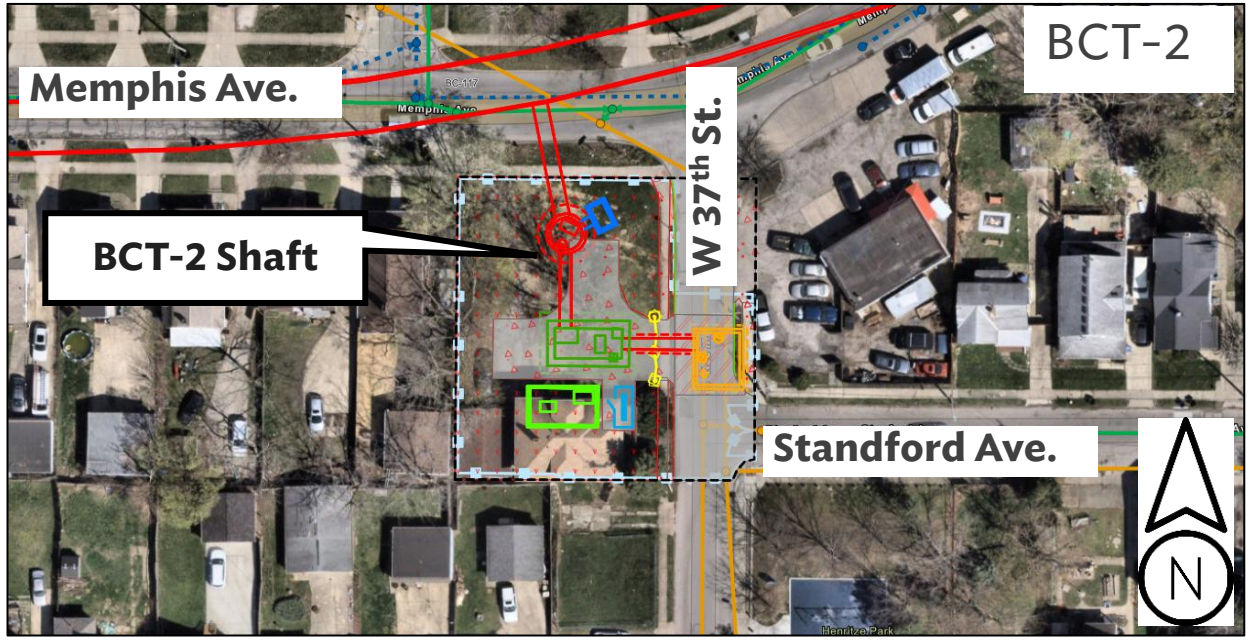
Big Creek Tunnel Project Schedule

- Design Phase – ends Q1 2026
- Bid Period – Q2 through Q3 2026
- Construction – Q3 2026 through Q1 2031



BCT Shaft Sites





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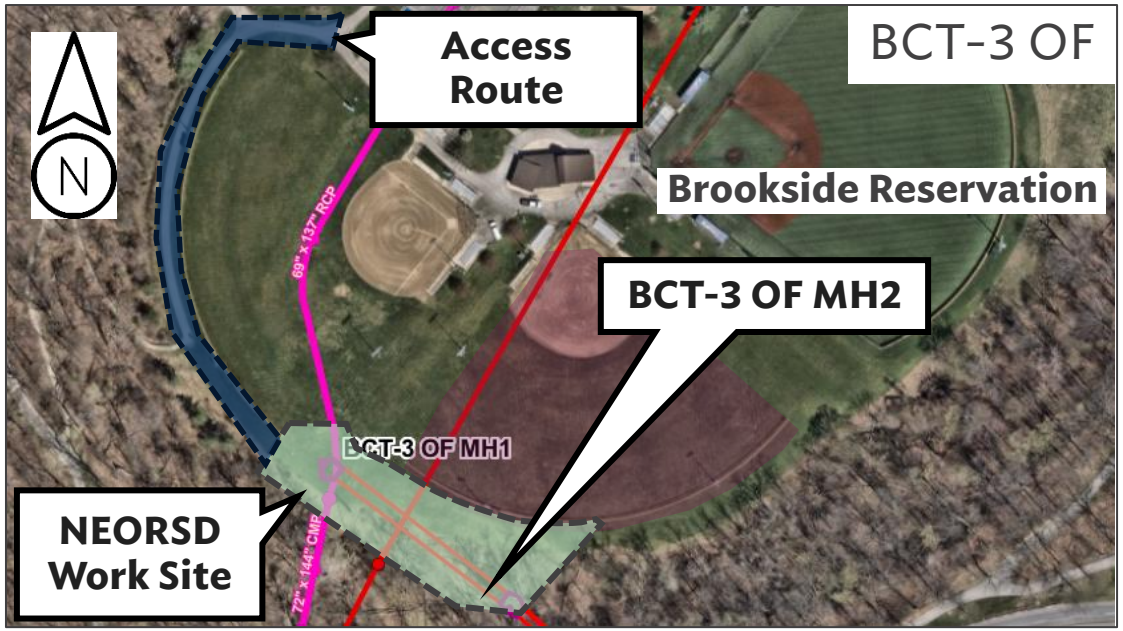
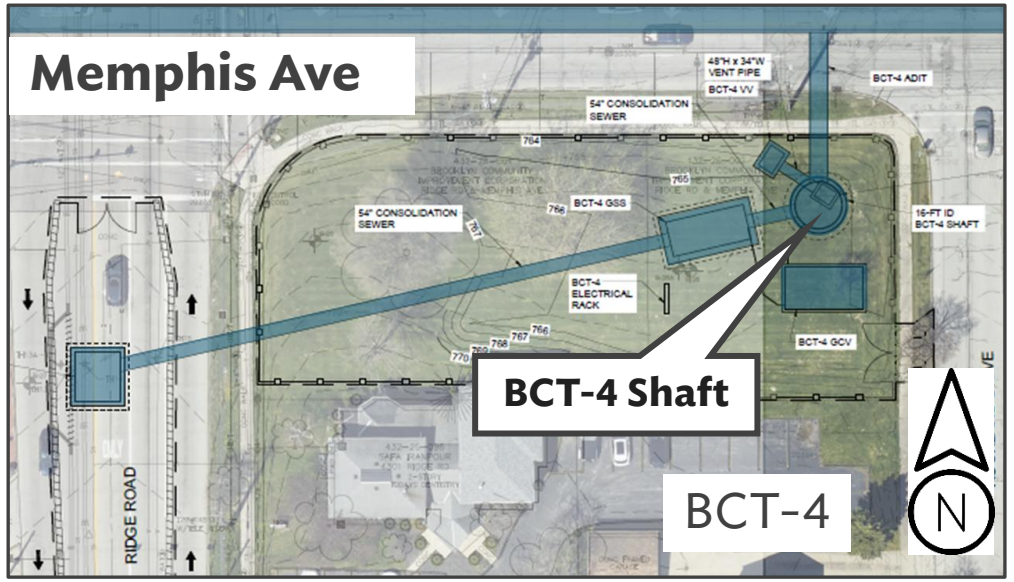
BCT Shaft Sites





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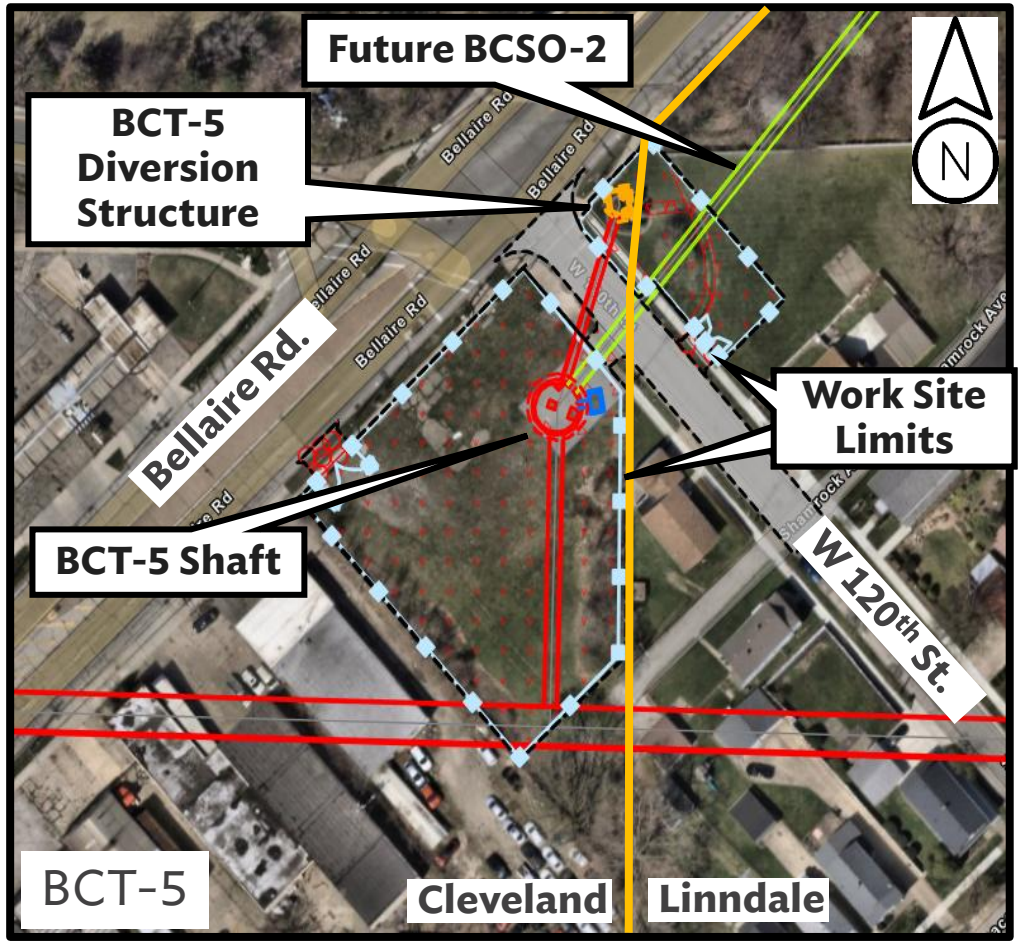
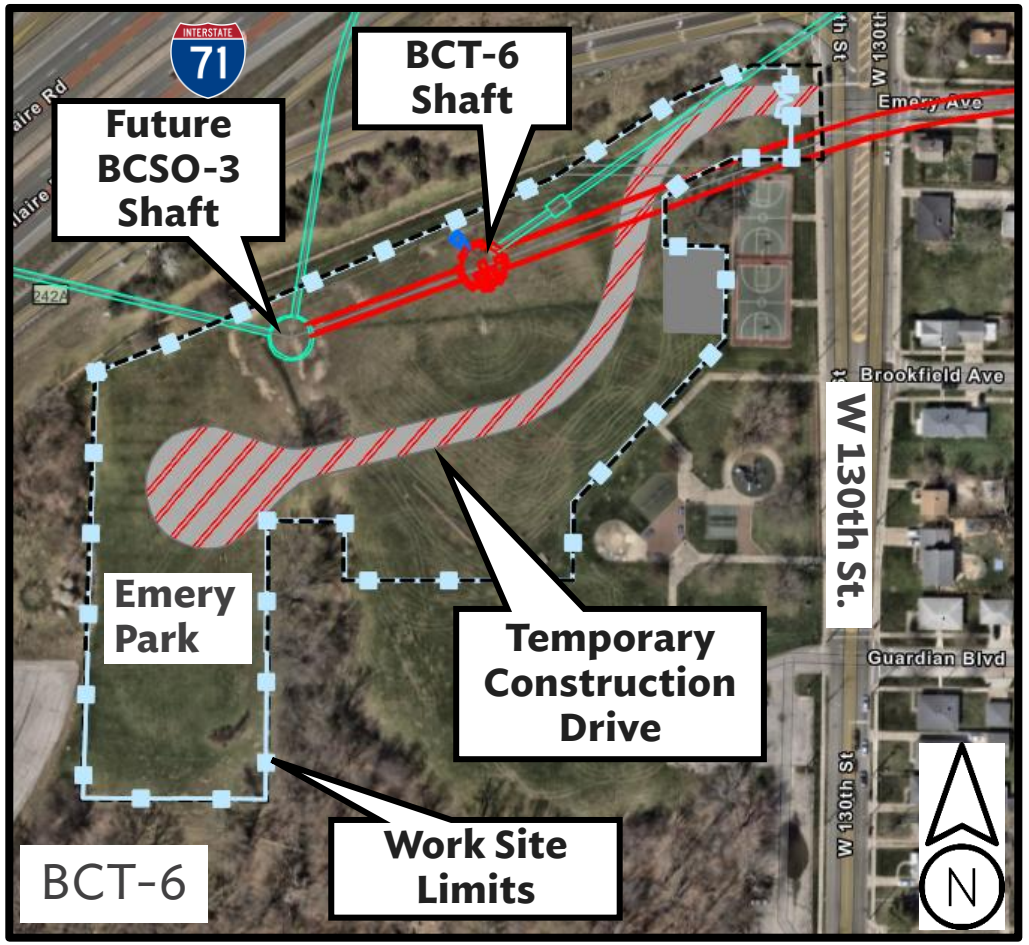
BCT Shaft Sites





Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

3/4/2026

Contact Information

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