

# Town of South Bethany York Road Flood Mitigation & Design Study

June 23, 2025

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The York Road corridor located in the southern municipal limits of the Town of South Bethany has long been subjected to nuisance flooding both during storm events and daily tide cycles. Multiple variables including the low-lying elevation of York Road and the presence of adjacent wetlands and waterbodies to the street are direct causes of the consistent flooding. Ongoing flooding has led to property damage, the inability of residents to access their homes, the deterioration of the roadway, and the surpassed capacity of stormwater infrastructure and drainage to adequately function. The Town of South Bethany seeks to address

the ongoing flooding by mobilizing practical and economical mitigation measures and selected AECOM to assist in developing an engineered design that would fulfill this goal by reducing the flooding and the associated impacts.

This study was prepared to provide a practical engineering design solution for approximately 750 +/- linear feet of roadway based upon historical water elevation data, subsurface sampling, and the delineation of wetlands, that could be implemented short-term by the Town and be put out to bid upon the completion of this project.



*Figure 1.1. A flooded portion of York Road.*

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In Winter 2024, the Town of South Bethany put out a RFP seeking a consultant to assist in the preparation of a Flood Mitigation and Design Study for the York Road area. The Town had received a secondary subgrant via the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to complete the project and identify an economical engineered design solution to abate the flooding of York Road. For years South Bethany has dealt with York Road and contiguous streets flooding on a near daily basis due to the presence of adjacent wetlands and the areas low-lying elevation. By remaining diligent and applying for funding opportunities, the Town of South Bethany has found itself in a position to address the flooding and drainage problems along York Road in a robust manner.

AECOM was selected in early Spring of 2024 to assist the Town in completing a flood mitigation and design study for the York Road corridor in addition to updating the Town's stormwater mapping. Having worked with the Town in the past on a range of projects in addition to completing previous stormwater mapping exercises, AECOM has a strong familiarity with the flooding issues in South Bethany. For this assessment, the project team started with a review of existing planning and analysis efforts as outlined in Section 4 of this document. The overarching conclusion that was reached from the analysis of the documents was the need for flood mitigation measures to be deployed throughout the community. York Road has consistently been identified as a priority area.

On March 18, 2024, members of the AECOM project team held a kick-off meeting with town staff to discuss the project area and the problems affecting it. Town staff helped propose potential solutions and provided further resources to the project team for review. On April 16, the AECOM project team met to discuss the project area and determine the segment of roadway to be included in the York Road Flood Mitigation and Design Study engineering plans based on investigation of mapping and input from the kick-off meeting with town staff. The specific section of York Road that was identified as being the primary focus of the study was 750 +/- linear feet of roadway spanning from just before the intersection with Carlisle

Road to just before the canal located between Plymouth and Bristol Roads. The Town of South Bethany's overarching goal at the conclusion of this flood mitigation study was to have a final engineering design with completed plans drafted to be implemented, minimizing if not resolving the flooding issues along York Road.

It was the aim of the Town of South Bethany to fund a second phase of the York Road project corridor to mitigate flooding for the remaining length of the roadway and for those streets just off York Road at the completion of this study. Funding was going to be applied for through the Building Resiliency Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program administered by FEMA, however, the program was canceled on April 4, 2025, as announced by the Federal Government, so the second phase of the project is presently on hold.



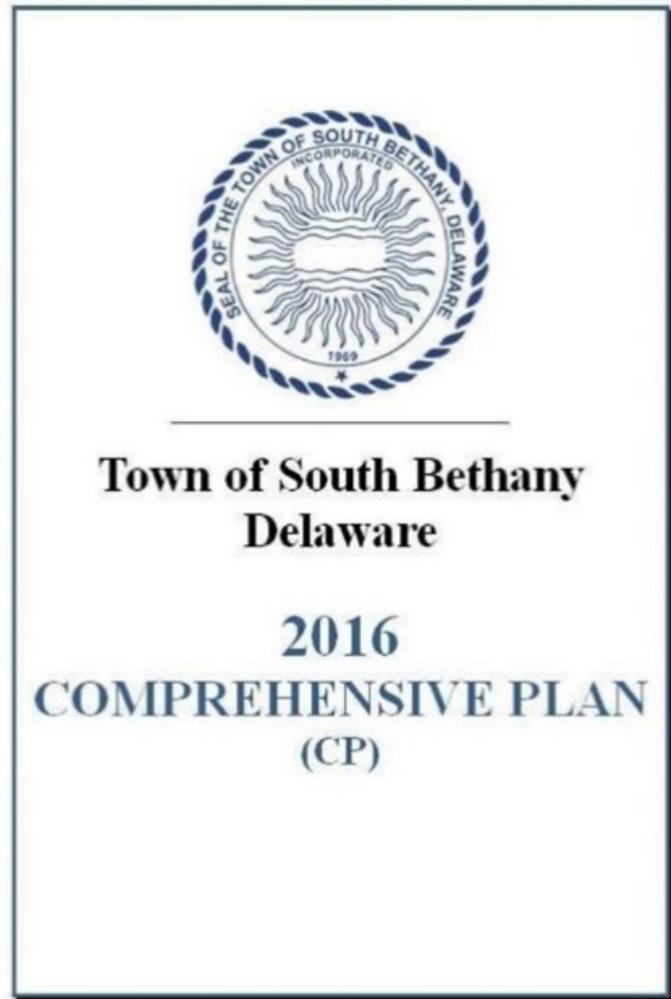
*Figure 2.1. Inundation of York Road just south of the intersection with Plymouth Road during a typical rainfall.*

### 3 DOCUMENT REVIEW

The AECOM project team utilized the following published documents to assist in the development of the York Road Flood Mitigation Study.

#### 3.1 Town of South Bethany Delaware Comprehensive Plan (CP) 2016, Certified 2017 and Amended 2022

In the summer of 2016, the Town of South Bethany Planning Commission (PC) worked diligently with the Office of State Planning and Coordination (OSPC) staff and a consultant to develop their updated comprehensive plan from the previously certified 2006 comprehensive plan. A key component of the plan is the Natural Resources and Infrastructure sections which discuss flooding and drainage within the Town. The plan identifies key factors causing the community to flood, including Sea Level Rise (SLR), nuisance flooding, and storm surges. Mitigation measures that were completed while the plan was being developed include the installation of backflow check valves and the completion of Phase 1 of an SLR and flooding comprehensive study. The plan was amended in 2022 to incorporate information regarding the Town beginning work on a Resiliency Implementation Plan that would provide strategies to mitigate and address flooding issues. In 2015, a community survey showed that a greater number of residents were dissatisfied with street drainage than results from a previous survey conducted in 2011 showed. Those streets located on the bayside or west of Route 1 are identified as being the most vulnerable to flooding and therefore the Town would seek additional funding sources for drainage infrastructure. Reviewing the 2016 Comprehensive Plan provides a clear picture of the Town of South Bethany's priorities in seeking to address the ongoing flooding that the community continuously faces. The Town is going on eight years since the goals of the plan have begun to be implemented and further measures are needed to alleviate flooding on York Road and the surrounding area.



## 3.2 Resiliency Implementation Plan

**Town of South Bethany, Delaware,**

**March 2023**

The Town of South Bethany in coordination with their engineering consultant GMB completed a Resiliency Implementation Plan in March of 2023. This plan evaluates challenges related to SLR and flooding throughout the Town. Furthermore, vulnerable areas were identified, including the York Road corridor with it being of the highest priority for future action. Numerous images were utilized throughout the plan depicting the extensive flooding that takes place on York Road and the inability of existing stormwater and drainage infrastructure to work effectively.

Viable approaches to increase resiliency have been included as part of the plan with the elevating of York Road being listed as part of Phase 1: January 2023 – December 2025. York Road is exposed to multiple water sources with Jefferson Creek and the canal system often overtopping the street resulting in inundation. Additionally, the topography of the road and surrounding area is low in elevation which allows for tidal cycles to affect the transportation route daily. The plan makes clear that a design process should be commenced by the Town to elevate the existing roadway that will be effective in preventing flooding but also will not have a detrimental impact on adjacent residential properties. Engineering and design costs associated with elevating the road are substantial and therefore the plan recommends the Town seek out grant funding sources from FEMA and other state and federal agencies to offset the significant costs. The Resiliency Implementation Plan will continue to serve as a roadmap for the Town of South Bethany to address current flooding troubles.



## 4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 4.1 Data Analysis

#### 4.1.1 Road Survey and Street Elevation

York Road currently has an average elevation of 1.70' NAVD88 as determined by the road survey that was completed by the AECOM project team and is shown as Figure 4.1 below. The average elevation of York Road is relatively low and therefore exacerbates the flooding issues that plague the roadway.

The number of days when the water level exceeds the elevation of York Road is increasing annually. Paired with a low roadway elevation, York Road faces significant flooding issues.

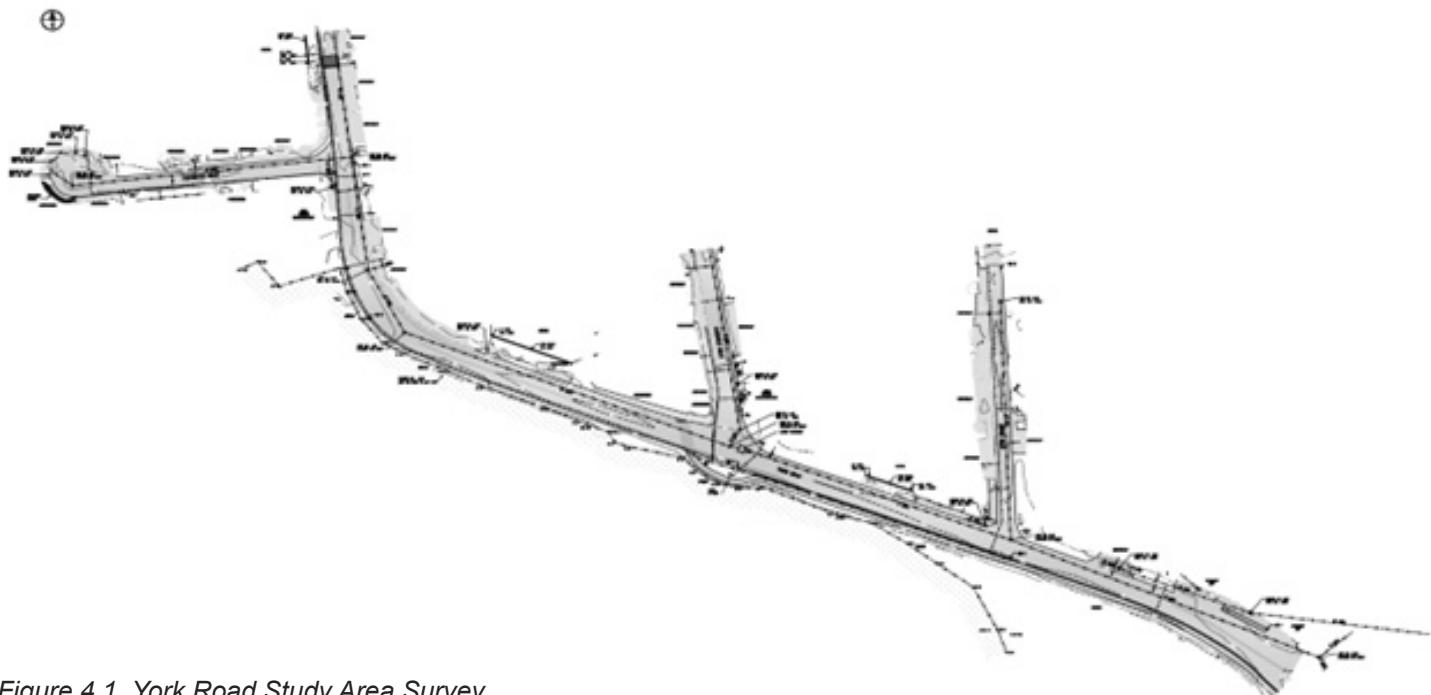


Figure 4.1. York Road Study Area Survey

#### 4.1.2 Jefferson Creek Tidal Station Water Elevation Data

The Jefferson Creek tidal station is located at the end of West 1<sup>st</sup> Street and due northwest of York Road in South Bethany near the mouth of the canal. The tidal station collects water level data on behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey. Data extracted from the tide station can be utilized to monitor water levels over a set time range and assist in providing the mathematical basis for engineering solutions. Water level daily values from the Jefferson Creek tidal station were taken for one full calendar year from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023. Two sets of calculations were done to arrive at the average daily tidal height and the average maximum daily tidal height for the year provided. The average values for each of the two data sets and the methodology for arriving at these figures are included below.

1. The average daily tidal height for the year was calculated by taking the mean tide height for each month and dividing the sum by 12. The average daily height for the period of October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, is 1.03' NAVD88.
2. The average maximum daily tidal height for the year was calculated by taking the maximum tide height for each month and dividing the

sum by 12. The average maximum daily height for the period of October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, is 1.89' NAVD88.

The two values shown above paint a picture of why York Road is commonly faced with flooding issues. Although the average daily water elevation for the one-year period referenced above is 0.67' less than the elevation of York Road, this number does not consider future sea level rise (SLR). However, the average maximum daily water elevation for the same timeframe does show that the water levels exceed the elevation of York Road and therefore overtopping of the roadway would ensue leading to flooding.

Further analysis of historic water elevation data was undertaken to identify those days where the water level, as measured by the Jefferson Creek tidal station, would have exceeded the elevation of York Road at 1.70' NAVD88. The period examined was from October 12, 2018, to September 26, 2024. Each of the highest daily values for the water elevation were taken and those values that were greater than 1.70' were then organized into Table 4.1 below for each calendar year from 2018 through 2024.

Dates	Number of Days Water Level > 1.7 ft. NAVD88
October 12, 2018 - December 31, 2018	1
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	11
January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020	14
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021	8
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022	11
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	21
January 1, 2024 - September 26, 2024	30

Table 4.1. Days Water Level Exceeds Roadway Elevation

Based on the results of the historic water elevation data analysis and the information contained in Table 4.1, it can be concluded that year after year, apart from 2021, the number of days where York Road experiences flooding are increasing. It is important to note that the full year for 2024 is not included in the table and therefore the total number of days may be more than the 30 identified above. It can be inferred that based on the identified trend the total number of days each year where the water elevation exceeds the elevation of York Road will only continue to increase resulting in further flooding and associated issues.

The AECOM project team and their subconsultant CGC Geoservices conducted two different kinds of field analyses and associated testing to assess the subsurface conditions and presence of wetlands within the study area. The information presented by the final test borings completed by CGC Geoservices and the Wetland Delineation Report completed by AECOM were drawn upon to assist in the development of several engineering design scenarios. These design scenarios were then presented to the Town's appointed and elected bodies with one scenario being selected for implementation as identified in the conclusion of this document.

## 4.2 Field Studies and Analysis

### 4.2.1 Wetland Delineation Report

A team of AECOM wetland scientists was deployed on June 5, 2024, to conduct a wetland and watercourse delineation of the York Road study area. The project study area is comprised of approximately 5.76 acres with the total wetland area being delineated per the attached report in Appendix A as 1.81 acres. Five wetlands were identified comprising the 1.81 acres of delineated wetland. By completing the delineation and documenting the findings in the attached report (Appendix A), AECOM engineers were able to incorporate those identified wetlands into the proposed design plans.

The next phase of the York Road project will be to implement the selected design resulting in required permitting that will need to be undertaken for regulated wetlands. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and delegated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in addition to regulations adopted under the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) under Title 7 of the Delaware Administrative Code, will need to be complied with in full as the York Road flood mitigation project is initiated.

### 4.2.2 Subsurface Evaluation Report

To evaluate the subsurface conditions along the 750 +/- linear feet of York Road that comprises the project study area, AECOM hired a subconsultant CGC Geoservices, LLC. Three Standard Penetration Test (SPT) borings were completed along various points of York Road at an extended depth of 20 feet below grade with the boring logs and encountered conditions documented. For each of the three borings, a 4-to-8-inch layer of bituminous concrete was encountered overlying granular soils with loose to medium density. As the borings went deeper a layer of loose/soft organic material was observed on TB-1 and TB-2 within the granular soils at 8 to 12 feet in depth, however, this same organic layer was not observed during TB-3 as you move East along York Road.

The findings of the test borings, a stratigraphic profile, evaluation notes, and a marked-up site plan demonstrating where the borings were done are all included as part of this report as Appendix B. Subsurface and soil borings were completed as part of this project for future construction purposes and to help facilitate the design for proposed engineering scenarios. Depending on the presence of specific soil types and subsurface conditions, certain engineering and design alternatives may not be feasible. The selected final engineered design is suitable based upon the findings of the subsurface borings.

# 5 RECOMMENDED DESIGN SCENARIOS AND PROJECT MEETINGS

## 5.1 November 8, 2024, Town Council Meeting

After concluding the project study area wetland delineation, road survey, subsurface evaluation, and the analysis of historical water elevation data and flooding events AECOM engineers were tasked with drafting preliminary design plans to address the flooding issues along York Road. A total of three preliminary design scenarios were developed and first presented to the South Bethany Town Council at their meeting held on November 8, 2024. The three preliminary design scenarios are provided below.

The first design scenario that was presented was for a seawall to be constructed along York Road bordering the delineated wetlands located directly south of the street. Additional interior seawalls would also be constructed as part of this option at the ends of the canals between York, Carlisle, Plymouth and Bristol Roads. The top of the seawalls would be set at an elevation of 2.50' NAVD88 with 1,800' in total seawalls being constructed. The design scenario plans are contained Appendix C.

The second design scenario would be to elevate 750' +/- of York Road beginning before the intersection with Carlisle Road by six (6) inches in elevation with the low point being 2.10' NAVD88. The justification for the street to be elevated by six (6) inches was dependent upon the historical water elevation data provided in Table 4.1 above. Of the 96 days where the Jefferson Creek Tide station recorded the elevation of the water surface exceeding that of York Road at 1.70' NAVD88, 83 of those 96 days or 86% would have been prevented if the roadway were raised to the elevation above. The design scenario plans are contained in Appendix D.

The third and final design scenario that was presented to the Town Council was for the combination of scenarios one and two. This third scenario would see 750' +/- of York Road shown on the plan included as Appendix E of this study being elevated by a total of six (6) inches and seawalls being constructed along the delineated marsh and within the interior canals.

## 5.2 December 19, 2024, Resiliency Committee Meeting

After meeting with the South Bethany Town Council, members of the AECOM project team presented a refined design scenario to the Resiliency Committee at their meeting on December 19, 2024. The design scenario that was presented was for the elevation of 750' +/- of York Road by six (6) inches, the construction of a partial seawall along the Jefferson Creek side of York Road across from Carlisle Road, and the installation of an additional drainage inlet on the north side of York Road that would connect into the existing system. Cost estimates for asphalt and porous paving were provided to the committee to assist in their decision making. No recommendation to the Town Council was made at this meeting as further discussion and exploration of design alternatives was warranted.

## 5.3 February 4, 2025, Resiliency Committee Meeting

The AECOM project team reappeared before the South Bethany Resiliency Committee on February 4, 2025, to review several other design scenario alternatives after meeting on December 19, 2024. The three initial design scenario options that were presented to Town Council on November 8, 2024, were provided to the Resiliency Committee for their review. Two new design options were brought forth as result of inquiries from members of the Town Council, Resiliency Committee, and members of the public and are provided below.

The fourth design scenario that was developed was for the construction of a wooden causeway that would permit vehicular traffic to navigate above the flooded project study area. However, a wooden causeway of that magnitude would be expensive to construct and cumbersome to adequately maintain. York Road only has 30' of R.O.W. making it incredibly narrow and as a result, being able to provide access to those homes abutting York Road would be difficult.

The fifth design scenario and second new option would be to elevate York Road by eight (8) inches from its current elevation. This design scenario would provide several challenges had it been recommended to the Town Council by the Resiliency Committee. Several of those challenges that were identified included a greater chance of subsidence occurring and being able to achieve the proper grading leading to increased drainage issues and the flooding of adjacent residential properties from the street.

The Resiliency Committee voted at the February 4, 2025, meeting to recommend the second design scenario to the Town Council for implementation. This option would elevate 750' +/- of York Road by 6" and employ porous pavement rather than asphalt to facilitate drainage.

#### **5.4 February 14, 2025, Town Council Meeting**

At the February 14, 2025, Town Council meeting, AECOM project staff presented the five design scenario options to the body for their consideration. After reviewing each scenario and contemplating the recommendation by the Resiliency Committee to move forward with design scenario #2, the South Bethany Town Council approved the option unanimously to move forward with elevating 750' +/- of York Road to be constructed out of porous pavement. Members of the public provided input regarding the proposed design plans with some stating that they believed the plans did not go far enough and further measures should be investigated including the construction of causeways and seawalls. The Town Council selected the design option due to its practicality and the ability of the Town to fund the construction and complete it in a timely fashion. AECOM was then directed to finalize design engineering plans for the selected scenario to be presented at the May 21, 2025, Resiliency Committee meeting for final approval.

#### **5.5 May 21, 2025, Resiliency Committee Meeting**

AECOM's project engineers drafted final design plans for the York Road flood mitigation project and presented these plans to the Resiliency Committee at their meeting convened on May 21, 2025. The Resiliency Committee approved the final design plans for the project and directed AECOM staff to finalize the plans and submit them as part of this study. The Town of South Bethany upon receipt of the approved plans will utilize them for the bidding process to begin the implementation and construction of the selected engineered design scenario to mitigate flooding on York Road. The final engineered design plans are incorporated as part of this document under Section 6.

## 6 FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN PLANS

Project Management Tools: Designer - Detailed - Advanced

Architectural Drawing

North

0' 20' 40' 60' 80'

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PROJECT  
YORK ROAD  
FLOOD MITIGATION  
PROJECT  
YORK ROAD  
TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
DELAWARE

CLIENT  
TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY

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LOCATION MAP

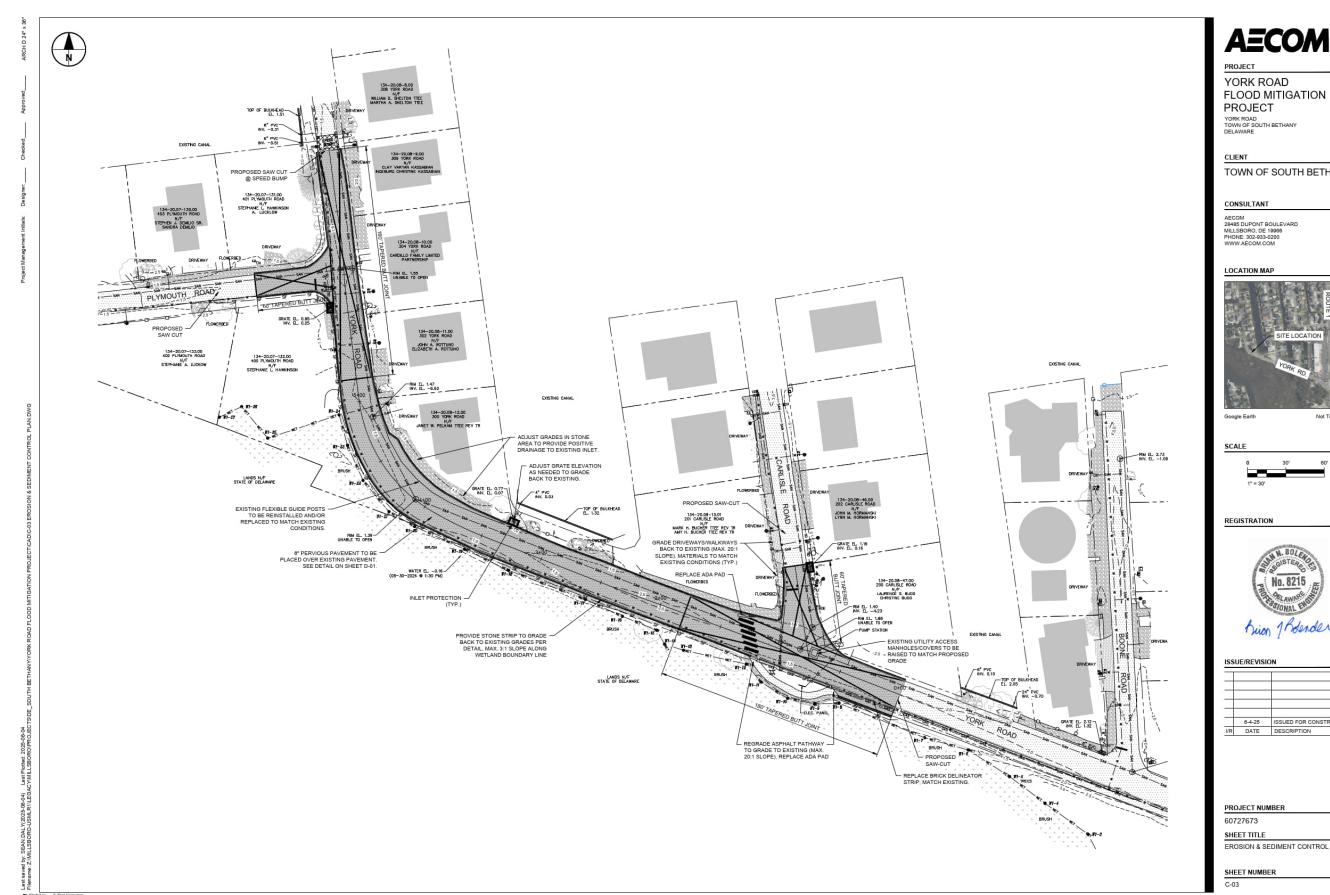
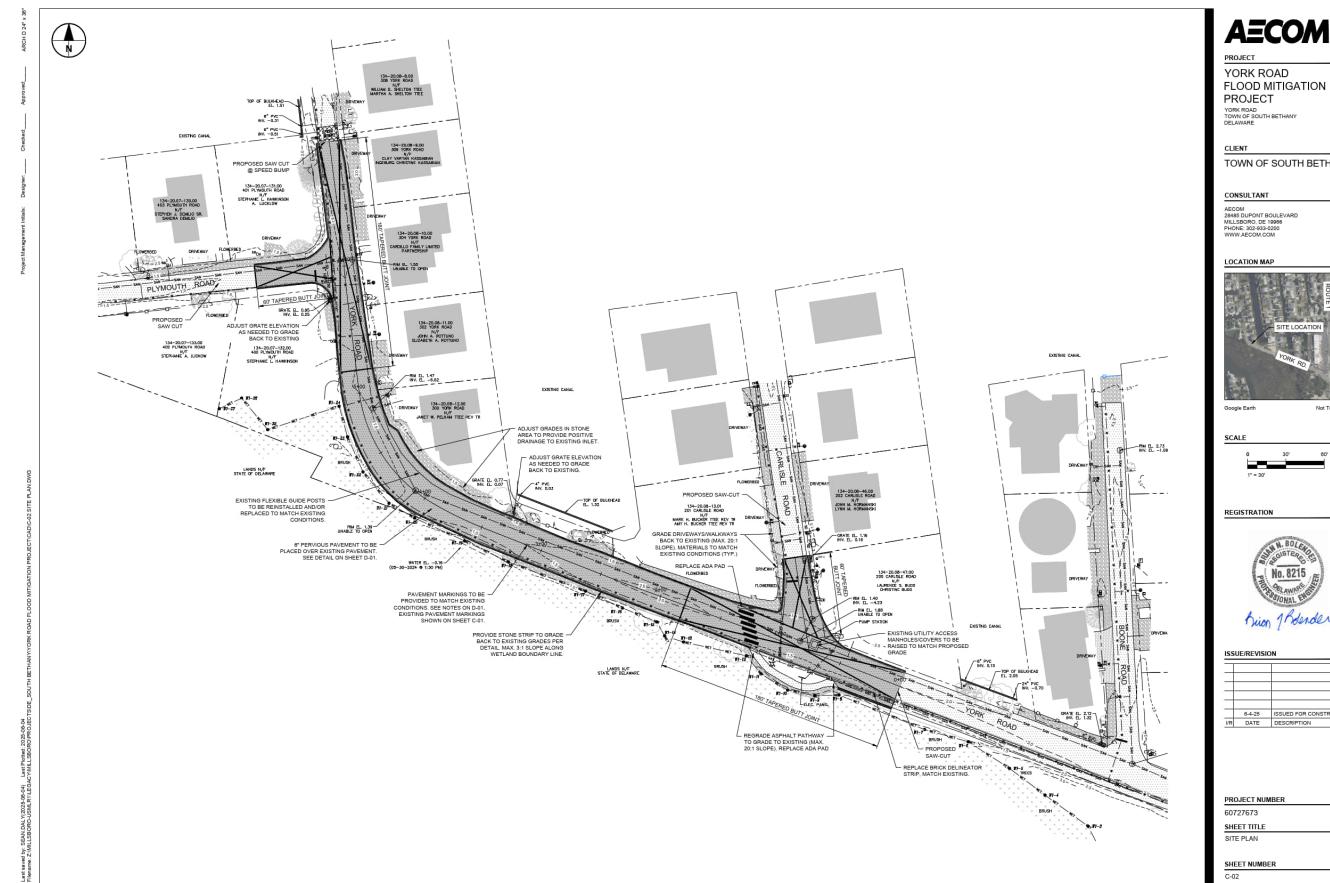
Google Earth  
Not To Scale

SCALE  
0' 20' 40' 60' 80'  
Y' 20' 40' 60'

REGISTRATION

ISSUE/REVISION  
0-1  
6-4-08 ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION  
0-1 DATE DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER  
6072673  
SHEET TITLE  
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SHEET NUMBER  
C-01







## References

South Bethany Planning Commission: Town of South Bethany Delaware 2016 Comprehensive Plan (CP), Amended 2022.

<https://delplan.org/wpcontent/Amendments/South%20Bethany/South%20Bethany%202022%20amendment%20after%205%20year%20review.pdf>

George, Miles & Buhr, LLC (GMB). March 2023. *Resiliency Implementation Plan Town of South Bethany Delaware*.

<https://southbethany.delaware.gov/files/2023/07/FINAL-Report-South-Bethany-MARCH-2023-BRJ-rev.pdf>

United States Geological Survey National Water Information System: Web Interface. *USGS 01484696 Jefferson Creek at South Bethany, DE*. [https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site\\_no=01484696&legacy=1](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=01484696&legacy=1)

# Appendices

**Appendix A: Wetland Delineation Report**

**Appendix B: Subsurface Evaluation Report**

**Appendix C: Seawall Design Plans**

**Appendix D: Elevating York Road Design Plans**

**Appendix E: Combination of Seawall and Elevating York Road Design Plans**

# APPENDIX A

## Wetland Delineation Report

WETLANDS AND OTHER WATERS OF THE U.S.  
DELINEATION REPORT

YORK ROAD FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE



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July 2024

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Appendix B    Photographic Log

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The York Road Flood Mitigation Project is located in the Town of South Bethany, DE in a residential community bordered by Fenwick Island State Park on the south end (Site). The Site has a history of flooding, which has necessitated a study of potential mitigation actions. The existing roads are at a low elevation and are surrounded by open tidal waters, as well as tidal marsh areas. The Project Study Area (PSA) is approximately 5.76 acres and was determined based on an approximate buffer of 40 feet around the roads expected to be impacted by project activities, as well as a greater area to the south of York Road to capture the tidal marsh (Figure 1).

On behalf of the town of South Bethany, AECOM conducted a wetland and watercourse delineation within the PSA as described in Section 1.1. The delineation involved a desktop review of existing information and a field delineation of wetlands and watercourses. Information collected during the desktop review was used in conjunction with the field delineation to identify regulated areas pursuant to regulations established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and delegated to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as regulations established by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) under Title 7 of the Delaware Administrative Code.

This report was prepared to document findings of the wetland and watercourse delineation and to support, as needed, future permit applications.

### 1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Project Study Area (PSA) is approximately 5.76 acres and includes a buffer around a section of York Road, Plymouth Road, Boone Road, and Carlisle Road, as well as an additional area to the south of York Road covered by tidal marsh. Several canal boundaries were also included in the PSA, where they extend close to the edge of roadways. The Site is bordered on the east side by the southbound lane of the Coastal Highway (U.S. Route 1) and bordered by Fenwick State Park on the south.

## 2.0 METHODS

This section describes the sources used in the desktop data review and the methods used during the field delineation process.

### 2.1 DESKTOP DATA REVIEW

A desktop data review of existing information was conducted to assess the potential presence of watercourses, wetlands, and/or wetland indicators within the study area prior to conducting the field delineation. Information reviewed included:

- United States Geological Survey (USGS) Bethany Beach, DE 7.5-minute series topographical quadrangles (NGS, 2024) (Figure 1);
- United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) soil survey (USDA-NRCS, 2023) (Figure 2);
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services' (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Wetland Mapper (USFWS, 2024) (Figure 3);
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (USGS, 2024) (Figure 3);
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) (FEMA, 2022) (Figure 3); and

- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) State Regulated Wetlands Map Index (DNREC 2024) (Figure 4).

## 2.2 FIELD DELINEATION METHODS

Field delineation of the study area was conducted on June 5, 2024 by AECOM wetland scientists. Permission to enter private property was not given as part of this project, and therefore some areas were visually assessed from the street and using aerial imagery.

### 2.2.1 Wetlands

Wetlands were delineated using the routine method defined by the USACE *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region, Version 2.0* (USACE, 2010). The routine method documents three parameters: vegetation, soil characteristics, and hydrology. It evaluates these parameters for evidence of wetland conditions. Wetland boundaries were identified, and the limits were documented using a Trimble R8 GNSS receiver running Trimble Access software on TC3 data collectors. Trimble Access software uses real time correction to provide survey grade locations. These boundaries were then projected onto georeferenced aerial images to create maps used to illustrate the location and size of the delineated wetlands and waterways for incorporation into the wetland delineation report. Paired upland and wetland data points were established at each wetland area to confirm delineated boundary conditions. Information regarding the vegetation, soil characteristics, and hydrology for each data point was documented using the USACE Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Wetland Determination Data Form (Appendix A). Wetlands were classified based on water source (i.e., fresh water (palustrine); salt water (estuarine)) and dominant plant community or mix of communities [i.e., palustrine forested (PFO), palustrine emergent (PEM); estuarine emergent (EEM)].

#### *Vegetation*

Vegetation evaluation included identification of trees, saplings and shrubs, herbaceous plants, and woody vine species. As per the USACE guidance for this region, all vegetation strata were evaluated in an approximate 30-foot radius plot. For each stratum, plants were identified to the lowest taxon possible, and the dominant species were determined based on the absolute percent cover of each species. The wetland indicator status of each species was determined using the USACE *2020 National Wetland Plant List* (USACE, 2020).

#### *Soils*

At each wetland sample location, a spade shovel or a one-piece hand-auger was used to excavate the soil for inspection of the soil profile. Soil horizon depths were measured and recorded. Each distinct horizon in the soil profile was also examined for hue, value, and chroma using a Munsell Soil color chart (Munsell Color, 2019). In addition, the texture, physical characteristics, and redoximorphic features, if present, of each horizon were noted. This information was used to evaluate the indicators of hydric soil conditions that meet USACE criteria.

#### *Hydrology*

Wetland areas were evaluated by visual inspection for the presence of wetland hydrologic indicators, including but not limited to inundation, observed saturation, water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits, water-stained leaves, surface scour, drainage patterns, and/or morphological plant adaptations.

### 2.2.2 Watercourses

Watercourses were identified by a defined streambed and bank; hydrologically-sorted substrate material; observable dimension, pattern and profile; and the presence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). Watercourse limits were delineated by identifying the OHWM of each bank. The OHWM was determined by the first substantial break in slope between the edge of the stream bed and the surrounding terrain, often displaying a clear line from scour where terrestrial vegetation was not present. All watercourse boundaries were marked with sequentially numbered flags on the left and right banks (when facing downstream), and boundary points were collected using the survey unit. Watercourses Information regarding the stream including geomorphology, flow regime, and other streams characteristics was documented using an AECOM-modified *Physical Characterization/Water Quality Field Data Sheet*. The original base data sheets can be found in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) *Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, and Fish* (Barbour et al., 1999).

### 2.2.3 Mapping

GPS data collected during the delineation was projected onto georeferenced aerial images to create maps used to illustrate the location and size of the delineated wetlands and watercourses for incorporation into the wetland delineation report and future use in agency consultations, permit applications, and plans.

## 3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following is a summary of findings from the desktop data review and the results of the field delineation efforts.

### 3.1 DESKTOP DATA

The following provides the results of the desktop data review conducted for the soils, watercourses, and NWI wetlands within the study area.

#### 3.1.1 Soils

Soils mapped within the study area were identified from the USDA-NRCS soils database. The review indicated that five soil mapping units are present in the PSA. Two of the soil mapping units are listed as being major hydric soils, and three are listed as having hydric soil inclusions (USDA-NRCS, 2023). The soils mapped in the study area are listed in Table 1 and are illustrated on Figure 2.

TABLE 1: Mapped Soils within the Project Study Area

Soil Map Unit	Description	Hydric Rating by Map Unit (%)
AcC	Acquango sand, 5 to 10 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	15
BuA	Brockatonorton-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	7
WDc2	Dredge Channel, 1 to 4 meter water depth	100
Pu	Purnell peat, very frequently flooded, tidal	100
AuB	Acquango-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	7

### 3.1.2 NWI Wetlands

USFWS NWI maps illustrate wetland habitats and vegetation communities using interpretation of aerial photography. The data on these maps provide general boundaries of potential wetlands and require ground surveys to accurately define the boundaries of wetlands present, if any, and determine their proper classification. The habitats and communities identified are classified according to the scheme provided in *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al., 1979).

A review of the USFWS NWI Wetlands Mapper website identified four NWI features within the PSA (Figure 2). The features include the canals surrounding the community, and the marsh area to the south. These features are described as:

- Estuarine, subtidal, unconsolidated bottom, subtidal (E1UBL)
- Estuarine, subtidal, unconsolidated bottom, subtidal, excavated (E1UBLx)
- Estuarine, intertidal, emergent persistent vegetation, regularly flooded, partly drained/ditched (E2EM1Nd)
- Palustrine, forested, broad-leaved deciduous/needle-leaved evergreen, seasonally flooded-fresh tidal (PFO1/4R)

### 3.1.3 Watercourses

The Site drains into several named canals, as well as into Jefferson Creek, which is part of Little Bay. The Site also receives hydrology from tidal action in Jefferson Creek and the surrounding canals. It is within the Little Assawoman Bay Watershed (HUC12 Code 020403030301), which is within the Chincoteague subbasin and Mid Atlantic Coastal basin. Based on available National Flood Hazard Layer (FEMA, 2022), the entire PSA is mapped as a 100-year FEMA floodplain. Floodplain data is displayed on Figure 3.

According to 7 DE Administrative Code: 7401 Surface Water Quality Standards, Little Assawoman Bay and its drainage basin have Designated Use categories of Industrial Water Supply, Primary Contact Recreation, Secondary Contact Recreation, Fish, Aquatic Life & Wildlife, Agricultural Water Supply (freshwater sections only), ERES (waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance) waters, and Fish Consumption (DNREC 2024).

## 3.2 FIELD DELINEATION

The field delineation conducted on June 5, 2024 resulted in the identification of five wetlands within the study area. Dredged canals were classified as wetland feature, and therefore no watercourses were identified. Mapping showing the location and extent of the wetlands is illustrated on Figure 5, and a photographic log is provided in Appendix B.

### 3.2.1 Wetlands

Five wetlands were identified within the study area. At least one wetland sample point was taken for each wetland to characterize the properties of the hydrology, vegetation, and soil of the wetland. The field data forms are provided in Appendix A.

TABLE 2: Wetlands Identified within the Project Study Area

Wetland ID <sup>1</sup>	Classification <sup>2</sup>	Description	DE State Wetland	Delineated Size (acres) <sup>3</sup>
W1	PFO	Forested component of W1 above the intertidal zone. <i>Pinus taeda</i> is the dominant tree species.	Yes	0.12
	EEM	Emergent component of W1 within the intertidal zone. <i>Juncus effusus</i> and <i>Distichlis spicata</i> are the dominant emergent species, with scattered <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> shrubs.		1.61
W2	EUB	Dredged canal (Bristol Canal)	Yes	0.03
W3	EUB	Dredged canal (York Canal)	Yes	0.01
W4	EUB	Dredged canal (Carlisle Canal)	Yes	0.02
W5	EUB	Dredged canal (Boone Canal)	Yes	0.02
				<b>Total Delineated Acres: 1.81</b>

1. Wetland ID generated by AECOM during field delineation.
2. EEM = Estuarine Emergent, EUB = Estuarine Unconsolidated Bottom , PFO = Palustrine Forested
3. Area of the wetland as delineated within the Project Study Area.

## 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

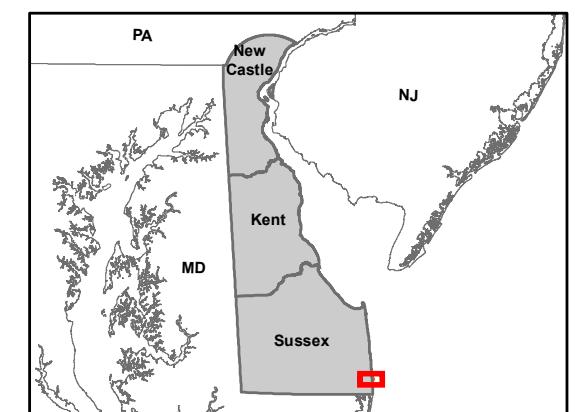
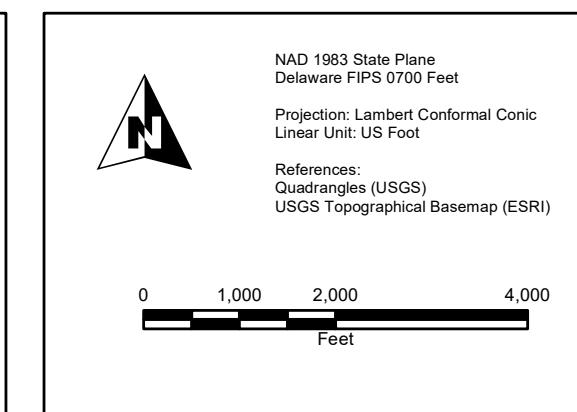
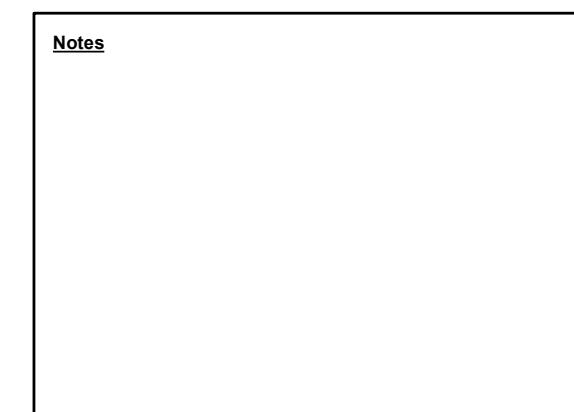
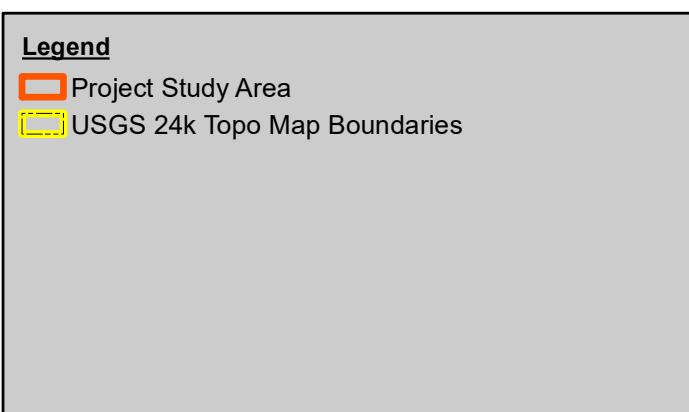
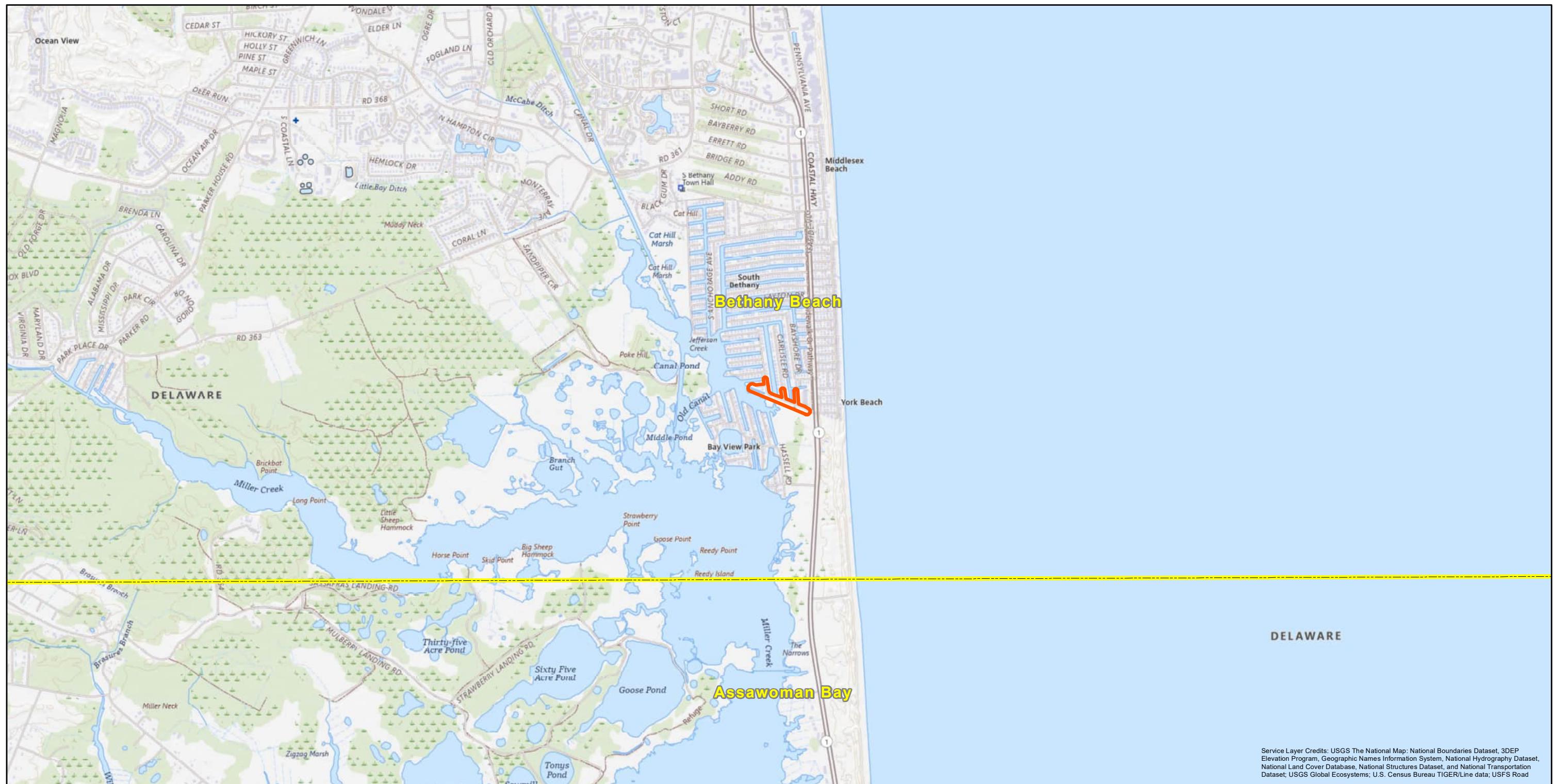
The wetlands and watercourse delineation identified five wetlands within the study area. The total delineated wetland area was 1.81 acres.

Waters of the United States and Waters of the State of Delaware, which cannot be avoided, may require permitting from both DNREC under Title 7 of the Delaware Administrative Code and the USACE under the USEPA's Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

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## *FIGURES*



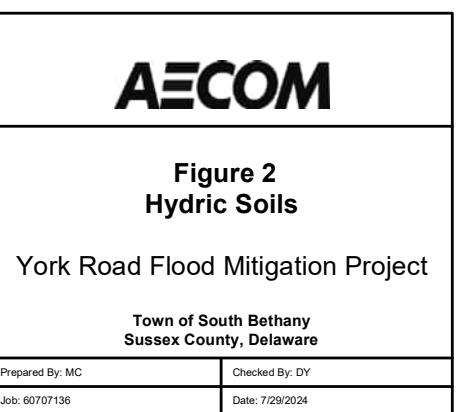
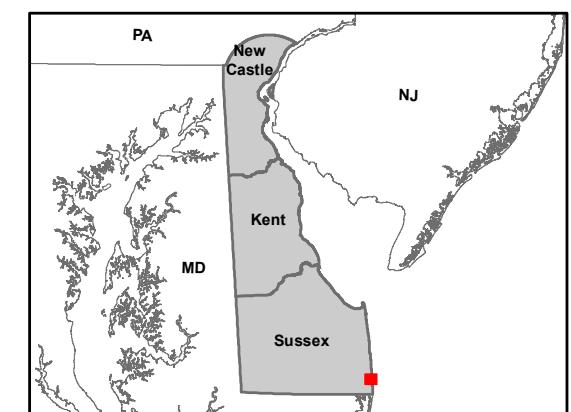
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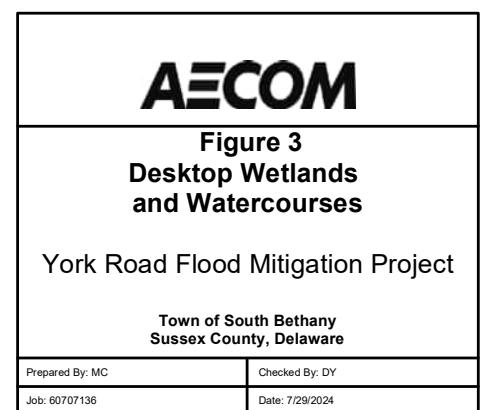
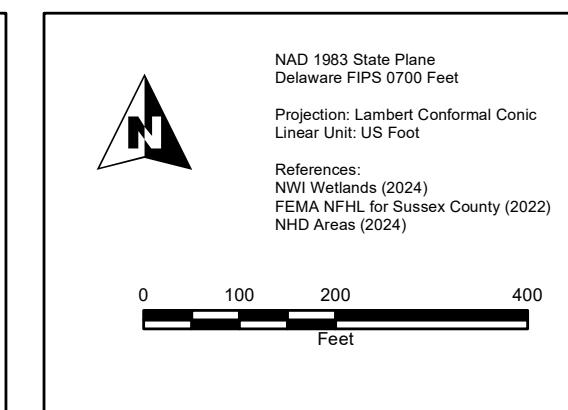
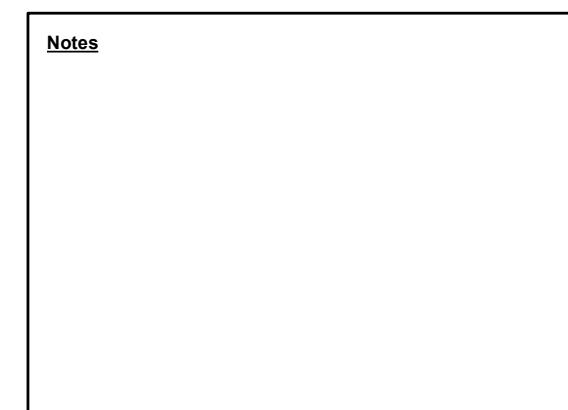
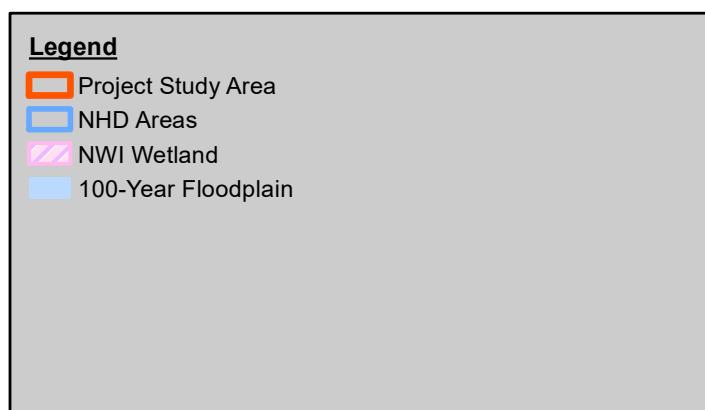
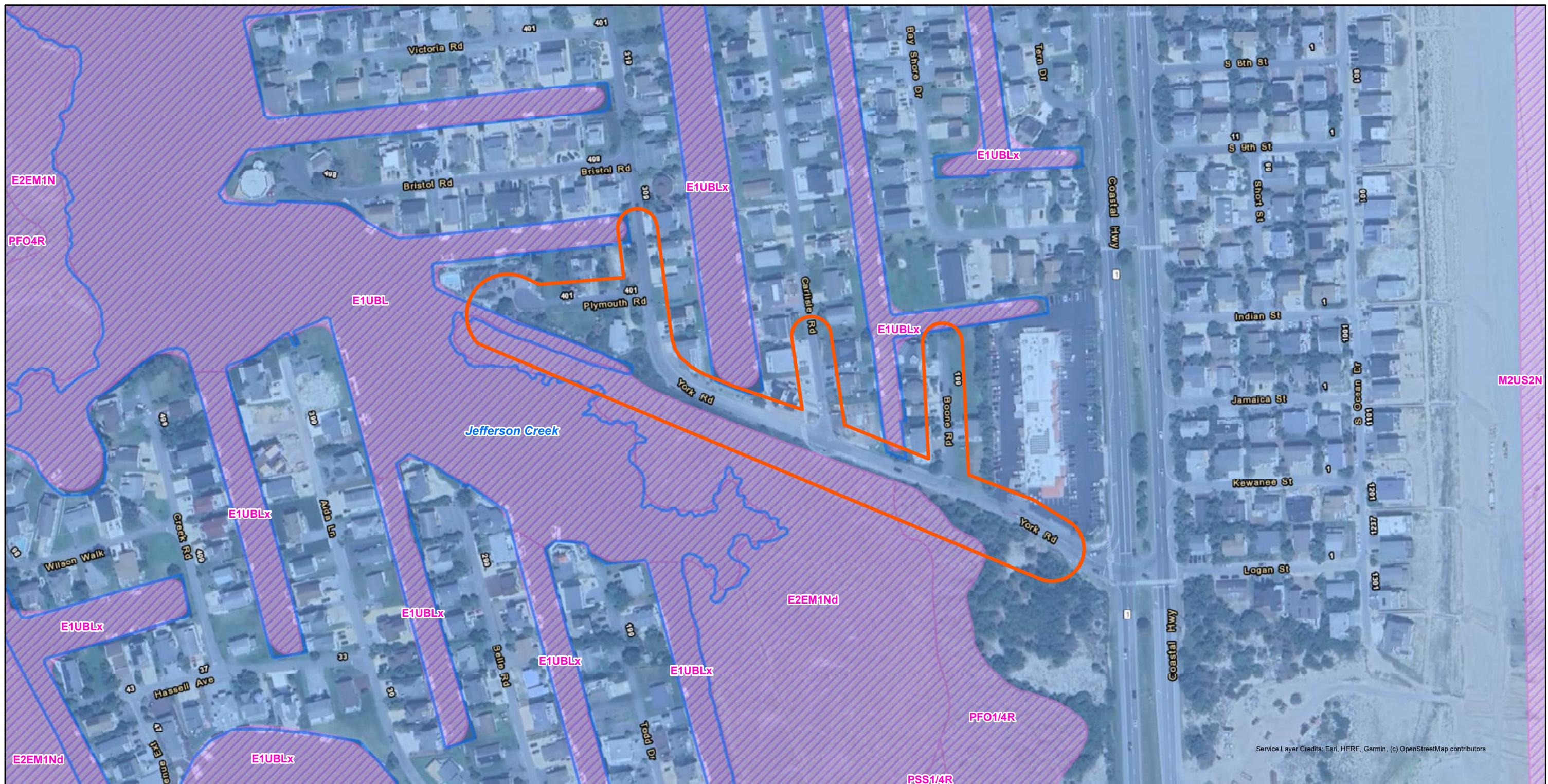
**Figure 1**  
**Project Location**

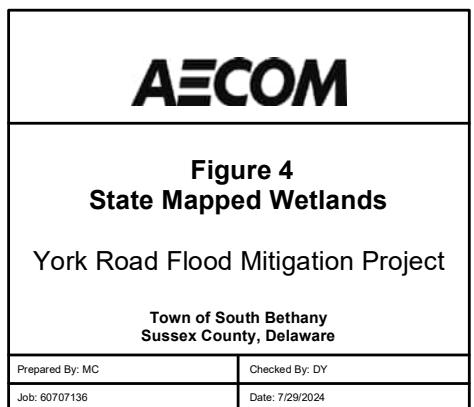
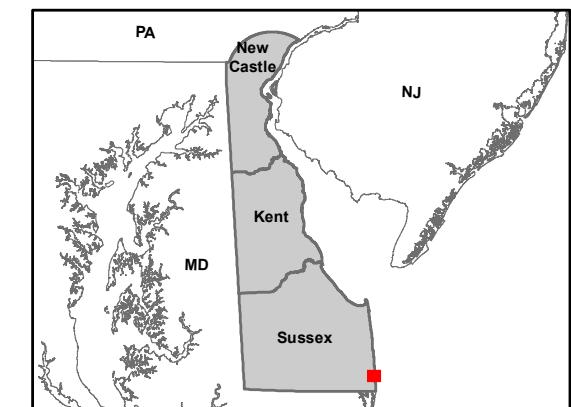
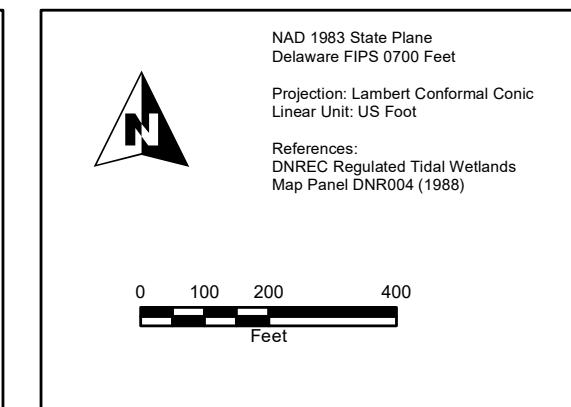
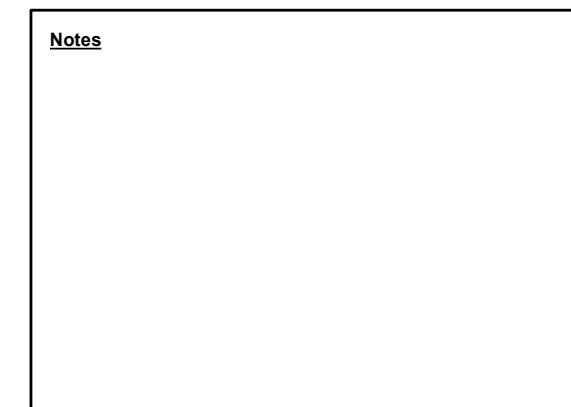
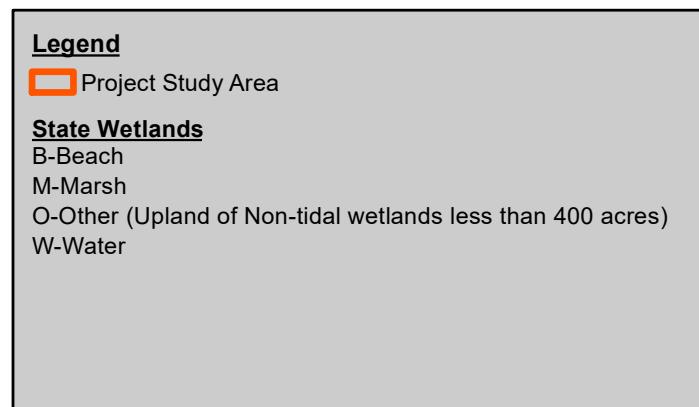
York Road Flood Mitigation Project

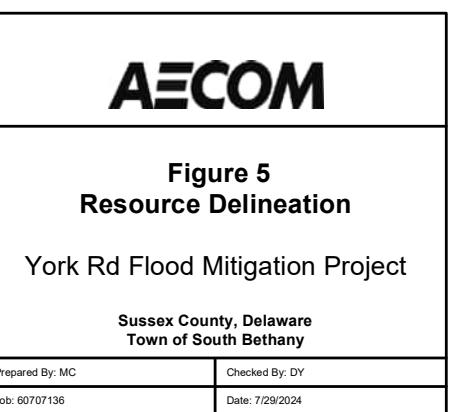
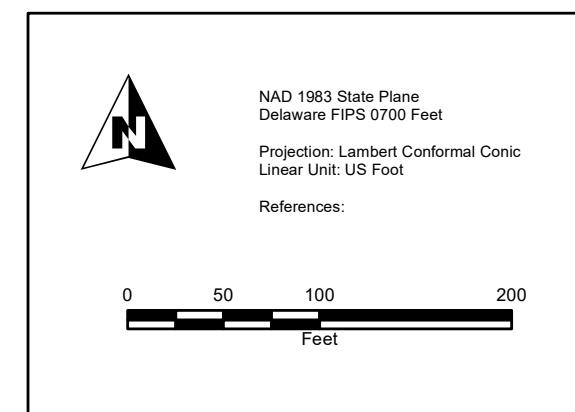
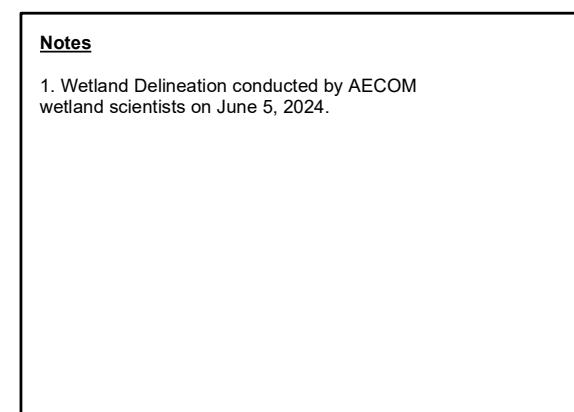
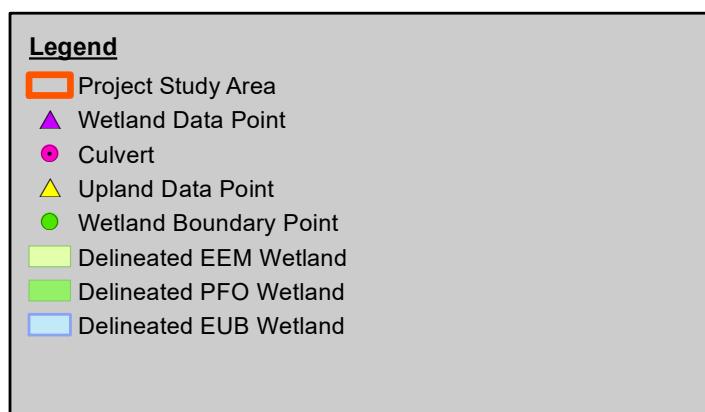
Town of South Bethany  
Sussex County, Delaware

Prepared By: MC	Checked By: DY
Job: 60707136	Date: 7/29/2024









*APPENDIX A*  
*Wetland Data Forms*

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region**

See ERDC/EL TR-10-20; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024

Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:

(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: York Road Flood Mitigation Study and Design Project City/County: Sussex County Sampling Date: 6/5/2024

Applicant/Owner: Town of South Bethany State: DE Sampling Point: W1 PFO

Investigator(s): D. Yezuita, M. Curran Section, Township, Range: Town of South Bethany

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): toe of slope Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 5

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR T, MLRA 153D Lat: 38.50943 Long: -75.05604 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: AcC: Acquango sand, 5 to 10 percent slopes, occasionally flooded NWI classification: PFO1/4R

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hydric Soil Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Wetland data point taken to represent the PFO community type within the Wetland 1 complex. Tidal influence is less impactful at this upper range, which may be allowing for more persistent vegetation (trees and shrubs) to grow.

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Fauna (B13)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marl Deposits (B15) (LRR U)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Deposits (B5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Moss Trim Lines (B16)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Geomorphic Position (D2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<input type="checkbox"/> X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sphagnum Moss (D8) (LRR T, U)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present?	Yes <u>      </u>	No <u>X</u>	Depth (inches): _____
Water Table Present?	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u>      </u>	Depth (inches): <u>18</u>
Saturation Present?	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u>      </u>	Depth (inches): <u>6</u>
(includes capillary fringe)			

**Wetland Hydrology Present?** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Wetland hydrology observed. Water table observed at 18", which is not considered a high water table, but should be noted. Other secondary indicators were also present.

## **VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.**

Sampling Point: W1 PFO

Tree Stratum	(Plot size: 30')	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status														
1. <i>Pinus taeda</i>		40	Yes	FAC														
2.																		
3.																		
4.																		
5.																		
6.																		
7.																		
8.																		
		40	=Total Cover															
	50% of total cover:	20	20% of total cover:	8														
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 30')																		
1. <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>		10	No	FACU														
2. <i>Morella cerifera</i>		30	Yes	FAC														
3. <i>Morella pensylvanica</i>		40	Yes	FAC														
4. <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>		15	No	FAC														
5.																		
6.																		
7.																		
8.																		
		95	=Total Cover															
	50% of total cover:	48	20% of total cover:	19														
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 30')																		
1. <i>Carex scoparia</i>		5	No	FACW														
2. <i>Phragmites australis</i>		70	Yes	FACW														
3. <i>Andropogon virginicus</i>		30	Yes	FAC														
4.																		
5.																		
6.																		
7.																		
8.																		
9.																		
10.																		
11.																		
12.																		
		105	=Total Cover															
	50% of total cover:	53	20% of total cover:	21														
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30')																		
1. <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>		30	Yes	FAC														
2.																		
3.																		
4.																		
5.																		
		30	=Total Cover															
	50% of total cover:	15	20% of total cover:	6														
Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below.)																		
Hydrophytic vegetation observed.																		
<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>6</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100.0%</u> (A/B)																		
<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total % Cover of:</th> <th>Multiply by:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 1 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species <u>75</u></td> <td>x 2 = <u>150</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species <u>185</u></td> <td>x 3 = <u>555</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species <u>10</u></td> <td>x 4 = <u>40</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 5 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals: <u>270</u> (A)</td> <td><u>745</u> (B)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>2.76</u>					Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>	FACW species <u>75</u>	x 2 = <u>150</u>	FAC species <u>185</u>	x 3 = <u>555</u>	FACU species <u>10</u>	x 4 = <u>40</u>	UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>	Column Totals: <u>270</u> (A)	<u>745</u> (B)
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																	
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>																	
FACW species <u>75</u>	x 2 = <u>150</u>																	
FAC species <u>185</u>	x 3 = <u>555</u>																	
FACU species <u>10</u>	x 4 = <u>40</u>																	
UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>																	
Column Totals: <u>270</u> (A)	<u>745</u> (B)																	
<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation X 2 - Dominance Test is >50% X 3 - Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)																		
<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																		
<b>Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:</b> <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height. <b>Sapling/Shrub</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall. <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall. <b>Woody Vine</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.																		
<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No <u>  </u>																		

Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below.)

Remarks: (if observed, list morph.)

## SOIL

Sampling Point: W1 PFO

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

<sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

#### Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

Histosol (A1)	Thin Dark Surface (S9) ( <b>LRR S, T, U</b> )	1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR O</b> )
Histic Epipedon (A2)	Barrier Islands 1 cm Muck (S12)  <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>	2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR S</b> )
Black Histic (A3)	Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) ( <b>LRR O</b> )	Coast Prairie Redox (A16) ( <b>MLRA 149A</b> )
Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	Reduced Vertic (F18)  <b>(outside MLRA 150A, 150B)</b>
Stratified Layers (A5)	Depleted Matrix (F3)	Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) ( <b>LRR P, T</b> )
Organic Bodies (A6) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	Redox Dark Surface (F6)	Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)  <b>(MLRA 153B)</b>
5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	Red Parent Material (F21)
Muck Presence (A8) ( <b>LRR U</b> )	Redox Depressions (F8)	Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)  <b>(outside MLRA 138, 152A in FL, 154)</b>
1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR P, T</b> )	Marl (F10) ( <b>LRR U</b> )	Barrier Islands Low Chroma Matrix (TS7)  <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>
Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	Depleted Ochric (F11) ( <b>MLRA 151</b> )	Other (Explain in Remarks)
Thick Dark Surface (A12)	Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) ( <b>LRR O, P, T</b> )	
Coast Prairie Redox (A16) ( <b>MLRA 150A</b> )	Umbric Surface (F13) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	
Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) ( <b>LRR O, S</b> )	Delta Ochric (F17) ( <b>MLRA 151</b> )	
Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	Reduced Vertic (F18) ( <b>MLRA 150A, 150B</b> )	
X Sandy Redox (S5)	Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) ( <b>MLRA 149A</b> )	
Stripped Matrix (S6)	Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)  <b>(MLRA 149A, 153C, 153D)</b>	
Dark Surface (S7) ( <b>LRR P, S, T, U</b> )	Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)	
Polyvalue Below Surface (S8)  <b>(LRR S, T, U)</b>		

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type:

Depth (inches):

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Yes  No

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**Remarks:**

#### Remarks.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region**

See ERDC/EL TR-10-20; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024

Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:

(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: York Road Flood Mitigation Study and Design Project City/County: Sussex County Sampling Date: 6/5/2024

Applicant/Owner: Town of South Bethany State: DE Sampling Point: W1 EEM

Investigator(s): D. Yezuita, M. Curran Section, Township, Range: Town of South Bethany

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): tidal marsh Local relief (concave, convex, none): none Slope (%): 0

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR T, MLRA 153D Lat: 38.50968 Long: -75.05643 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Pu: Purnell peat, very frequently flooded, tidal NWI classification: E2EM1Nd

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hydric Soil Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Wetland data point taken to represent the EEM community type within the greater Wetland 1 complex. This data point represents a tidal marsh, which is typically flooded and within the intertidal zone.

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Fauna (B13)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marl Deposits (B15) (LRR U)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Deposits (B5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Moss Trim Lines (B16)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geomorphic Position (D2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sphagnum Moss (D8) (LRR T, U)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present?	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Depth (inches): <u>2</u>
Water Table Present?	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Depth (inches): <u>5</u>
Saturation Present?	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Depth (inches): <u>0</u>
(includes capillary fringe)			

**Wetland Hydrology Present?** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Indicators of wetland hydrology observed.

**VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.**

 Sampling Point: W1 EEM

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>														
1.																	
2.																	
3.																	
4.																	
5.																	
6.																	
7.																	
8.																	
			=Total Cover														
		50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:														
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )																	
1. <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	15	Yes	FAC														
2.																	
3.																	
4.																	
5.																	
6.																	
7.																	
8.																	
			=Total Cover														
		50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:														
<u>Herb Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )																	
1. <i>Phragmites australis</i>	15	No	FACW														
2. <i>Juncus effusus</i>	80	Yes	OBL														
3. <i>Distichlis spicata</i>	30	Yes	OBL														
4.																	
5.																	
6.																	
7.																	
8.																	
9.																	
10.																	
11.																	
12.																	
			=Total Cover														
		50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:														
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )																	
1.																	
2.																	
3.																	
4.																	
5.																	
			=Total Cover														
		50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:														
Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below.) Hydrophytic vegetation observed.																	
<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>3</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>3</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100.0%</u> (A/B)																	
<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total % Cover of:</th> <th>Multiply by:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species <u>110</u></td> <td>x 1 = <u>110</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species <u>15</u></td> <td>x 2 = <u>30</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species <u>15</u></td> <td>x 3 = <u>45</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 4 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 5 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals: <u>140</u> (A)</td> <td><u>185</u> (B)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>1.32</u>				Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>110</u>	x 1 = <u>110</u>	FACW species <u>15</u>	x 2 = <u>30</u>	FAC species <u>15</u>	x 3 = <u>45</u>	FACU species <u>0</u>	x 4 = <u>0</u>	UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>	Column Totals: <u>140</u> (A)	<u>185</u> (B)
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																
OBL species <u>110</u>	x 1 = <u>110</u>																
FACW species <u>15</u>	x 2 = <u>30</u>																
FAC species <u>15</u>	x 3 = <u>45</u>																
FACU species <u>0</u>	x 4 = <u>0</u>																
UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>																
Column Totals: <u>140</u> (A)	<u>185</u> (B)																
<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation X 2 - Dominance Test is >50% X 3 - Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)																	
<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																	
<b>Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:</b> <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height. <b>Sapling/Shrub</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall. <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall. <b>Woody Vine</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.																	
<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No <u>      </u>																	

## SOIL

Sampling Point: W1 EEM

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

<sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

#### Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Histosol (A1)                                  | Thin Dark Surface (S9) <b>(LRR S, T, U)</b>        | 1 cm Muck (A9) <b>(LRR O)</b>                     |
| Histic Epipedon (A2)                           | Barrier Islands 1 cm Muck (S12)                    | 2 cm Muck (A10) <b>(LRR S)</b>                    |
| Black Histic (A3)                              | <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>                           | Coast Prairie Redox (A16) <b>(MLRA 149A)</b>      |
| X Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)                        | Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) <b>(LRR O)</b>            | Reduced Vertic (F18)                              |
| Stratified Layers (A5)                         | Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)                           | <b>(outside MLRA 150A, 150B)</b>                  |
| Organic Bodies (A6) <b>(LRR P, T, U)</b>       | Depleted Matrix (F3)                               | Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) <b>(LRR P, T)</b> |
| X 5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7) <b>(LRR P, T, U)</b> | Redox Dark Surface (F6)                            | Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)           |
| Muck Presence (A8) <b>(LRR U)</b>              | Depleted Dark Surface (F7)                         | <b>(MLRA 153B)</b>                                |
| 1 cm Muck (A9) <b>(LRR P, T)</b>               | Redox Depressions (F8)                             | Red Parent Material (F21)                         |
| Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)              | Marl (F10) <b>(LRR U)</b>                          | Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)                   |
| Thick Dark Surface (A12)                       | Depleted Ochric (F11) <b>(MLRA 151)</b>            | <b>(outside MLRA 138, 152A in FL, 154)</b>        |
| Coast Prairie Redox (A16) <b>(MLRA 150A)</b>   | Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) <b>(LRR O, P, T)</b>   | Barrier Islands Low Chroma Matrix (TS7)           |
| Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) <b>(LRR O, S)</b>     | Umbric Surface (F13) <b>(LRR P, T, U)</b>          | <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>                          |
| Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)                       | Delta Ochric (F17) <b>(MLRA 151)</b>               | Other (Explain in Remarks)                        |
| Sandy Redox (S5)                               | Reduced Vertic (F18) <b>(MLRA 150A, 150B)</b>      |   |
| Stripped Matrix (S6)                           | Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) <b>(MLRA 149A)</b> |   |
| Dark Surface (S7) <b>(LRR P, S, T, U)</b>      | Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)            |   |
| Polyvalue Below Surface (S8)                   | <b>(MLRA 149A, 153C, 153D)</b>                     |   |
| <b>(LRR S, T, U)</b>                           | Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)                    |   |
|  | <b>(MLRA 138, 152A in FL, 154)</b>                 |   |

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type:

Depth (inches):

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

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**Remarks:**

Remarks: Hydric soils observed. Hydrogen sulfide smell noted when digging soil pit.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region**

See ERDC/EL TR-10-20; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024

Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:

(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: York Road Flood Mitigation Study and Design Project City/County: Sussex County Sampling Date: 6/5/2024

Applicant/Owner: Town of South Bethany State: DE Sampling Point: W1 UPL

Investigator(s): D. Yezuita, M. Curran Section, Township, Range: Town of South Bethany

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): convex Slope (%): 5

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR T, MLRA 153D Lat: 38.50944 Long: -75.05599 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: AcC: Acquango sand, 5 to 10 percent slopes, occasionally flooded NWI classification: PFO1/4R

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hydric Soil Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X  
 Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

**Is the Sampled Area  
within a Wetland?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Remarks:

Upland data point taken upslope of Wetland 1, on a sloped sandy area outside of the typical tidal zone. Hydrophytic vegetation is present, likely due to proximity to the tidal wetland and encroachment of invasive Phragmites australis. Hydric soils are not present, and no indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_ Surface Water (A1)      \_\_\_\_ Aquatic Fauna (B13)  
 \_\_\_\_ High Water Table (A2)      \_\_\_\_ Marl Deposits (B15) (LRR U)  
 \_\_\_\_ Saturation (A3)      \_\_\_\_ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)  
 \_\_\_\_ Water Marks (B1)      \_\_\_\_ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sediment Deposits (B2)      \_\_\_\_ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)  
 \_\_\_\_ Drift Deposits (B3)      \_\_\_\_ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)  
 \_\_\_\_ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)      \_\_\_\_ Thin Muck Surface (C7)  
 \_\_\_\_ Iron Deposits (B5)      \_\_\_\_ Other (Explain in Remarks)  
 \_\_\_\_ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)  
 \_\_\_\_ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

\_\_\_\_ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)  
 \_\_\_\_ Drainage Patterns (B10)  
 \_\_\_\_ Moss Trim Lines (B16)  
 \_\_\_\_ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)  
 \_\_\_\_ Crayfish Burrows (C8)  
 \_\_\_\_ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)  
 \_\_\_\_ Geomorphic Position (D2)  
 \_\_\_\_ Shallow Aquitard (D3)  
 \_\_\_\_ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sphagnum Moss (D8) (LRR T, U)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Table Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturation Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (includes capillary fringe)

**Wetland Hydrology Present?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

No indicators of wetland hydrology observed.

**VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.**

 Sampling Point: W1 UPL

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>4</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>66.7%</u> (A/B) <b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: <u>60</u> =Total Cover 50% of total cover: <u>30</u> 20% of total cover: <u>12</u> OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>40</u> x 2 = <u>80</u> FAC species <u>135</u> x 3 = <u>405</u> FACU species <u>25</u> x 4 = <u>100</u> UPL species <u>40</u> x 5 = <u>200</u> Column Totals: <u>240</u> (A) <u>785</u> (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.27</u>			
1. <u><i>Pinus taeda</i></u>	<u>60</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>				
2. _____	_____	_____	_____				
3. _____	_____	_____	_____				
4. _____	_____	_____	_____				
5. _____	_____	_____	_____				
6. _____	_____	_____	_____				
7. _____	_____	_____	_____				
8. _____	_____	_____	_____				
				<u>50% of total cover: <u>30</u> 20% of total cover: <u>12</u></u>			
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation X 2 - Dominance Test is >50% 3 - Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  1. Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.			
1. <u><i>Rhus copallina</i></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>UPL</u>				
2. _____	_____	_____	_____				
3. _____	_____	_____	_____				
4. _____	_____	_____	_____				
5. _____	_____	_____	_____				
6. _____	_____	_____	_____				
7. _____	_____	_____	_____				
8. _____	_____	_____	_____				
				<u>50% of total cover: <u>5</u> 20% of total cover: <u>2</u></u>			
<u>Herb Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>	<b>Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:</b> <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.  <b>Sapling/Shrub</b> – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.  <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.  <b>Woody Vine</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.			
1. <u><i>Andropogon virginicus</i></u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>				
2. <u><i>Rubus flagellaris</i></u>	<u>20</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>UPL</u>				
3. <u><i>Phragmites australis</i></u>	<u>40</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>				
4. <u><i>Smilax rotundifolia</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FAC</u>				
5. <u><i>Thlaspi arvense</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>UPL</u>				
6. <u><i>Opuntia humifusa</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>UPL</u>				
7. _____	_____	_____	_____				
8. _____	_____	_____	_____				
9. _____	_____	_____	_____				
10. _____	_____	_____	_____				
11. _____	_____	_____	_____				
12. _____	_____	_____	_____				
				<u>50% of total cover: <u>65</u> 20% of total cover: <u>26</u></u>			
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30'</u> )	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No _____			
1. <u><i>Lonicera japonica</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>				
2. <u><i>Toxicodendron radicans</i></u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>				
3. _____	_____	_____	_____				
4. _____	_____	_____	_____				
5. _____	_____	_____	_____				
						<u>50% of total cover: <u>20</u> 20% of total cover: <u>8</u></u>	

Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below.)

 Hydrophytic vegetation present, likely due to the encroachment of *Phragmites australis* from the adjacent wetland.

## SOIL

Sampling Point: W1 UPL

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

<sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

#### Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

Histosol (A1)	Thin Dark Surface (S9) ( <b>LRR S, T, U</b> )	1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR O</b> )
Histic Epipedon (A2)	Barrier Islands 1 cm Muck (S12)  <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>	2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR S</b> )
Black Histic (A3)	Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) ( <b>LRR O</b> )	Coast Prairie Redox (A16) ( <b>MLRA 149A</b> )
Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	Reduced Vertic (F18)  <b>(outside MLRA 150A, 150B)</b>
Stratified Layers (A5)	Depleted Matrix (F3)	Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) ( <b>LRR P, T</b> )
Organic Bodies (A6) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	Redox Dark Surface (F6)	Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)  <b>(MLRA 153B)</b>
5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	Red Parent Material (F21)
Muck Presence (A8) ( <b>LRR U</b> )	Redox Depressions (F8)	Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)  <b>(outside MLRA 138, 152A in FL, 154)</b>
1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR P, T</b> )	Marl (F10) ( <b>LRR U</b> )	Barrier Islands Low Chroma Matrix (TS7)  <b>(MLRA 153B, 153D)</b>
Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	Depleted Ochric (F11) ( <b>MLRA 151</b> )	Other (Explain in Remarks)
Thick Dark Surface (A12)	Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) ( <b>LRR O, P, T</b> )	
Coast Prairie Redox (A16) ( <b>MLRA 150A</b> )	Umbric Surface (F13) ( <b>LRR P, T, U</b> )	
Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) ( <b>LRR O, S</b> )	Delta Ochric (F17) ( <b>MLRA 151</b> )	
Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	Reduced Vertic (F18) ( <b>MLRA 150A, 150B</b> )	
Sandy Redox (S5)	Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) ( <b>MLRA 149A</b> )	
Stripped Matrix (S6)	Anomalous Bright Floodplain Soils (F20)  <b>(MLRA 149A, 153C, 153D)</b>	
Dark Surface (S7) ( <b>LRR P, S, T, U</b> )	Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)	
Polyvalue Below Surface (S8)  <b>(LRR S, T, U)</b>		

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type:

Depth (inches):

Hydric Soil Present? Yes No

Yes  No  X

---

**Remarks:**

Hydric soils not observed.

*APPENDIX B*  
*Photographic Log*

<b>Client Name:</b> Town of South Bethany, DE		<b>Site Location:</b> York Road Flood Mitigation Project Sussex County, Delaware	<b>Project No.</b> 60707136
<b>Photo No.</b> 1	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024		
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> West			
<b>Description:</b>  View of Wetland 1 (W1 PFO) at the palustrine forested community. The dominant tree species in this community was loblolly pine ( <i>Pinus taeda</i> ).			

<b>Photo No.</b> 2	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> West		
<b>Description:</b>  View of Wetland 1 (W1 EEM) at the estuarine emergent community. Soft rush ( <i>Juncus effusus</i> ) and salt-grass ( <i>Distichlis spicata</i> ) are the dominant emergent species, with scattered groundsel ( <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> ) shrubs.		

<b>Client Name:</b> Town of South Bethany, DE		<b>Site Location:</b> York Road Flood Mitigation Project Sussex County, Delaware	<b>Project No.</b> 60707136
<b>Photo No.</b> 3	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024		
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> South			
<b>Description:</b>  View of Wetland 2 (W2 EUB), an estuarine unconsolidated bottom feature. This is a reinforced canal used for recreational boating and is named Bristol Canal.			

<b>Photo No.</b> 4	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> East		
<b>Description:</b>  View of Wetland 3 (W3 EUB), an estuarine unconsolidated bottom feature. This is a reinforced canal used for recreational boating and is named York Canal.		

<b>Client Name:</b> Town of South Bethany, DE		<b>Site Location:</b> York Road Flood Mitigation Project Sussex County, Delaware	<b>Project No.</b> 60707136
<b>Photo No.</b> 5	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024		
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b>			
Southeast			
<b>Description:</b>			
View of Wetland 4 (W4 EUB), an estuarine unconsolidated bottom feature. This is a reinforced canal used for recreational boating and is named Carlisle Canal.			

<b>Photo No.</b> 6	<b>Date:</b> 6/5/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b>		
Northwest		
<b>Description:</b>		
View of Wetland 5 (W5 EUB), an estuarine unconsolidated bottom feature. This is a reinforced canal used for recreational boating and is named Boone Canal.		

# APPENDIX B

## Subsurface Evaluation Report



August 29, 2024

Kyle Gulbronson, AICP  
Associate Vice President  
AECOM  
28485 Dupont Boulevard  
Millsboro, DE 19966

RE: Project No. CG.4007.GA  
Subsurface Evaluation  
**York Road Flood Mitigation Project**  
South Bethany, Delaware

Dear Mr. Gulbronson:

This report is written to summarize the subsurface sampling recently completed by CGC Geoservices, LLC (CGCG) associated with the proposed flood mitigation project on York Road in South Bethany, Delaware. This work was performed in accordance with the agreement between AECOM and CGCG dated August 21, 2024 (AECOM Project No. 60727673)

To assist with this evaluation, CGCG was provided with the following:

- A site plan entitled “York Road, Proposed Project Area,” as prepared by AECOM and dated April 17, 2024, marked up to show the proposed test boring locations.

Prior to the start of the fieldwork, a soil boring permit was obtained from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). In addition, a Miss Utility ticket was submitted to obtain markout of public utilities in the work area. Several utilities were marked in the field, including water, cable, gas, sewer and telecommunications. Test borings were offset as needed to avoid the marked utilities.

The work area consists of an approximately 750 foot long study area section of York Road located just west of the intersection with Coastal Highway (SR1). This area consists of a two-lane bituminous concrete roadway with a bicycle lane along the southern shoulder. The roadway was observed to be fairly flat. Conditions were dry at the time of our site evaluation.

On August 27, 2024, CGCG performed three (3) Standard Penetration Test (SPT) borings at the site. A site plan showing the approximate boring locations is enclosed. The borings were extended to depths of 20 feet below grade. Boring logs summarizing the conditions encountered are enclosed. Upon completion, the boreholes were backfilled with the soil cuttings mixed with

bentonite grout. The surface was patched with bituminous concrete cold patch level with surrounding pavement.

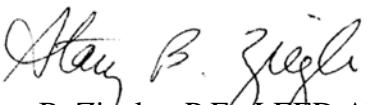
The subsurface conditions encountered consisted of a surface layer of bituminous concrete pavement varying in thickness from 4 to 8 inches, overlying predominately granular soils of loose to medium density. In borings TB-1 and TB-2, a layer of very loose / soft organic material was observed within the granular soils at depths varying from 8 to 12 feet below grade. The organic layer was not observed in boring TB-3, located furthest east along the road section.

A stratigraphic profile depicting the conditions observed is enclosed. The profile interpolates the conditions between the boring locations, however actual stratigraphy may vary.

We appreciate this opportunity to assist you on this project. If you require any further information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

**CGC GEOSERVICES, LLC**



Stacy B. Ziegler, P.E., LEED AP/ BD+C  
President, Senior Geotechnical Engineer

SBZ  
WORD\CG4007GA.0824.York Rd Bethany Subsurface AECOM.RPT

Enclosures: Test Boring Location Plan  
Test Boring Logs (3)  
Stratigraphic Profile  
General Notes

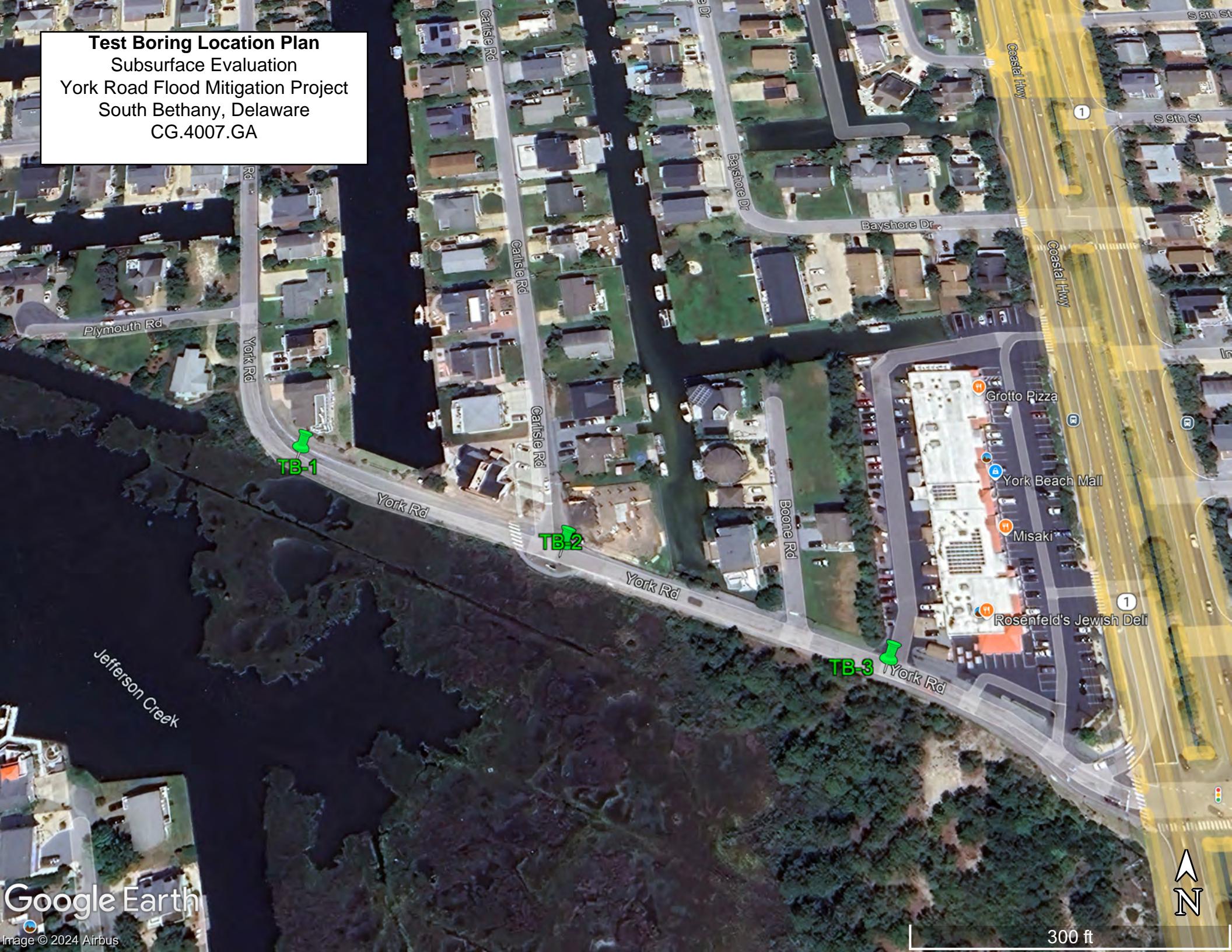
## Test Boring Location Plan

Subsurface Evaluation

York Road Flood Mitigation Project

South Bethany, Delaware

CG.4007.GA



# TEST BORING TB-1

(Page 1 of 1)

Subsurface Evaluation York Road Flood Study South Bethany, Delaware CG.4007.GA				Date Started : August 27, 2024 Date Completed : August 27, 2024 Logged by : M. Natrin Weather : Sunny, 80s Driller/Agency : J. Truver/CGC Geoservices								Drilling Equipment: CME 75 Truck Drilling Methods : HSA,SPT									
Depth in feet	Layer Depth feet	GRAPHIC	USCS	Sample Condition		Water Levels		SAMPLES	Sample Number	Blows per 6 inches	Recovery (ft)	Moisture Content (%)	Percent Passing 200 Sieve	WATER LEVEL							
				Remolded	During Drilling	▼	▼														
DESCRIPTION																					
0				Bituminous concrete pavement (8 inches)																	
0.7				Moist, gray fine to medium SAND, little silt, trace clay																	
2				Wet, gray fine to medium SAND, little silt, little clay																	
4				Wet, gray fine to coarse SAND, little silt, trace clay																	
6		SM		Wet, gray fine SAND, trace silt																	
8				Wet, brown/ gray fine SAND, some silt, some organics with wood fibers (peat)																	
10				Wet, gray fine SAND, trace silt, trace clay																	
12.0																					
14			OL																		
16.0				Wet, gray fine SAND, trace silt, trace clay																	
18		SP																			
20.0				bituminous concrete cold patch.																	
22																					

NOTES:

1. Boring terminated at 20 feet below grade.
2. Wet on spoon at 4.0 feet below grade. Water level through augers at 2.6 feet below grade.
3. Upon auger removal, water at 2.0 ft, caved at 3.5 feet.
4. Borehole backfilled with cuttings mixed with bentonite. Surface patched with

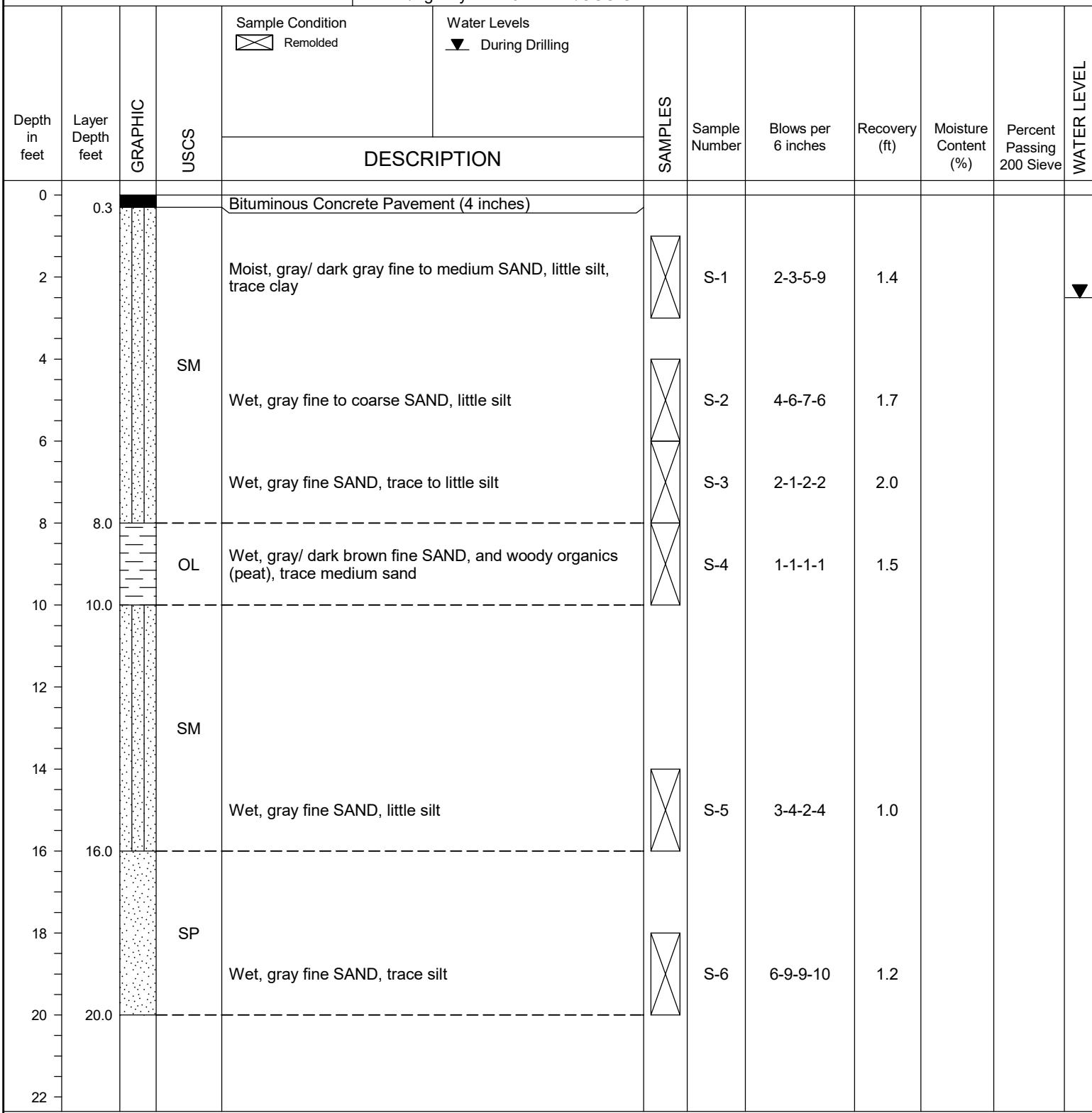


# TEST BORING TB-2

(Page 1 of 1)

Subsurface Evaluation  
York Road Flood Study  
South Bethany, Delaware  
CG.4007.GA

Date Started : August 27, 2024  
Date Completed : August 27, 2024  
Logged by : M. Natrin  
Weather : Sunny, 80s  
Driller/Agency : J. Truver/CGC Geoservices



NOTES:

1. Boring terminated at 20 feet below grade.

2. Wet on spoon at 4.0 feet below grade. Water level through augers at 2.5 feet below grade.

3. Upon auger removal, water at 2.9 ft, caved at 3.0 feet.

4. Borehole backfilled with cuttings mixed with bentonite. Surface patched with

bituminous concrete cold patch.



# TEST BORING TB-3

(Page 1 of 1)

Subsurface Evaluation  
York Road Flood Study  
South Bethany, Delaware  
CG.4007.GA

Date Started : August 27, 2024  
Date Completed : August 27, 2024  
Logged by : M. Natrin  
Weather : Sunny, 80s  
Driller/Agency : J. Truver/CGC Geoservices

Drilling Equipment: CME 75 Truck  
Drilling Methods : HSA,SPT

Depth in feet	Layer Depth feet	GRAPHIC	USCS	Sample Condition Remolded	Water Levels During Drilling	SAMPLES	DESCRIPTION					WATER LEVEL
							Sample Number	Blows per 6 inches	Recovery (ft)	Moisture Content (%)	Percent Passing 200 Sieve	
0	0.3				Bituminous Concrete Pavement (4 inches)							
2					Moist, brown / gray fine to medium SAND, little silt			S-1	6-7-8-14	1.9		
4					Moist, gray fine to medium SAND, trace silt			S-2	3-6-8-7	1.3		
6					Moist, gray fine to medium SAND, trace to little silt			S-3	5-4-2-1	1.4		
8					Moist, gray fine to medium SAND, trace to little silt			S-4	2-1-1-1	2.0		
10												
12												
14												
16												
18	18.0				Moist, gray fine to medium SAND, little silt			S-5	4-6-8-8	1.1		
20	20.0	SP			Wet, brown/ gray fine SAND, trace silt			S-6	3-8-9-10	1.4		
22												

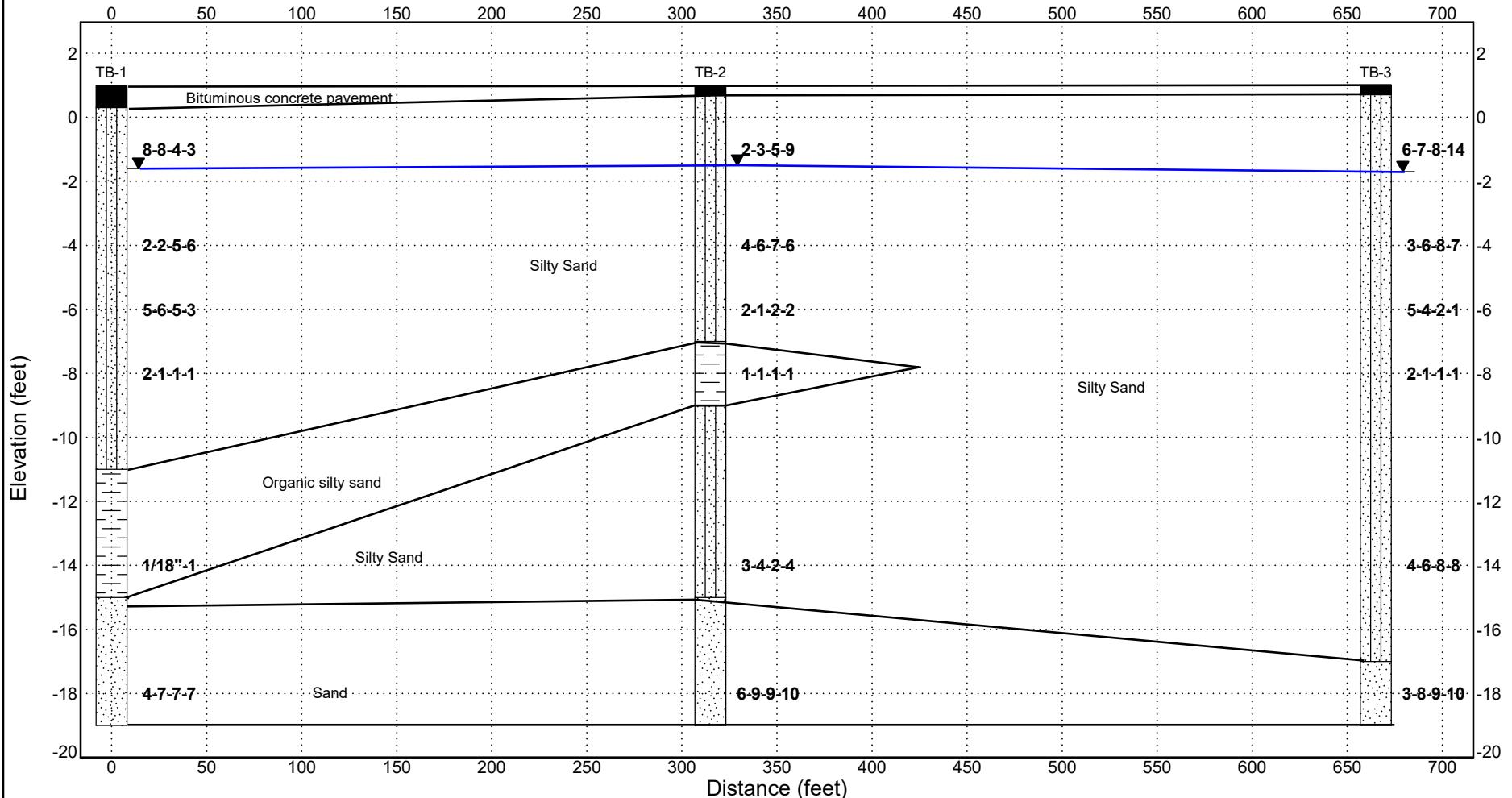
NOTES:

1. Boring terminated at 20 feet below grade.
2. Wet on spoon at 4.0 feet below grade. Water level through augers at 2.7 feet below grade.
3. Upon auger removal, water at 2.9 ft, caved at 3.0 feet.
4. Borehole backfilled with cuttings mixed with bentonite. Surface patched with

bituminous concrete cold patch.

WEST

EAST



## STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE



Subsurface Evaluation  
York Road Flood Study  
South Bethany, Delaware  
CG.4007.GA

## LEGEND

	Pavement
	SP - Poorly graded sand
	SM - silty sand
	OL - organic silty sand

## GENERAL NOTES

**VISUAL UNIFIED CLASSIFICATIONS:** The soil samples are described by color, major constituent, modifiers (by percentage), and density (or consistency). Coarse Grained or Granular Soils have more than 50% of their dry weight retained on a No. 200 sieve; they are described as: boulders, cobbles, gravel or sand. Fine Grained Soils have less than 50% of their dry weight retained on a No. 200 sieve; they are described as: clays or clayey silts if they are cohesive and silts if they are noncohesive. In addition to gradation, granular soils are defined on the basis of their relative in-place density and fine grained soils on the basis of their strength or consistency and their plasticity.

The Unified Soil Classification symbols are:

### COARSE GRAINED SOILS

GW - Well graded gravels  
GP - Poorly graded gravels  
GM - Silty gravels  
GC - Clayey gravels  
SW - Well graded sands  
SP - Poorly graded sands  
SM - Silty sands  
SC - Clayey sands

### FINE GRAINED SOILS

ML - Silts of low plasticity  
CL - Clays of low to medium plasticity  
OL - Organic silt clays of low plasticity  
MH - Silts of high plasticity  
CH - Clays of high plasticity  
OH - Organic silt clays of high plasticity  
PT - Peat and highly organic soils

### SIZE DESCRIPTION

F - Fine  
M - Medium  
C - Coarse  
G - Gravel

### MODIFIERS (PERCENTAGE)

Tr - Trace 1 - 10%  
Ltl - Little 11 - 20%  
Some 21 - 35%  
& - And 36 - 50%

### COLOR

Or - Orange Blk - Black  
Yel - Yellow Gr - Gray  
Br - Brown R - Red

Vc - Varicolored  
Dk - Dark  
Lt - Light

### DENSITY: COARSE GRAINED SOILS

Very loose 4 blows/ft or less  
Loose 5 to 10 blows/ft  
Medium 11 to 30 blows/ft  
Dense 31 to 50 blows/ft  
Very Dense 51 blows/ft or more

### CONSISTENCY: FINE GRAINED SOILS

Very soft 2 blows/ft or less  
Soft 3 to 4 blows/ft  
Medium 5 to 8 blows/ft  
Stiff 9 to 15 blows/ft  
Very stiff 16 to 30 blows/ft  
Hard 31 blows/ft or more

NOTE: The Standard Penetration Test "N" value is the number of blows per foot of a 140 pound hammer falling 30 inches on a 2 inch O.D. split spoon sampler, except where otherwise noted.

# APPENDIX C

## Seawall Design Plans

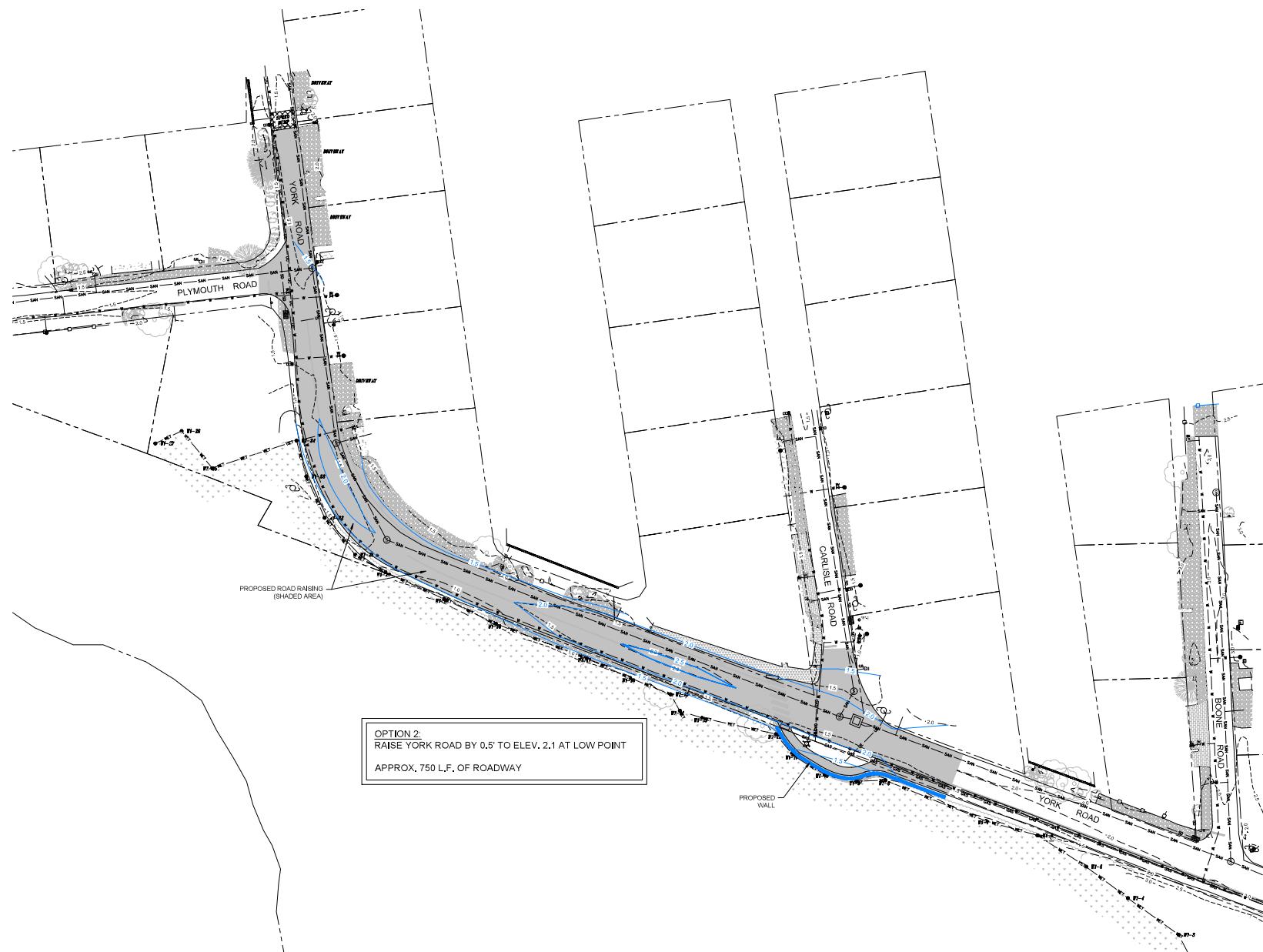


# APPENDIX D

## Elevating York Road Design Plans



ARCH'D 24 x 36"

**AECOM**

PROJECT

**YORK ROAD  
FLOOD MITIGATION  
PROJECT**YORK ROAD  
SOUTH BETHANY BEACH  
DELAWARE

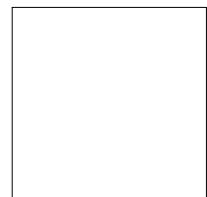
CLIENT

SOUTH BETHANY BEACH

CONSULTANT

AECOM  
248 Chapman Road, Suite 101  
Newark, Delaware, 19702  
302.781.5900 tel  
www.aecom.com

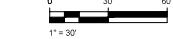
LOCATION MAP



Google Earth

Not To Scale

SCALE

**NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION**

ISSUE/REVISION

11-9-24	IR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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KEY PLAN

PROJECT NUMBER  
60727673

SHEET TITLE

OPTION 2:  
RAISE YORK ROAD 0.5'

SHEET NUMBER

V-02

# **APPENDIX E**

## **Combination of Seawall and Elevating York Road Design Plans**

