**STATE OF DELAWARE**
**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**
**OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION**

September 24, 2026

Woodin + Associates, LLC
Jayme Baer
111 Patriot Drive,
Suite D
Middletown, DE 19709

RE: PLUS review –2026-08-01; Summerton West

Dear Mr. Baer:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on September 2nd, 2026 to discuss Summerton West. According to the information received, you are seeking review of a proposed site plan for two four-story apartment buildings with first-level parking and adjacent commercial use, in an area classified as State Strategies level 1.

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. **The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State, and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that Middletown is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the Town.**

## Strategies for State Policies and Spending

This project is located in a Level 1 investment area, which is consistent with the 2025 Strategies for State Policies and Spending.

Investment Level 1 reflects areas that are already developed in an urban or suburban fashion, where infrastructure is existing or readily available, and where future redevelopment or infill projects are expected and encouraged by State policy. Because development in Levels 1 is consistent with the 2025 Strategies for State Policies and Spending, the Office of State Planning Coordination supports this site plan.

## Code Requirements/Agency Permitting Requirements

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- As discussed with the applicant during the PLUS meeting access to the site will be handled by a cross-access agreement, and access to private drives. As such, DelDOT does not have regulatory comments related to the entrances.

- In terms of traffic analysis this site is within the Westtown Transportation Improvement District (TID). The applicant will need to sign and implement a new agreement to address the applicable fees.

- As necessary, in accordance with Section 3.2.5 and Figure 3.2.5-a of the Development Coordination Manual, DelDOT will require dedication of right-of-way along the site's frontage. By this regulation, this dedication is to provide a minimum of 30 feet of right-of-way from the physical centerline of all State maintained roads. The following right-of-way dedication note is required, "**An 30-foot wide strip of right-of-way from the centerline is hereby dedicated in fee simple to the State of Delaware, acting by and through the Delaware Department of Transportation."**

- In accordance with Section 3.2.5.1.2 of the Manual, DelDOT will require the establishment of a 15-foot wide permanent easement across the property frontage with State maintained roadways. The location of the easement shall be outside the limits of the ultimate right-of-way. The easement area can be used as part of the open space calculation for the site. The following note is required, "**A 15-foot wide permanent easement is hereby dedicated in fee simple to the State of Delaware, acting by and through the Delaware Department of Transportation."**

- In accordance with Section 3.8 of the Manual, storm water facilities, excluding filter strips and bioswales, shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from the ultimate State right-of-way along all State maintained roads.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Staff from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) reviewed the project submitted for PLUS review. The absence of comments regarding specific resources does not indicate that there are not additional constraints or environmental issues on site, nor does it indicate DNREC support of a project.

**Stormwater Management**

The project proposes greater than 5,000 square feet of land disturbing activities and will be subject to Delaware's *Sediment and Stormwater Regulations*.

- A Sediment and Stormwater Plan must be developed, then approved by the appropriate plan review agency, prior to any land disturbing activity taking place on the site. For this project, the plan review agency is the Town of Middletown.
- Additionally, to address federal requirements, construction activities that exceed 1.0 acre of land disturbance require Construction General Permit coverage through submittal of an electronic Notice of Intent for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. This form must be submitted electronically https://enoi.dnrec.delaware.gov/, (select Construction Stormwater General Permit) to the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, along with the $195 fee.
- Schedule a project application meeting with the appropriate plan review agency prior to moving forward with the stormwater and site design. As part of this process, you must submit a Stormwater Assessment Study.

Plan review agency contact: Town of Middletown at (302) 378-9120.
Website: https://middletown.delaware.gov/

General Stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

**Excellent Groundwater Recharge Area**
An Excellent Groundwater Recharge Area is located on the entire site. These areas have soils that are conducive to water infiltrating downward from surface water into groundwater. Preservation of these areas is important for replenishing groundwater supplies and ensuring drinking water for future generations.

- The applicant must comply with all county and municipal requirements for construction and uses in Excellent Groundwater Recharge Areas.

Contact: DNREC Source Water Assessment and Protection Program at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/commercial-government/water-allocation/assessment-and-protection/

**Wastewater Disposal Systems – Large Systems**
For wastewater conveyance offsite by way of a new sewer connection, flow rates exceeding 2,500 gallons of liquid waste per day will require a Wastewater Pollution Collection and Conveyance (WPCC) permit from the Commercial and Government Services section.

Contact: DNREC Commercial and Government Services Section at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/commercial-government/

**Electric Vehicle Charging Requirements**
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is now required for new residential construction in Delaware under 7 DE Admin. Code 2101 *Regulations for State Energy Conservation Code*, which incorporates Appendix RE – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure with amendments. This requirement is effective April 11, 2026 and supersedes 16 Del. C. § 8001- § 8006, which sunset upon DNREC's publication of notice that Appendix RE meets or exceeds its standards. County and municipal building and plumbing codes must incorporate the updated code by April 11, 2027.

Requirements are summarized below. Consult 7 DE Admin. Code 2101, Appendix RE, directly for further details.

- For multi-family dwellings classified as R-2 occupancies by the International Building Code (IBC): parking shall be provided with an electric vehicle-ready space or electric vehicle supply equipment space for 20% of the dwelling units or parking spaces, whichever is less.

- At least 1 electric vehicle equipment supply space must be in an area available for use by all residents of the R-2 occupancy. The electric vehicle equipment supply space must be accessible by an individual with a disability.

- Construction documents must indicate the location of proposed electric vehicle supply equipment spaces and electric vehicle-ready spaces.

Contact: DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy, Energy Section at (302) 735-3480.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/energy-office/

**Air Quality – Particulate Emissions**
Particulate emissions are regulated by DNREC's Division of Air Quality. To control particulate emissions from construction and materials handling operations, the following is required:

- The applicant must use dust suppressants and other measures during demolition activities, grading, land clearing, excavation of non-paved roads, material movement or storage, and sandblasting activities.

Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality at (302) 739-9402.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/permitting/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Tara Wilbur 302-659-2229

**Proposed Project Parcel Flood Concern**

- This parcel is located within an area of **Minimal Flood Concern of 1000 years or greater**.

**Parcel Status within County Evacuation Zone Location**

- The parcel is not yet located within a New Castle County Evacuation Zone.

**Parcel Status within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant**

- The parcel **is not** located within the 10-mile EPZ for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

State Historic Preservation Office – Contact Carlton Hall 302-736-7400

- There are multiple precontact sites nearby, including a large archaeological complex. The area is historically agricultural, and there is some evidence for 19th century agricultural structures within the project area. This suggests a moderate potential for precontact and historic archaeological resources. The DE SHPO recommends an archaeological survey prior to any ground disturbing activities.
- Historic agricultural complexes are often associated with family cemeteries and other unmarked graves. We request that the applicant review the Delaware Unmarked Human Burials and Skeletal Remains Law (Delaware Code: Title 7, Chapter 54), which addresses the process around the treatment and disposition of unmarked human burials that are inadvertently discovered. The Law also prohibits any failure to report their discovery.
- If there is federal involvement, in the form of licenses, permits, or funds, the federal agency, often through its client, is responsible for complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) and must consider their project's effects on any known or potential cultural or historic resources.

For further information or additional details pertaining to the Section 106 process and the Advisory Council's role; please review the Advisory Council's website at the following: www.achp.gov

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394

At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

**Fire Protection Water Requirements**:

- Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1000 gpm for 1-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers. (Apartments)

- Where a water distribution system is proposed for the site, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.

**Fire Protection Features:**

- All structures over 10,000 Sq. Ft. aggregate will require automatic sprinkler protection installed.

- Buildings greater than 10,000 sqft, 3-stories or more, over 35 feet, or classified as High Hazard, are required to meet fire lane marking requirements

- Show Fire Department Connection location (Must be within 300 feet of fire hydrant), and detail as shown in the DSFPR.

- Show Fire Lanes and Sign Detail as shown in DSFPR

**Accessibility**

- All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that the access road to the subdivision from Middletown Warwick Rd must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.

- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door.

- Any dead-end road more than 300 feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around or cul-de-sac arranged such that fire apparatus will be able to turn around by making not

more than one backing maneuver. The minimum paved radius of the cul-de-sac shall be 38 feet. The dimensions of the cul-de-sac or turn-around shall be shown on the final plans. Also, please be advised that parking is prohibited in the cul-de-sac or turn around.

- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.

- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

**Gas Piping and System Information:**

- Provide type of fuel proposed and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

**Required Notes**:

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read “All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations”

- Proposed Use

- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units

- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type

- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)

- Note indicating if building is to be sprinklered

- Name of Water Provider

- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout

- Provide Lock Box Note (as detailed in DSFPR) if Building is to be sprinklered

- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

## Recommendations/Additional Information

This section includes a list of site-specific suggestions that are intended to enhance the project. These suggestions have been generated by the State Agencies based on their expertise and subject area knowledge. **These suggestions do not represent State code requirements.** They are offered here in order to provide proactive ideas to help the applicant enhance the site design, and it is hoped **(but in no way required)** that the applicant will open a dialogue with the relevant agencies to discuss how these suggestions can benefit the project.

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- The applicant should expect a requirement that all PLUS and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comments be addressed prior to submitting plans for review.

- Please be advised that the Standard General Notes have been updated and posted to the DelDOT website. Please begin using the new versions and look for the revision dates of March 21, 2019 and March 16, 2021. The notes can be found at https://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/

- The applicant is encouraged to maintain the pedestrian facilities depicted on the conceptual site plan along Middletown-Warwick Road.

- This project will have access to a private road with the functional classification of local road. Local roads serve to connect areas to higher functional classifications of roadways. This project will generally be in alignment for a local roadway.

- The development of this project is encouraged to be aware of the ongoing WILMAPCO Sidewalk Gap Analysis, the Southern New Castle County Land Use Transportation Plan, and work in coordination with those efforts.

- This project is generally in alignment with the transportation goals outlined by the existing Middletown Comprehensive Plan.

- This project is located primarily in Investment Level 1 according to the 2025 State Strategies for Policy and Spending. In Investment Level 1 DelDOT prioritizes improving safety; expanding access to transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities; supporting economic development; and strengthening connections among existing, redeveloping, and new neighborhoods, public facilities, and commercial areas. This project is aligned with these policy priorities.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

**Excellent Groundwater Recharge Area**

- For Excellent Groundwater Recharge Areas, limit impervious surfaces to no more than 20% of the entire area designated as having excellent recharge.

Contact: DNREC Source Water Assessment and Protection Program at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/commercial-government/water-allocation/assessment-and-protection/

**Stormwater Management**

- Where the site and soil conditions allow, integrate runoff reduction techniques including infiltration basins, bioretention (rain gardens), filter strips, and pavers to encourage on-site stormwater infiltration and reduce runoff.

- For improved stormwater management, preserve existing trees, wetlands, and passive open space.

Plan review agency contact: Town of Middletown at (302) 378-9120.
Website: https://middletown.delaware.gov/

General stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

**Air Quality – Design to Minimize Mobile Source Emissions**

Mobile sources include a variety of motor vehicles and mobile equipment that generate air emissions, such as ozone, particle pollution, and air toxics. The DNREC Mobile Sources Control Program reduces motor vehicle-related pollution from both on-road vehicles and non-road vehicles.

- This site lies within New Castle County. Ambient air quality in this area may not meet Federal Air Quality Standards.

- Consider designing the project to connect to local pedestrian and bicycle networks, as well as public transit. The closest bus stop appears to be less than 1 mile from this site. Designing for travel alternatives has the potential to minimize the overall tailpipe emissions associated with the use of this site.

- Consider designing the project for low maintenance green spaces. Designing green spaces to be less dependent on gas-powered lawn and garden equipment has the potential to minimize emissions associated with the on-going maintenance of this site.

Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality's Mobile Sources Program at (302) 739-9402.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/mobile-sources/

**Sustainable Practices**

- Use renewable energy infrastructure such as solar or geothermal to reduce energy costs and further reduce pollution created from offsite generation. Grant funds and incentives are available for Delmarva Power customers through the DNREC Green Energy Fund, which includes several funding types through the state's major electric utilities (https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/assistance/).

- Use efficient Energy Star rated products and materials in construction and redevelopment. Energy efficient appliances use less energy over time. This saves consumers and businesses money, while also helping to reduce pollution from power generation.

- Incorporate nonmotorized connectivity and install bicycle racks and covered bike storage where feasible to help facilitate non-vehicular travel modes.

- On large expanses of impervious surfaces and asphalt, design parking areas to include trees for shading.

- Consider providing dedicated open spaces for all residents. Open spaces have the potential to improve residents' quality of life by supporting active and passive recreation. Landscape buffers are not equivalent to open spaces. The concept plan did not appear to propose open spaces.

- Consider planting select areas with native trees. Native trees improve air, water, and soil quality. Planting and nurturing trees is also a nature-based solution to reducing the greenhouse gases that drive climate change. In addition, native trees have an increasingly important role in the survival of native birds and beneficial insects whose habitat is shrinking due to development and climate change.

- Consider planting select areas with meadow comprised of native species. Native plants are well-suited to our climate and require limited maintenance. Mowing in these areas should not occur between April 1st to July 31st to reduce impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife species that utilize meadows and grasslands for breeding habitat.

- Use structural paint coatings that are low in Volatile Organic Compounds to help protect air quality. Air pollution from new construction is generated through the use of maintenance equipment, paints, and consumer products like roof coatings and primers.

- Use recycled materials, such as reclaimed asphalt pavement, to reduce heat island effects on paved surfaces, prevent landfill waste, and lower material costs.

- Include space for recycling dumpsters within the preliminary site design stage. These can be placed adjacent to trash dumpsters.

Contact: DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy at (302) 735-3480.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Tara Wilbur 302-659-2229

**Population**

- New Castle County: The county has a population density of 1,321.50 per square mile based on the US 2020 Census report; an increase from 2010 at 1,241.00 persons per square mile.

- The specific census block(s) the project is located on has a total population of 38, though, with development, this will undoubtedly change. The 6 adjacent blocks aggregated bring the area to a total population of 233.

**FEMA National Risk Index**

- The FEMA National Risk Index is an online mapping application that identifies communities most at risk to 18 natural hazards: Avalanche, Coastal Flooding, Cold Wave, Drought, Earthquake, Hal, Heat Wave, Hurricane, Ice Storm, Landslide, Lightning, Riverine Flooding, Strong Wind, Tornado, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Wildfire, and Winter

Weather. The FEMA National Risk Index is calculated by multiplying the Expected Annual Loss times the Social Vulnerability and dividing that by the Community Resilience.

Expected Annual Loss
× Social Vulnerability
÷ Community Resilience
= Risk Index

- According to FEMA's National Risk Index, the parcel **is** considered **relatively moderate** for overall natural hazards risks.

- Community Resilience is a consequence reduction risk component and a community risk factor that represents the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions and withstand/recover rapidly from disruptions. Social Vulnerability is a consequence-enhancing risk factor that represents the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

- Its community resilience is rated as **relatively high** whereas its social vulnerability is rated as **relatively moderate.**

**Renewable Energy Commitment**

- Regarding energy use and consumption, the census tract utilizes **utility gas** as the predominant fuel type for heating purposes.

- DEMA strongly encourages the use of renewable energies and high-efficiency appliances and utilities. Regarding utilities, DEMA suggests incorporating 90% series furnaces/HVAC systems; the closer to 99%, the better, as well as A/C units of 20 Seer or greater. DEMA recommends using tankless water heaters, and battery backup systems for sump pumps to reduce potential water damage from power failure. Lastly, DEMA encourages the integration of modern and emerging technologies, such as the potential for electric vehicles in garages/parking lots, green roofs or solar panels where applicable and allowable, and the like.

<u>Delaware State Housing Authority - Contact Cole Shultz (302) 739-4263</u>

- DSHA strongly supports this mixed-use redevelopment as bringing in much needed housing to currently vacant land. We note that this project is located on an "Area of Opportunity" market-affordability site, which are strong, high value markets where new affordable housing opportunities should be supported.

- While there are no affordable housing sites nearby, we support the addition of 192 market-rate rental units on this site as a supply-oriented approach that makes more affordable units available to lower-income households. Specifically, higher-income

earners will be able to move into these new apartments as opposed to competing for lower-cost units with households who need them more. This phenomenon, known as filtering, is a well-established housing principle that has been supported by examples nationwide, including Minneapolis and Austin. Indeed, residential filtering is the most significant source of low-cost housing in the private market.

- Lastly, we note this project aligns with new legislation promoting denser, more sustainable development patterns that include a mix of uses and reduce the need for vehicular trips.

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
Preliminary meetings with fire protection specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website: www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov, technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

**Fire Department Comments:**

- The volunteer fire department is obligated to provide Fire and EMS service to this property. In addition**,** new developments in their Fire and EMS district have put a financial strain on their volunteer fire service. As their call volume increases yearly due to the unprecedented growth within the service area, current funding does not keep up with development within the district. State, County, and Local funding does not keep up with the growth of the fire district, so the developer and future residents need to help financially support the Volunteer Fire Department. Future residents need to consider joining the fire department to serve their new community.

**Following receipt of this letter and upon filing of an application with the local jurisdiction, the applicant shall provide to the local jurisdiction and the Office of State Planning Coordination a written response to comments received as a result of the pre-application process, noting whether comments were incorporated into the project design or not and the reason, therefore.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,

David L. Edgell, AICP
Director, Office of State Planning Coordination