### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403 and THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section 2600 Bull Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N SAC-2009-01290

March 11, 2020

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 <u>et.seq.</u>), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

### MR. WALTER LAGARENNE SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS AUTHORITY 200 PORTS AUTHORITY DRIVE MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29464

for a **modification** to an existing Department of the Amy Permit (SAC-2009-01290) to place fill material in jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the U.S. in

### TIMOTHY CREEK

at a location near the intersection of U.S. Highway 78 and S.C. Highway 27 and the Town of Ridgeville, Dorchester County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.1215°, Longitude: -80.3232°), Ridgeville, S.C. Quadrangle map.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

### NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

### 15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and SCDHEC will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

### **30 Days from the Date of this Notice**

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) has acquired the majority (940.73 acres) of the previously authorized Ridgeville Commerce Park (1,030.54-acres) from Mead Westvaco. A Department of the Army (DA) permit for the placement of fill material in freshwater wetlands and other waters of the U.S. was issued on May 17, 2012, and the time limit for completing this work

ends on June 30, 2027. The remainder of the commerce park site has been sold to others and the existing DA permit has been transferred from Mead Westvaco to the new property owners, including the SCPA. The new property owners are considered co-permittees and are jointly responsible for developing the commerce park site in accordance with the terms and conditions of the existing DA permit.

The new property owners have developed and/or plan to develop 668,000 square feet of truck served warehouse facilities (Green Hills Land Holding, LLC), a water tower (Dorchester County), an electrical substation (Edisto Electric Cooperative, Inc.), and a rail spur (Norfolk Southern Corporation) on their portion of the commerce park site. The SCPA has proposed to modify the existing DA permit and to reconfigure a portion of the original master plan in order to meet their needs and the needs of their future tenants. As shown on the attached drawings, the SCPA would construct, operate, own, and/or lease 10 truck served warehouses, 2 rail served warehouses, and a 40-acre chassis yard.

The existing DA permit authorizes the following impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the United States on the SCPA owned portion of the commerce park site: rail crossings (0.88 acres of fill), road crossings (3.87 acres of fill), stormwater ponds (0.13 acres of excavation), and building pads for site development (1.17 acres of fill). The original impacts to non-jurisdictional wetlands include: stormwater ponds (0.48 acres of excavation), and building pads for site development (0.48 acres of excavation), and building pads for site development (0.48 acres of excavation), and building pads for site development (0.48 acres of excavation), and building pads for site development (9.19 acres of fill). The proposed changes to the master plan would require the excavation and placement of fill material in an additional 2.63 acres of jurisdictional wetlands (a total of 8.68 acres) and an additional 9.17 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands (a total of 18.84 acres) on the SCPA owned portion of the commerce park site.

In accordance with the approved compensatory mitigation plan, Mead Westvaco purchased a total of 223.4 mitigation credits from the Pigeon Pond Mitigation Bank and the Beidler Forest In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program. Mead Westvaco also preserved 113.96 acres of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands and 79.06 acres of upland buffers on the 1,030.54-acre commerce park site. Since the proposed changes to the original master plan would result in the loss of preserved wetlands (and upland buffers) on the commerce park site, the SCPA has proposed to expand the original compensatory mitigation plan to offset these additional impacts.

The proposed changes to the approved compensatory mitigation plan include modifying the restrictive covenant on the SCPA owned portion of the commerce park site (reducing the total acreage of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands and upland buffers that would be protected), purchasing an additional 46.3 restoration and/or enhancement mitigation credits, enhancing 13.07 acres (a total of 22.87 acres) of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands on the commerce park site, and implementing a permittee-responsible mitigation (PRM) plan. The proposed PRM plan consists of preserving 182 acres of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and 143 acres of upland buffers on an adjacent 325-acre property as shown on the proposed drawings as shown on the proposed drawings (sheets 29 and 31 of 31).

The proposed inland distribution center and warehouse facilities (approximately 5.5 million square feet) and the associated rail spurs, parking areas, stormwater ponds, etc. would replace the previously authorized warehouse facilities (approximately 4.9 million square feet) on the SCPA owned portion of the commerce park site. The inland distribution center consists of a 2,773,500 square foot warehouse, shipping and receiving docks for 560 trucks, 188 truck bays, a 204,435 square foot flow building (cross-dock facility), parking for 2,200 trucks, and parking for 1,100 employees and visitors. The proposed changes to the original master plan would also concentrate

truck served warehouse facilities north of Timothy Creek and rail served warehouse facilities (and the 40-acre chassis yard) south of Timothy Creek near the existing Norfolk Southern rail line.

According to the SCPA, the proposed rail served warehouses would provide immediate capacity for inland distribution and increase access to regional manufacturers and distributors. In addition, the rail served warehouses and the proposed chassis yard would provide an extension of on-port operations on the commerce park site, would help balance imports that flow through the inland distribution center, and would reduce the number of empty containers that must be transported to and from the commerce park site using local roads. Based on the available information, the project purpose is to construct, own, operate, and/or lease an inland distribution center, truck served and rail served warehouse facilities, and a 40-acre chassis yard with direct access to Interstate 26 within 30 miles of the Port of Charleston.

## NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <a href="http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices">http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</a> .

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed modification would impact an additional 2.63 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and an additional 9.17 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands upstream of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the northern longeared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) a Federally threatened species may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, the District Engineer has determined that the project <u>may affect</u>, <u>is not likely to adversely affect</u> this species and will have <u>no effect</u> on federally designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(/)(1)), and has initially determined that three historic structures are located on or near the project site. However, SHPO previously determined that all three of these structures are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). SHPO has also reviewed the available information about the commerce park site and previously determined that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP would be affected by the development of this property (letter dated April 24, 2011). To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant

to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity. **Please submit** comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:

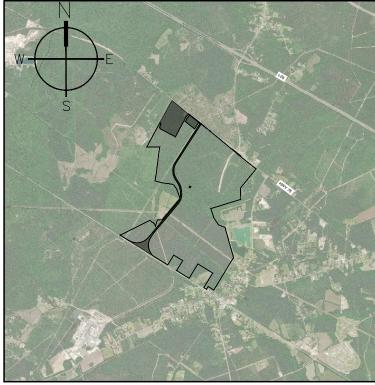
### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mr. Nat Ball, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8047, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at Nathaniel.I.Ball@usace.army.mil.

### RIDGEVILLE COMMERCE PARK RIDGEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA WETLAND PERMIT #2009-1290-2IG MODIFICATION

TMS# 087-00-00-096, 087-00-00-097, 097-00-00-002, 097-00-00-010, 086-00-00-024, 087-00-00-113

SITE LOCATION MAP SCALE: 1" = 6,000'



PROJECT	PERMITTING NOTES

USACE WETLAND FILL PERMIT ADDRESSED TO: MEADWESTVACO, MR. JAMES H. HILL DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 2012 PERMIT #: 2009-1290-21G ISSUING OFFICE: CHARLESTON DISTRICT EXPIRATION DATE: JUNE 30, 2027

0	COVER SHEET			
1	LOCATION MAP			
2	EXISTING CONDITIONS			
3	WETLAND LEGEND			
4	OVERALL LAYOUT PLAN			
5	SITE PLAN			
6	SITE PLAN			
7	SITE PLAN			
8	SITE PLAN			
9	SITE PLAN			
10	SITE PLAN			
11	SITE PLAN			
12	SITE PLAN			
13	SITE PLAN			
14	SITE PLAN			
15	SITE PLAN			
16	SITE PLAN			
17	SECTION A-A			
18	SECTION B-B			
19	SECTION C-C			
20	SECTION F-F			
21	SECTION G-G			
22	VEHICULAR BRIDGE PROFILE			
23	SECTION H-H			
24	SECTION I-I			
25	SECTION J-J			
26	SECTION K-K			
27	TYPICAL FILL ISOLATED WETLAND			
28	TYPICAL EXCAVATION OF WETLAND			
29	PROPOSED MITIGATION SITE			
30	ON-SITE MITIGATION			
31	OFF-SITE MITIGATION			

SHEET INDEX

#### PROJECT CONTACTS

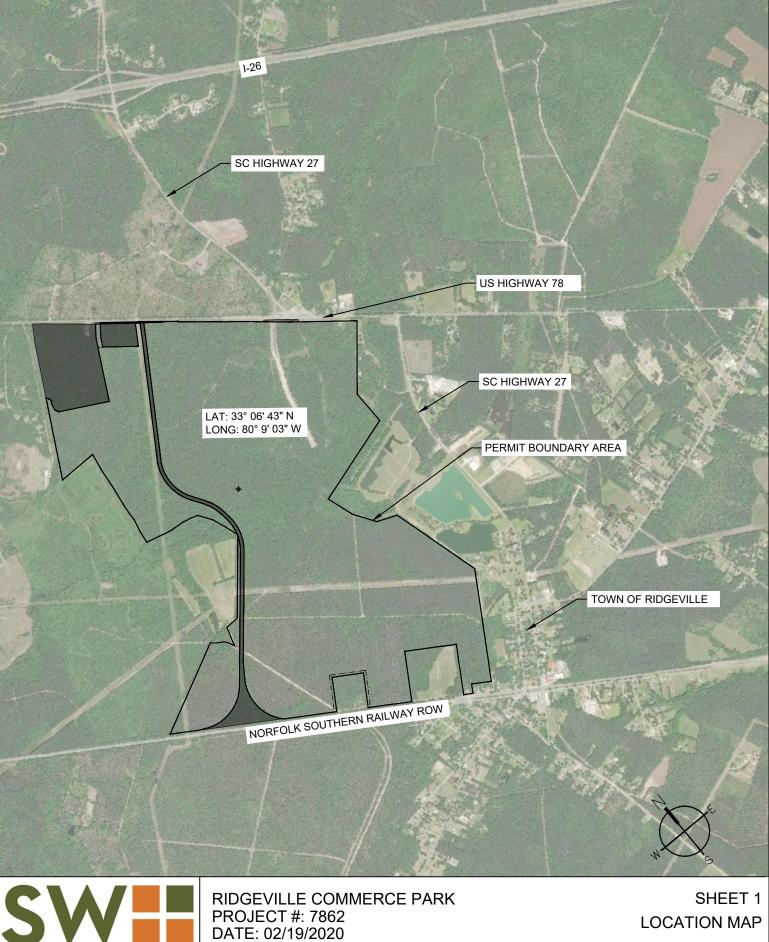
APPLICANT: S.C. STATE PORTS AUTHORITY 176 CONCORD STREET CHARLESTON, SC 29401 CONTACT: MARK MESSERSMITH PHONE: (843) 375-3102 <u>CIVIL ENGINEER:</u> SEAMON WHITESIDE & ASSOCIATES, LLC 501 WANDO PARK BLVD., SUITE 200 MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464 CONTACT: WILLIAM O'NEAL PHONE: (843) 884-1667 WETLAND CONSULTANT: NEWKIRK ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. 1887 CLEMENTS FERRY ROAD CHARLESTON, SC 29492 CONTACT: STEVE NICHOLS PHONE: (843) 388-6585



RIDGEVILLE COMMERCE PARK PROJECT #: 7862 DATE: 02/19/2020 SCALE: 1" = 6,000'

#### SHEET 0

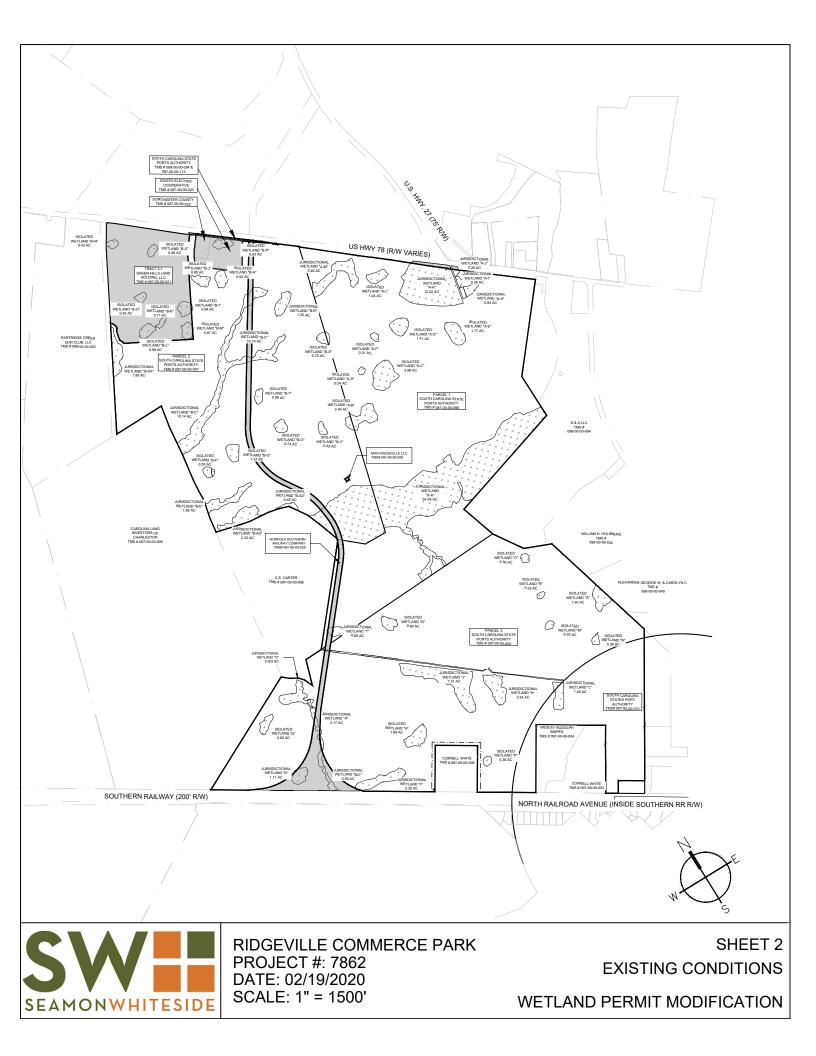
COVER SHEET WETLAND PERMIT MODIFICATION



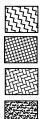
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

SEAMONWHITESIDE

WETLAND PERMIT MODIFICATION



# PERMIT MODIFICATION LEGEND

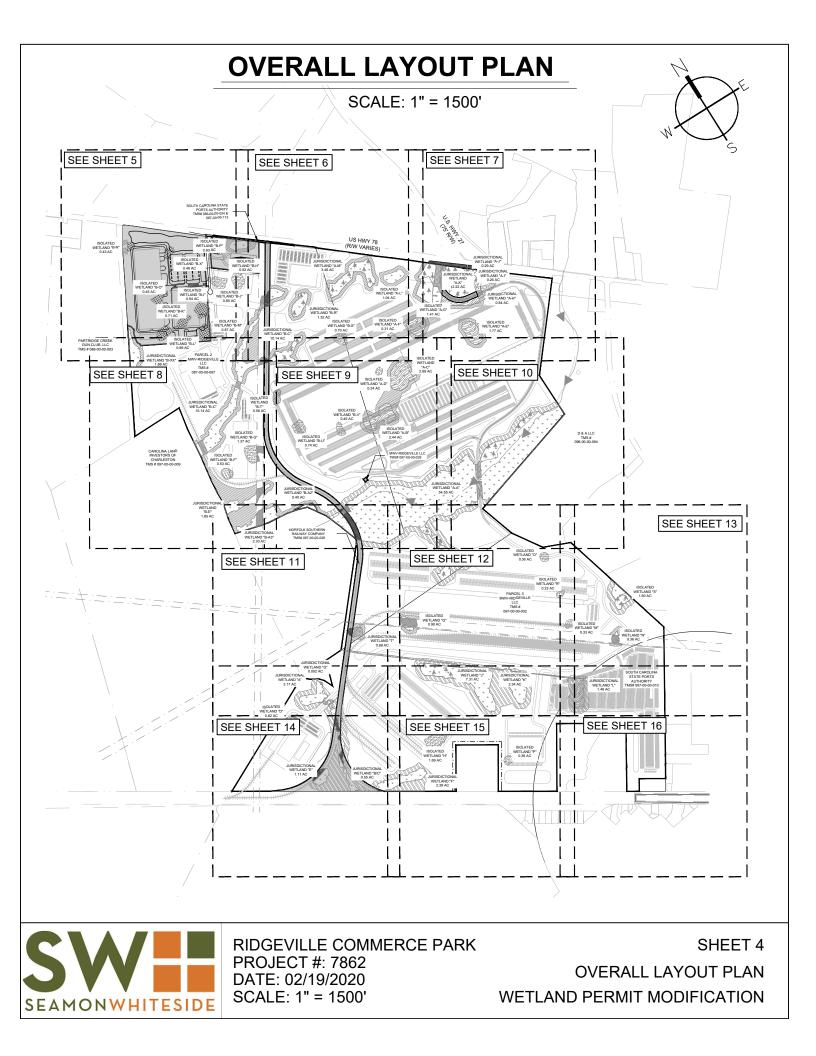


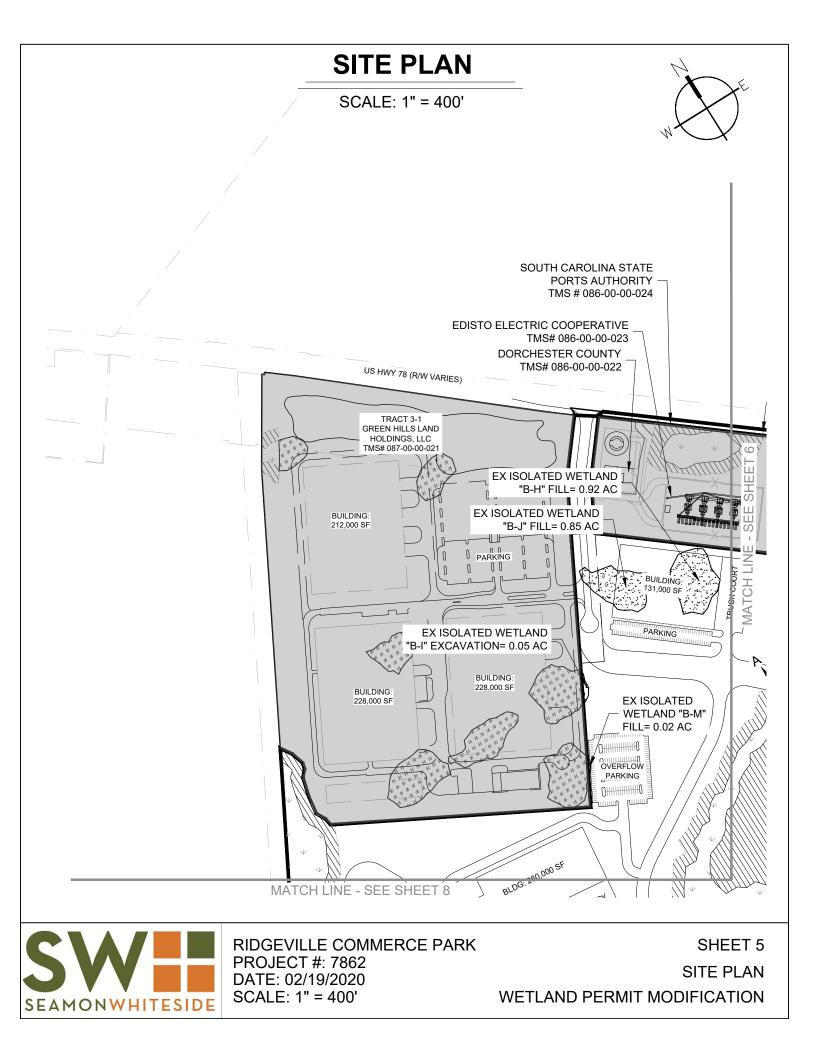
FILL AREA	WETLAND IMPACT SUMMARY	NON JURISDICTIONAL	JURISDICTIONAL	TOTAL			
	EXCAVATION	0.48 ACRES	0.13 ACRES	0.61 ACRES			
	ROAD CROSSING FILL	0 ACRES	3.87 ACRES	3.87 ACRES			
	RAIL CROSSING FILL	0 ACRES	0.88 ACRES	0.88 ACRES			
	EXISTING SITE DEVELOPMENT FILL	9.19 ACRES	1.17 ACRES	10.36 ACRES			
	ADDITIONAL SITE DEVELOPMENT FIL	L 9.17 ACRES	2.63 ACRES	11.80 ACRES			
	TOTAL	18.84 ACRES	8.68 ACRES	27.52 ACRES			
*	PINE RESTORATION	0.83 ACRES	22.04 ACRES	22.87 ACRES			
MITIGATION SUMM	MARY						
	50' AVE BUFFER WIDTH	27.30 ACRES MIN. BUFFER WIDTH: 20'					
	75' AVE BUFFER WIDTH	36.12 ACRES MIN. BUFFER WIDTH: 25'					
	WETLAND IN EXIST R/W'S	1.28 ACRES	1.24 ACRES	2.52 ACRES			
¥ ¥	WETLAND TO BE PRESERVED	2.44 ACRES	94.34 ACRES	96.78 ACRES			
<u>مستعد</u> بد ب	WETLAND RESTORATION	0 ACRES	0.78 ACRES	0.78 ACRES			
SITE ACREAGE SUMMARY							
	ORIGINAL PERMIT AREA: 1	024.69 ACRES					
	TRANSFERRED PROPERTY AREA: 8 (OWNED BY OTHERS)	4.48 ACRES					
	PERMIT MODIFICATION AREA: 9 (SCPA OWNED)	40.73 ACRES					
	TRANSFERRED PROPERTY (OWNED BY OTHERS)						
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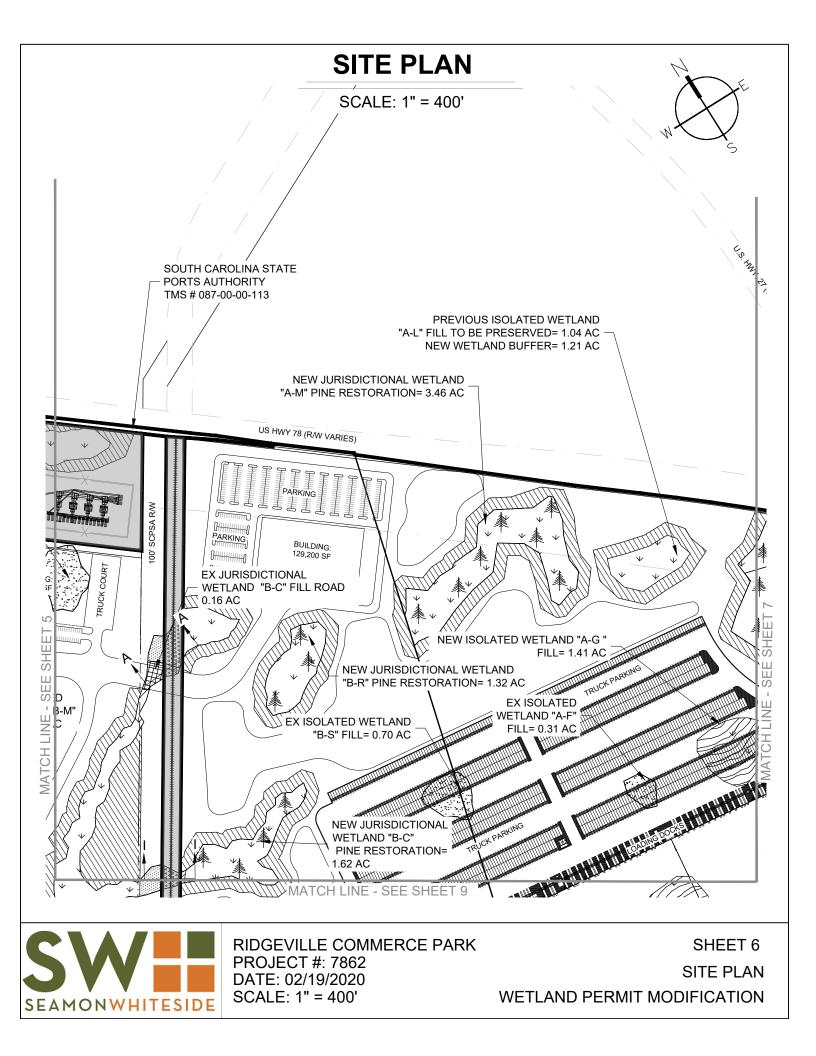


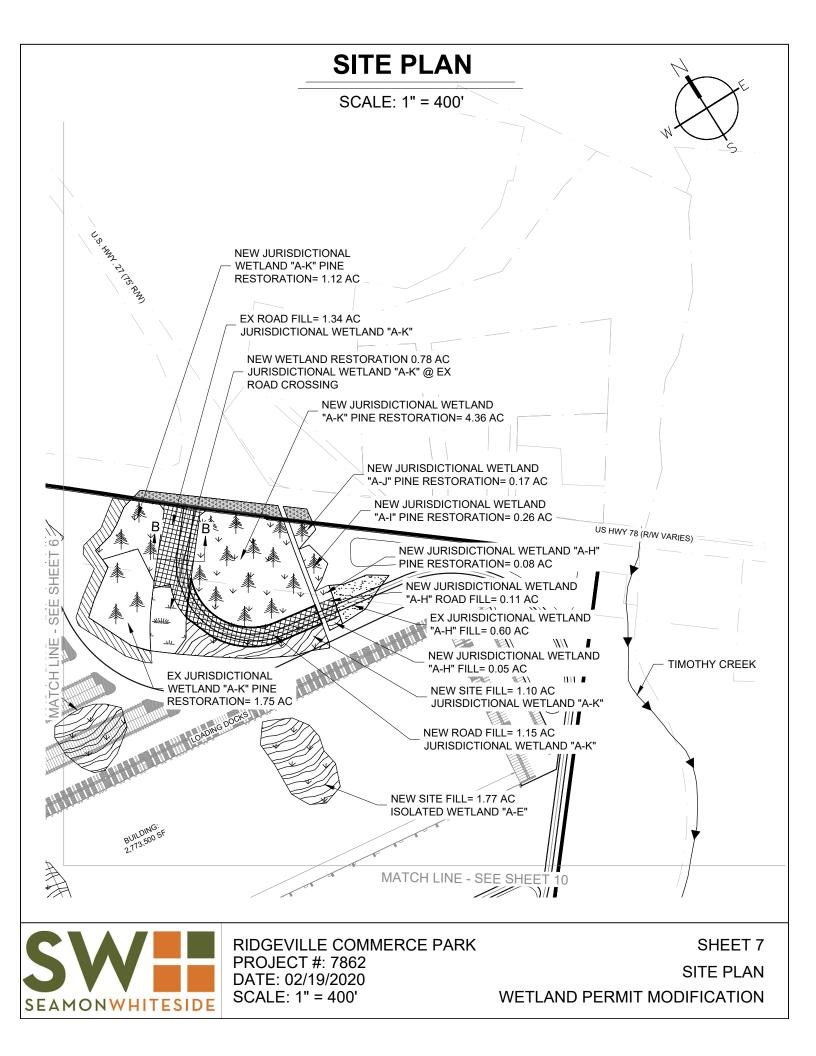
**RIDGEVILLE COMMERCE PARK** PROJECT #: 7862 DATE: 02/19/2020 SCALE: 1" = 600'

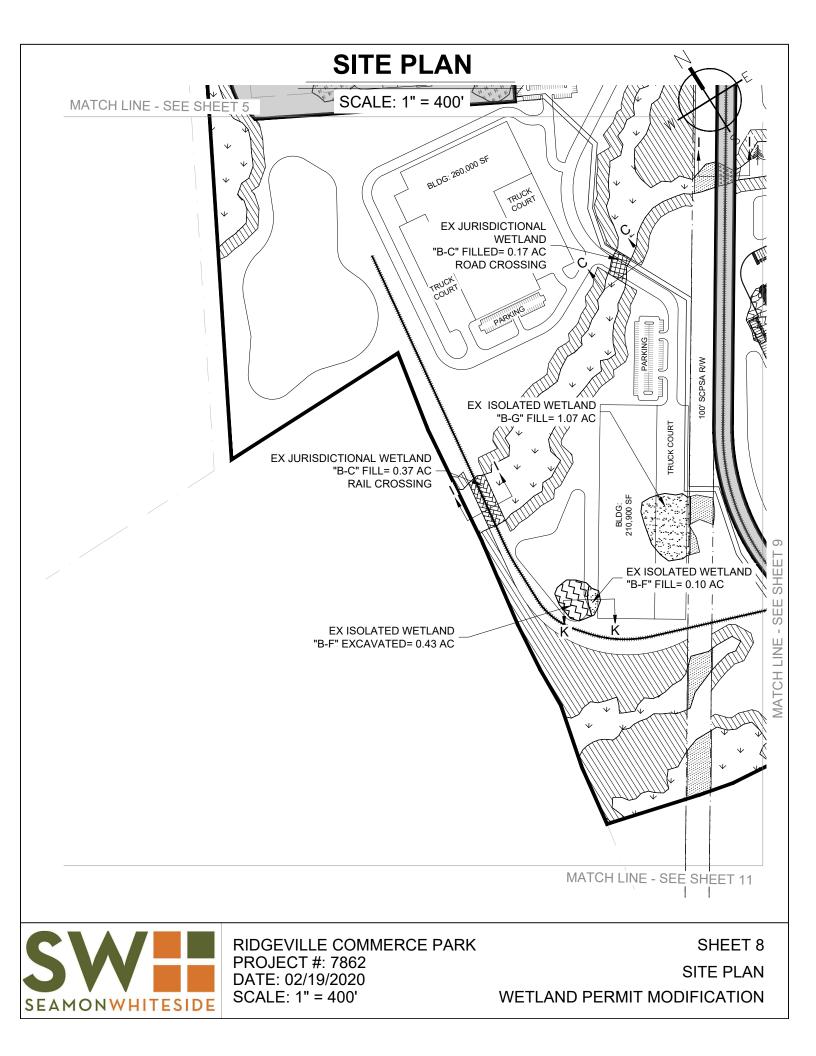
SHEET 3 WETLAND LEGEND WETLAND PERMIT MODIFICATION

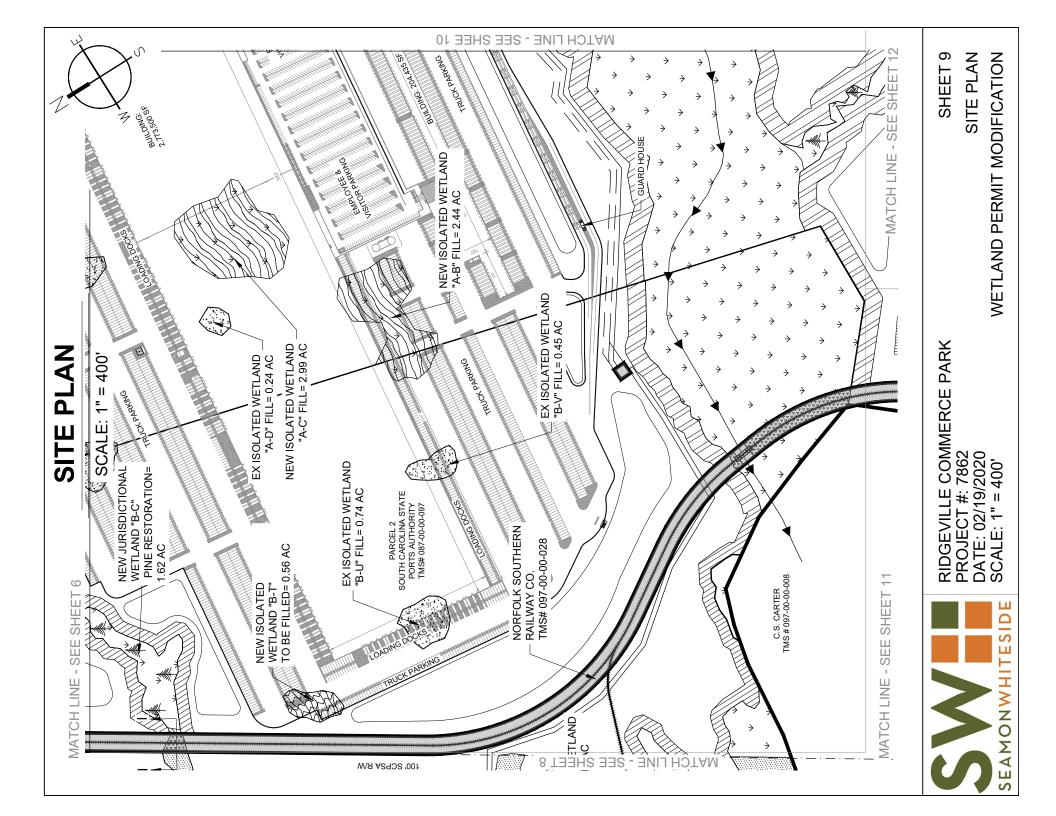


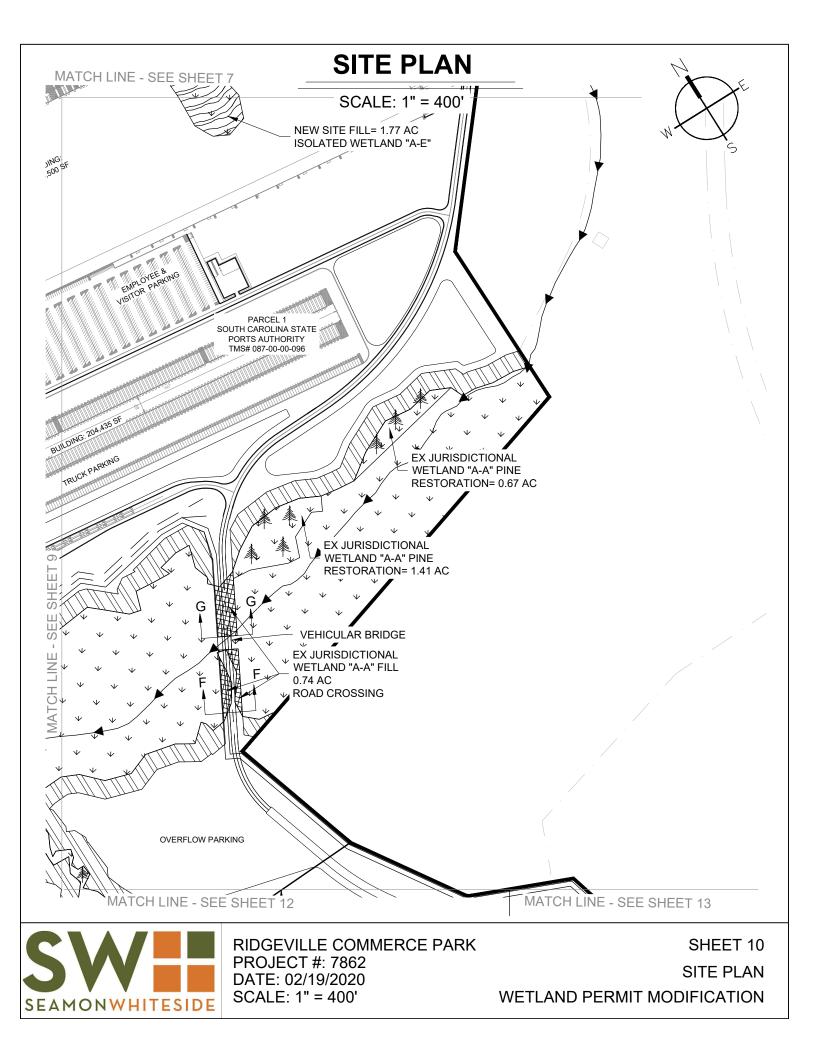


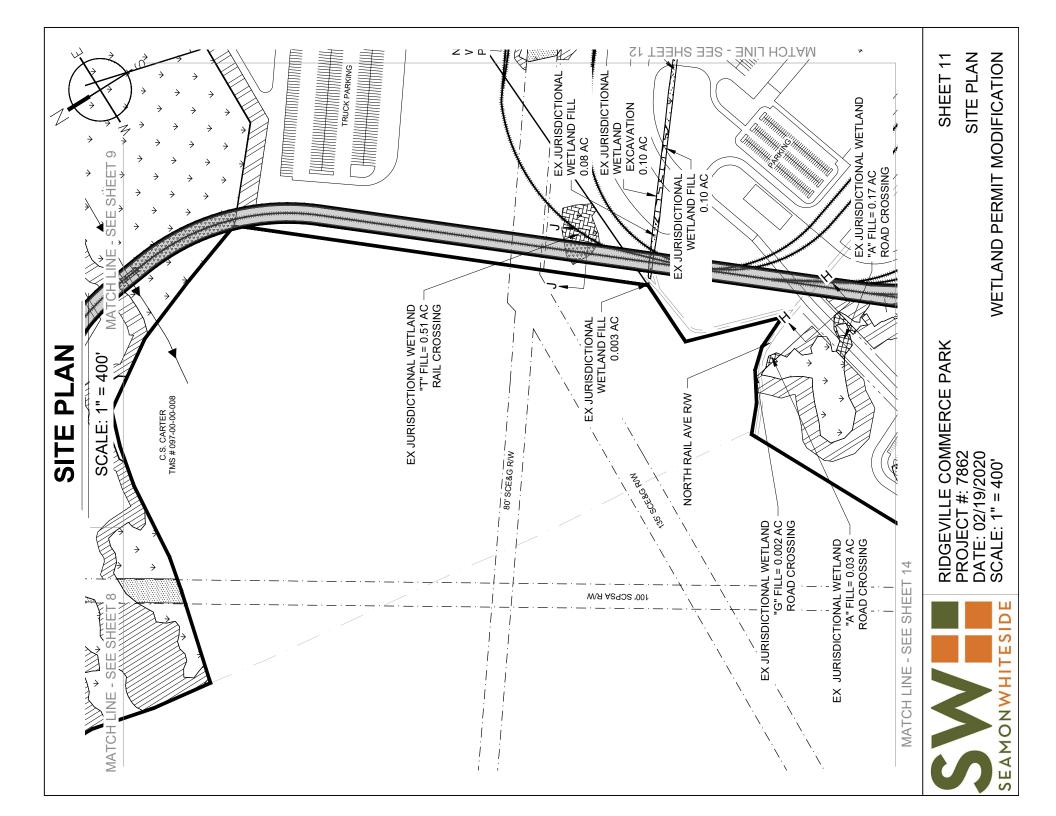


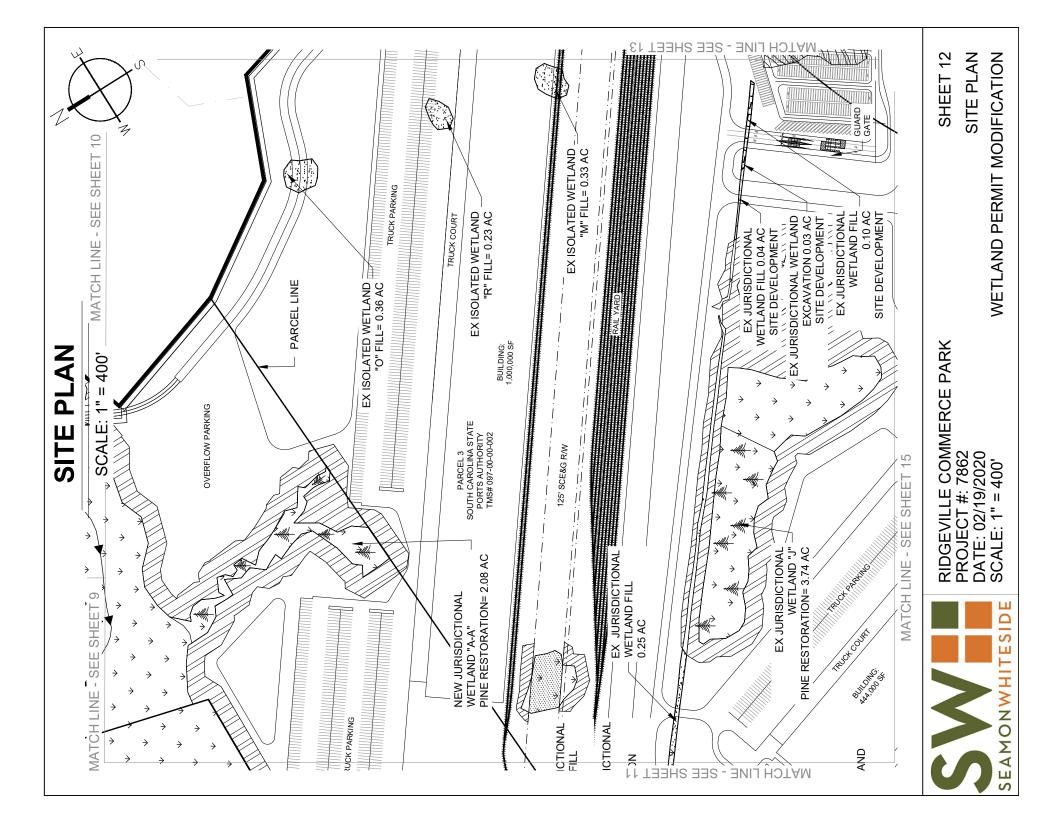








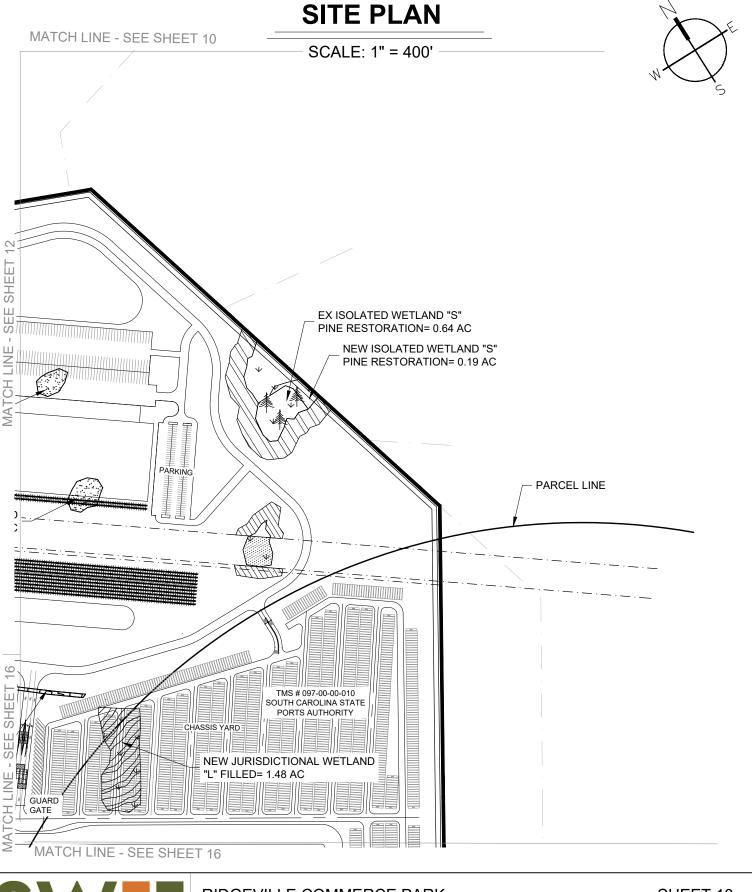


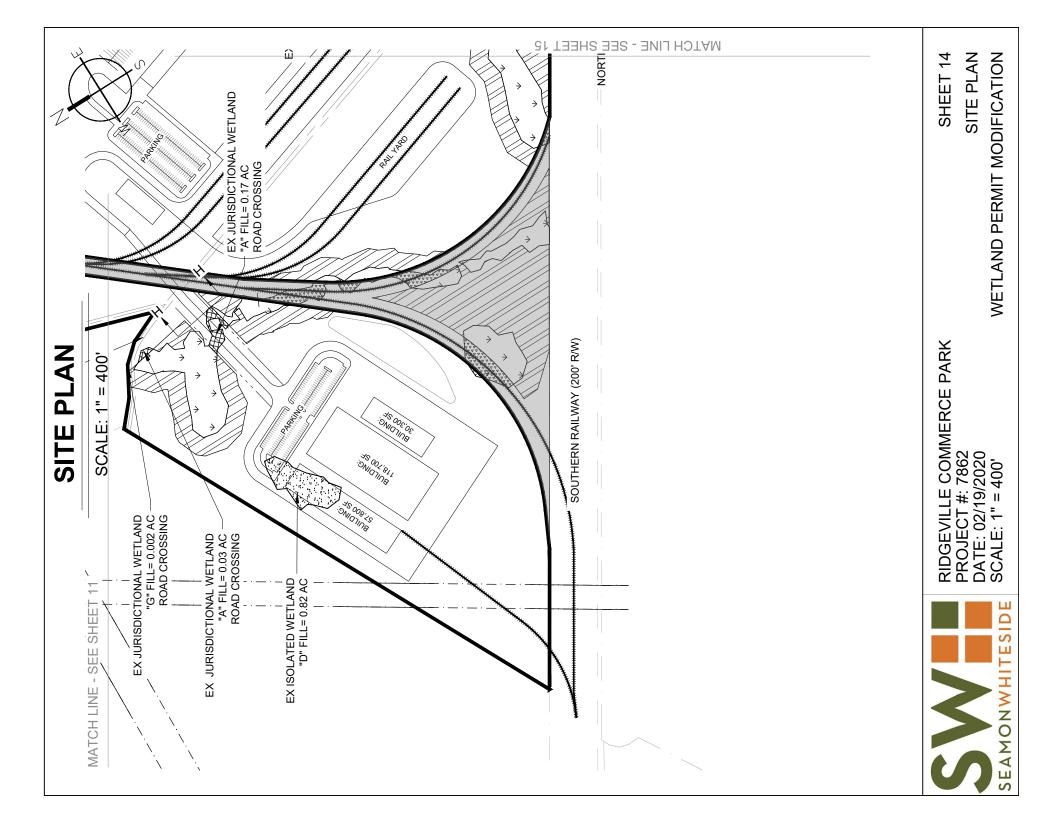


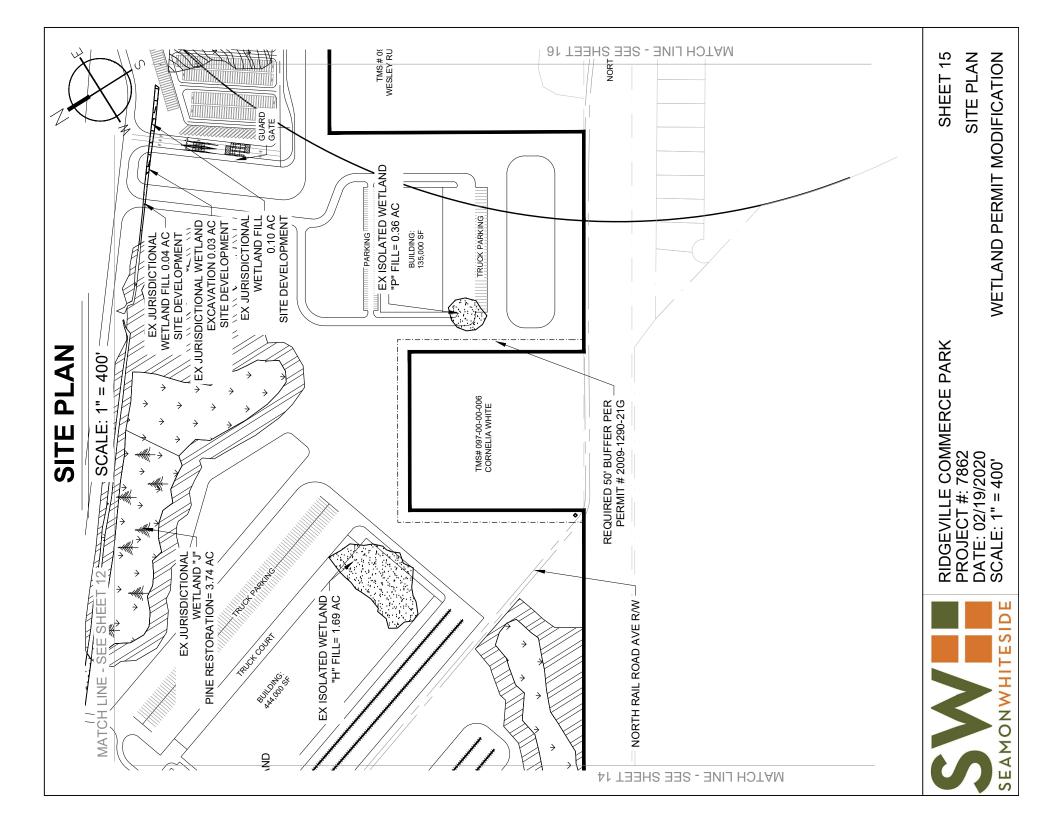


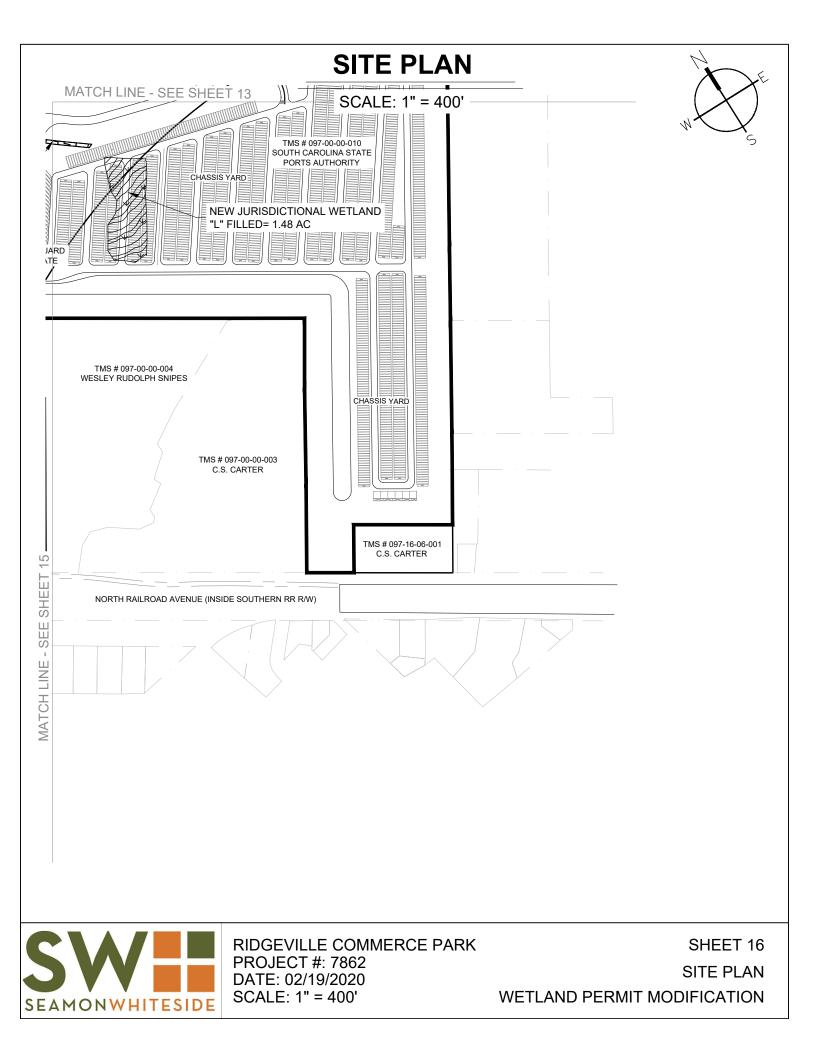
RIDGEVILLE COMMERCE PARK PROJECT #: 7862 DATE: 02/19/2020 SCALE: 1" = 400'

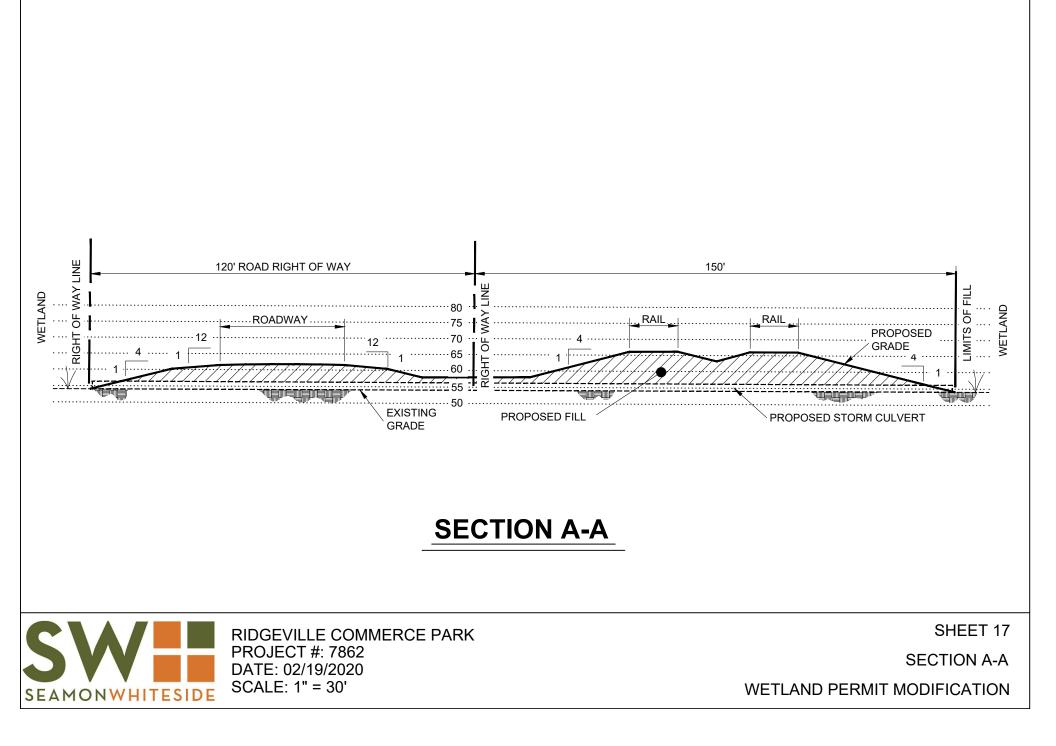
SHEET 13 SITE PLAN WETLAND PERMIT MODIFICATION

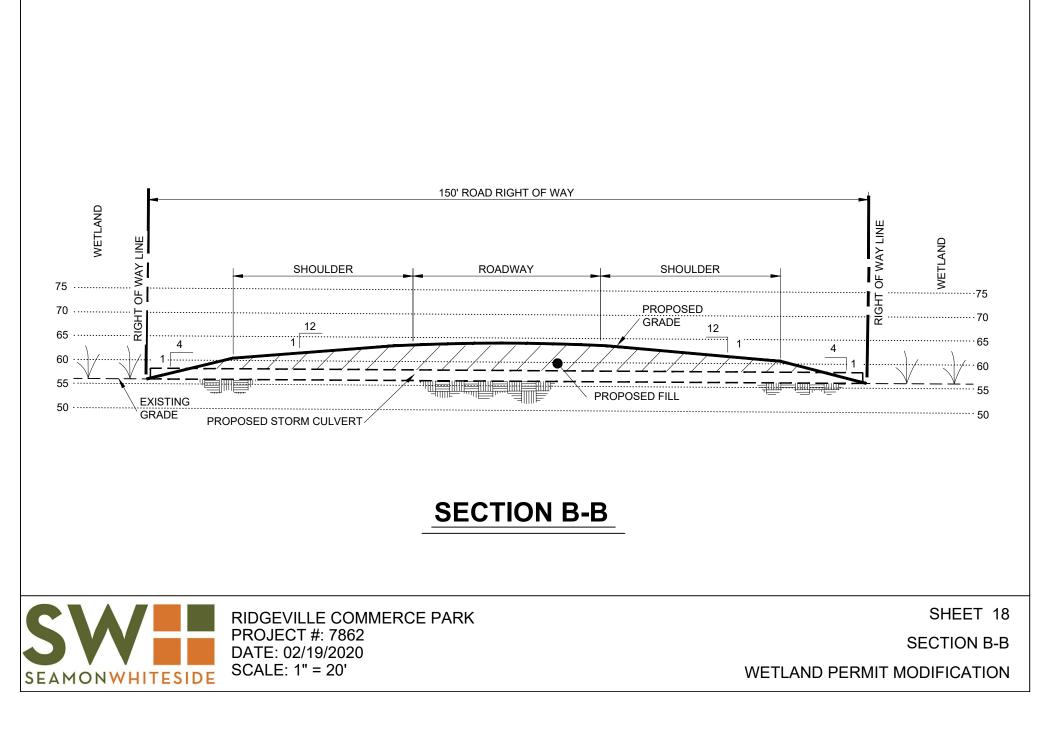


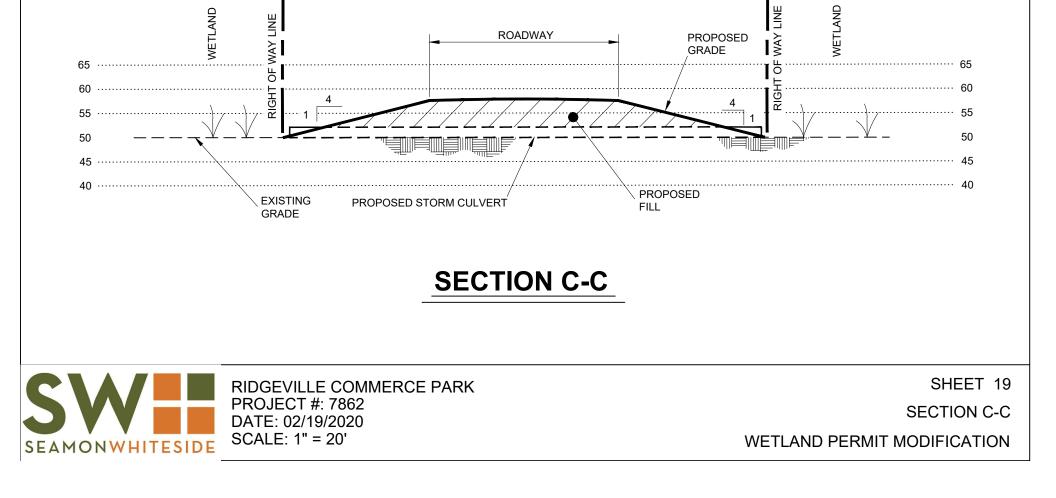












100' ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

ROADWAY

LINE

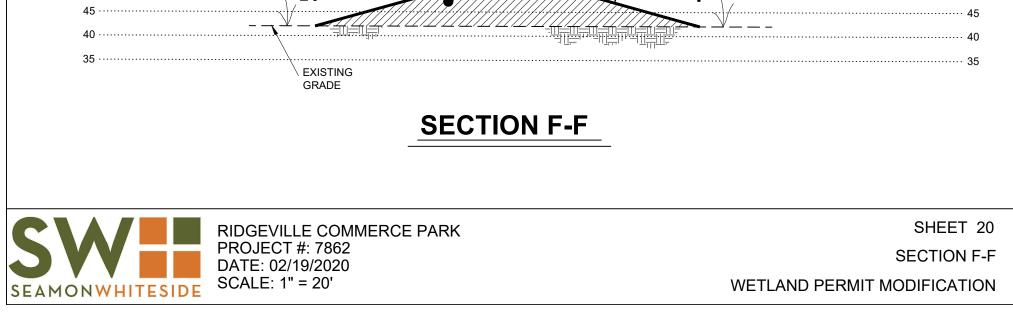
LINE

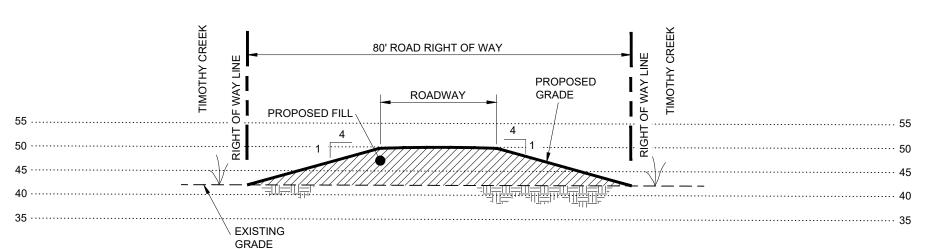
WAY

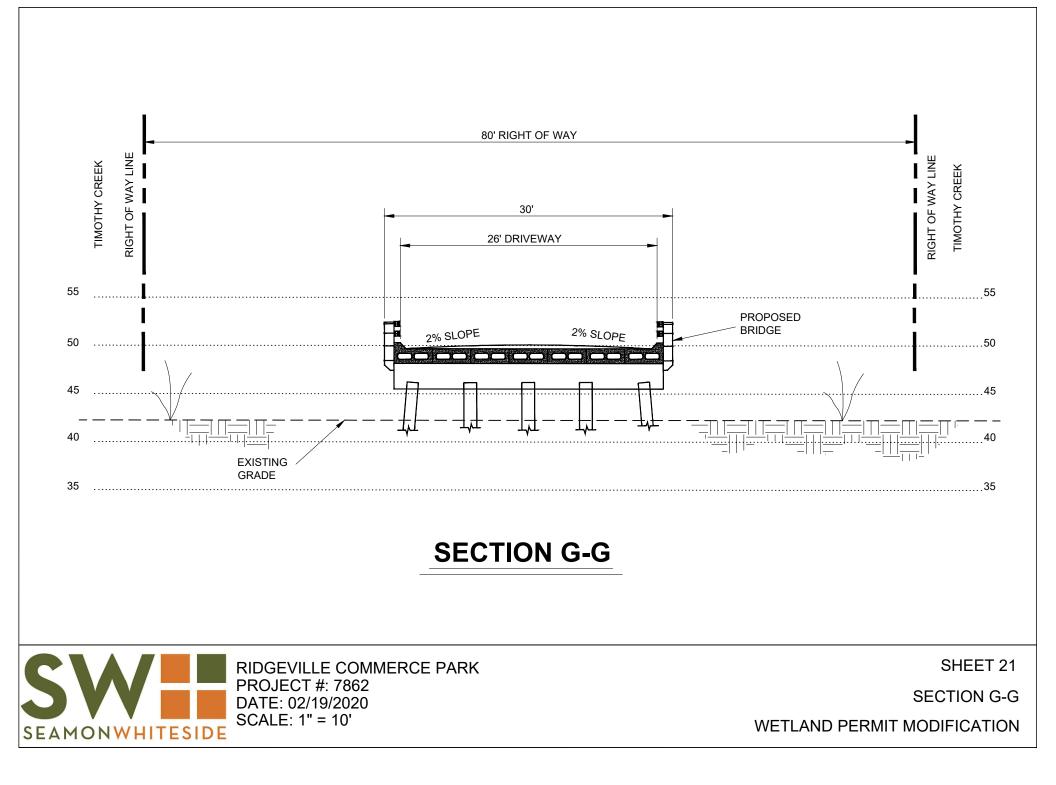
PROPOSED

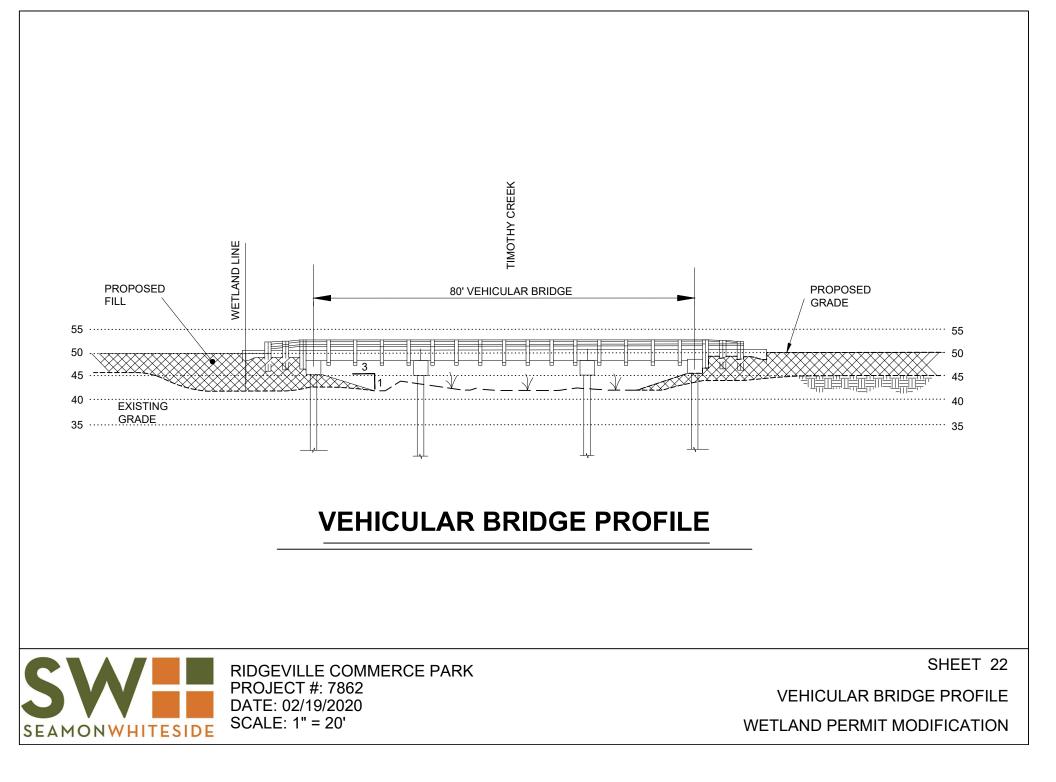
GRADE

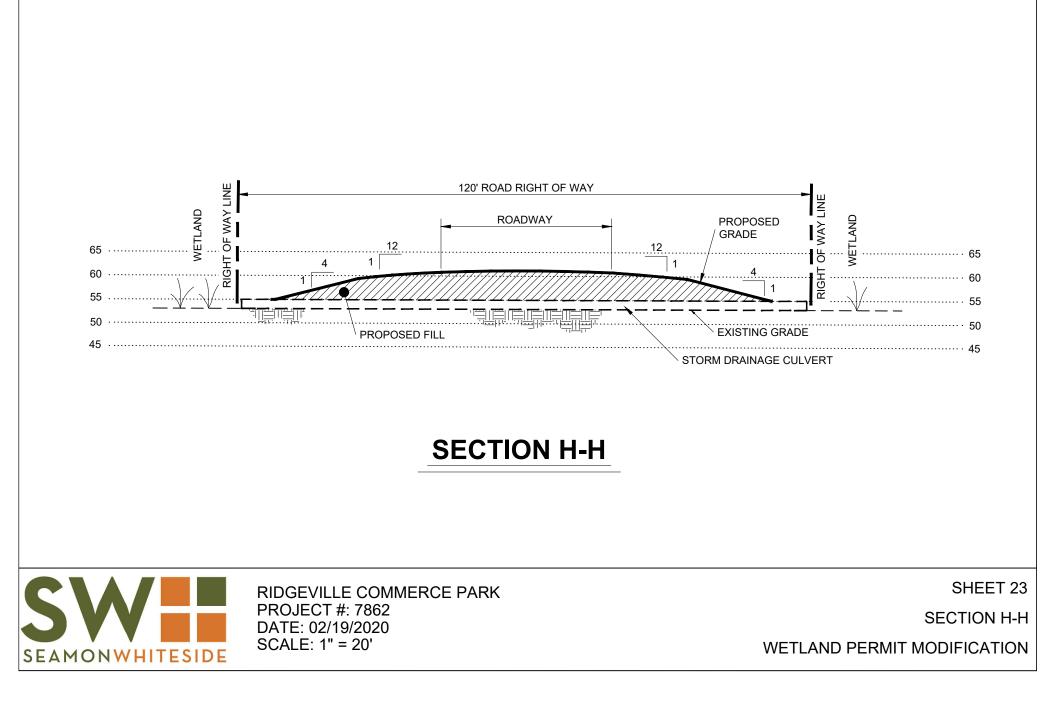
WETLAND

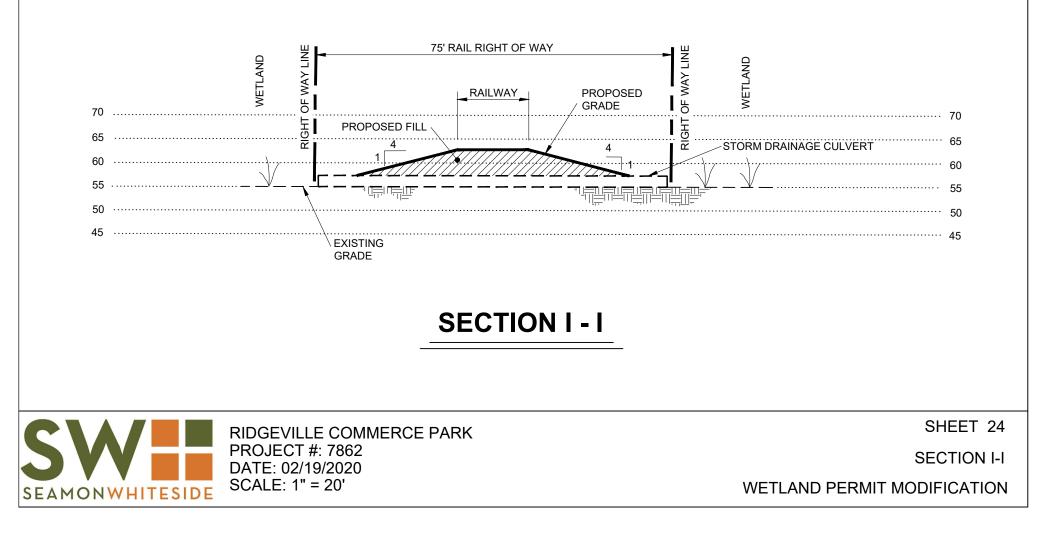


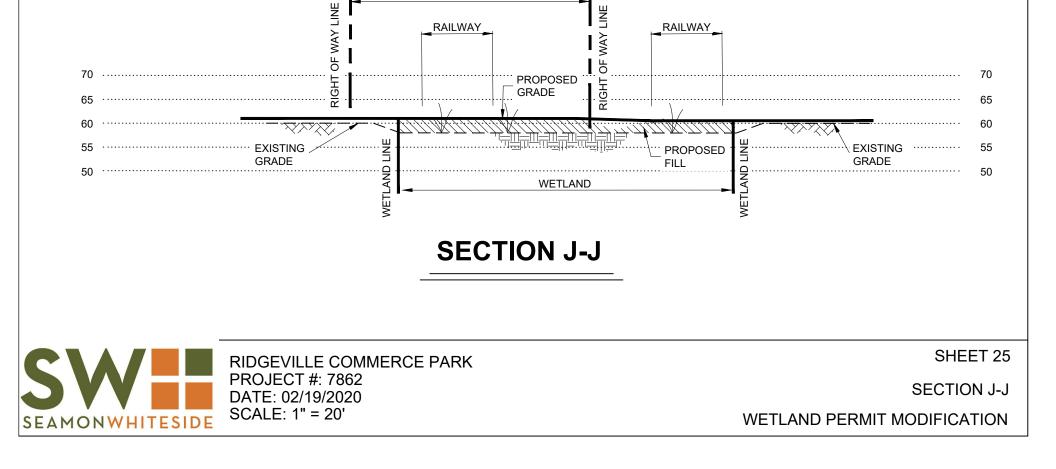








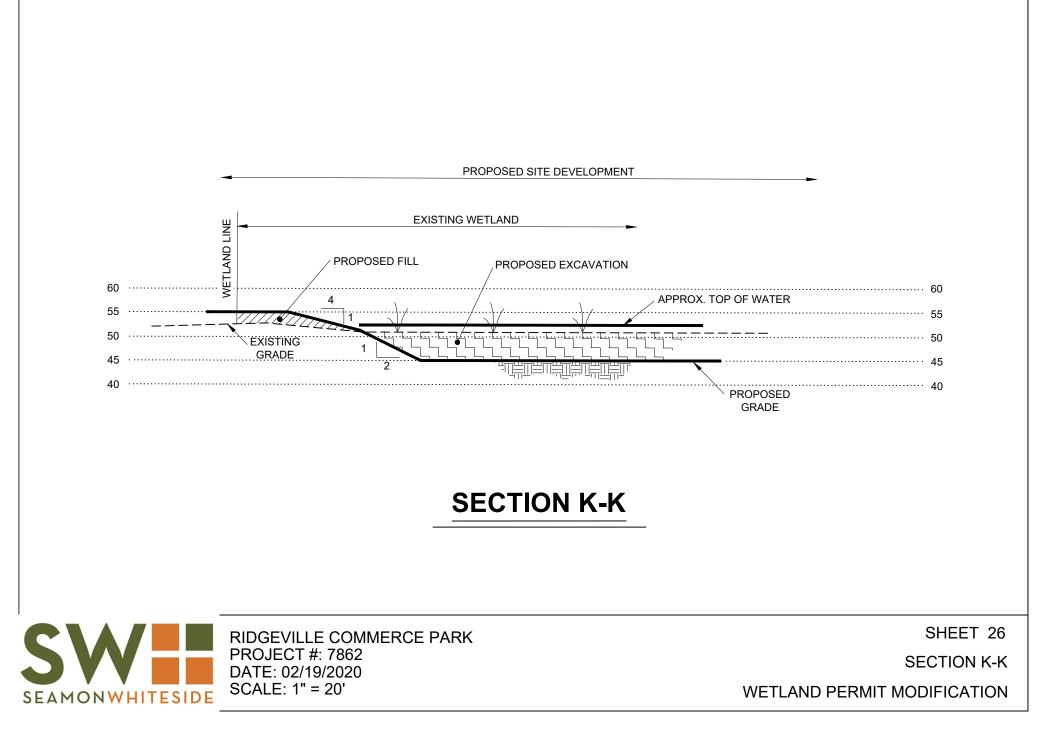


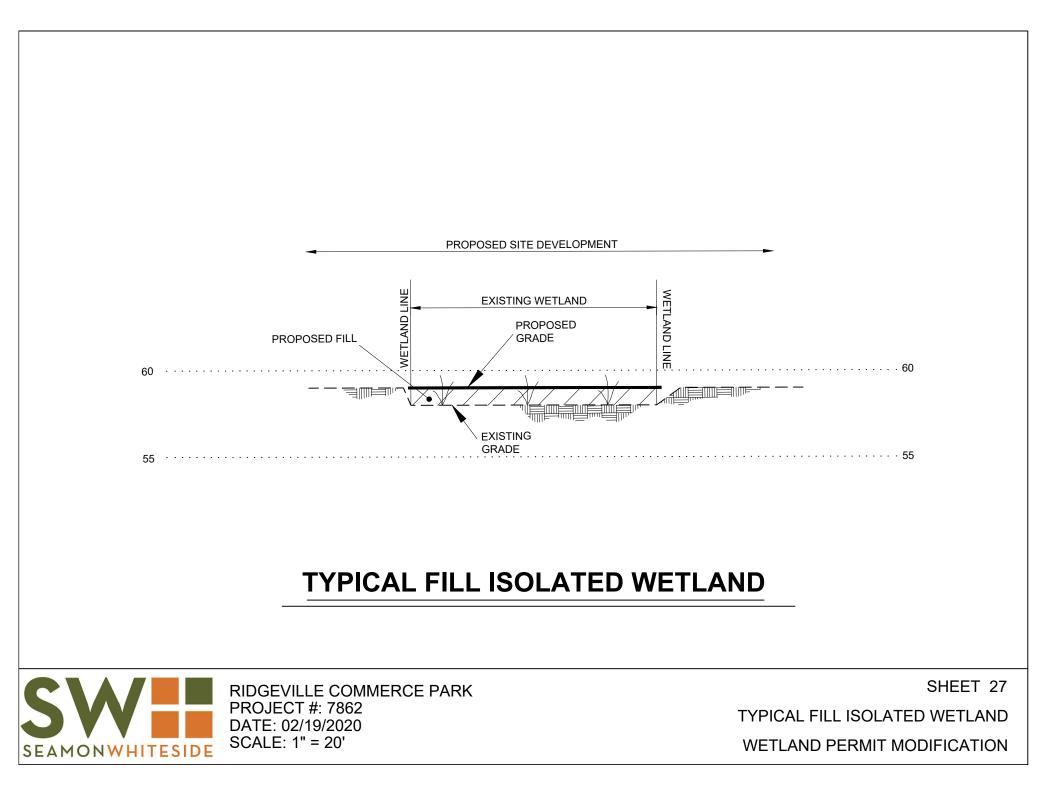


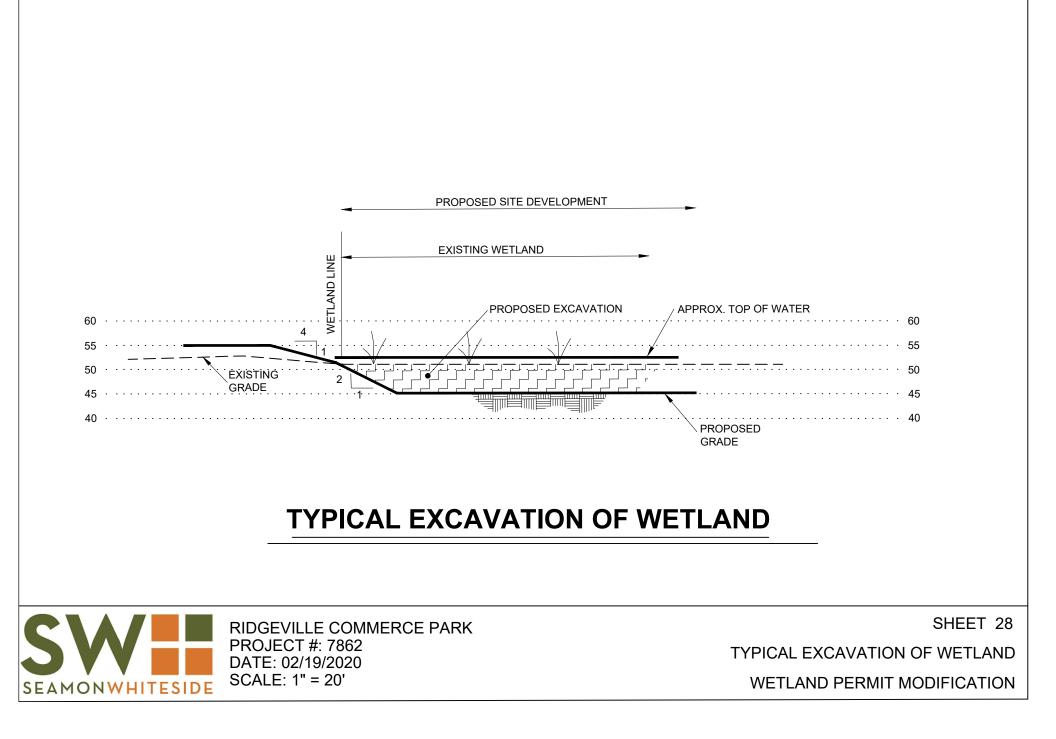
RAILWAY

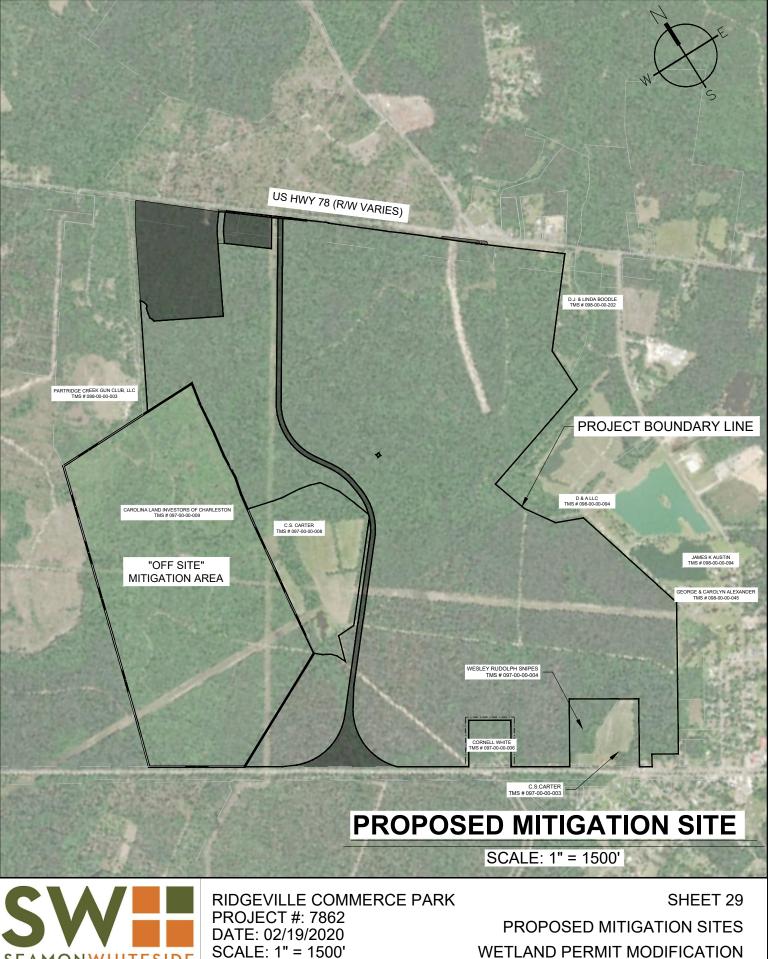
75' RAIL RIGHT OF WAY

RAILWAY









SEAMONWHITESIDE

WETLAND PERMIT MODIFICATION

