



## State of New Jersey

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Highlands Council Approves Redevelopment Area Designation in Mount Olive

*Proposed project balances economic development and resource protection*

CHESTER, N.J. — At its most recent meeting, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council approved a Redevelopment Area Designation in Mount Olive Township. The proposed project involves the reconfiguration of an existing parking lot in an industrial area of the municipality. Highlands Council approval addresses the needs of the local business while ensuring natural resource protection as specified in the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

The applicant, 700 Bartley Chester Road LLC, currently leases the facility to a warehousing and transportation company, Uncommon Carrier. Although the building on site was successfully converted from office and manufacturing use to warehousing, the existing parking lot was not suited to tractor trailer use. The proposed project will improve safety and efficiency at the site.

After review of the project to ensure consistency with the goals and purpose of the Highlands RMP, the Highlands Council determined that the project met objectives of the Plan by focusing growth in already developed areas without adversely affecting natural resources. The proposed project also maintains existing land-use patterns, balancing economic development with resource protection and providing equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of redevelopment.

“The Council was very happy to approve this project,” explains Highlands Council Chairman Jim Rilee. “This is an area that is already very developed and the proposal does not create a substantial change to the property, so we’re thrilled to be able to support businesses that want to invest in this Region.”

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With the Highlands Redevelopment Area designation, the applicant can now pursue a Highlands Preservation Area Approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The applicant will be required to address stormwater management through that process and ensure that other low-impact development techniques are incorporated into the project design. Any disturbance and construction activities will be managed to minimize impacts to the surrounding environment.

According to Highlands Council Executive Director Gene Feyl the approval is particularly satisfying because it illustrates the balance that can be achieved. “Environmental protection and economic development can co-exist,” says Feyl. “This is what we strive for and work toward.”

Also at today’s meeting, the Council voted to approve its FY2013 budget and set meeting dates for 2013.

All Council decisions made at the meeting will take effect following the Governor’s review and consideration of the meeting minutes, up to 10 business days from receipt of the minutes.

Materials related to this meeting including resolutions, presentations, audio and minutes will be posted at: <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/about/calend/> (scroll to 10/18/2012 meeting)

Additional information regarding the 700 Bartley Chester Road LLC Redevelopment Area Designation may be found here:

<http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/projectreview/#7>

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