

Freeholders OK bid for road work in Emerson

Kinderkamack Road long a trouble spot

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EMERSON - A long-awaited project to fix chronic traffic problems on Kinderkamack Road in Emerson took another step forward Wednesday.

The Bergen County Freeholders unanimously approved an approximately \$3.5 million bid from New Prince Concrete Construction Co. of Hackensack at a meeting Wednesday evening.

With the freeholders' awarding of the bid, they effectively kick-started a project that has been discussed by borough and county officials for more than a quarter-century.

"I'm extremely thankful to the freeholders and county executive for working so closely with the borough to reach this long anticipated goal of improving Kinderkamack Road in our borough," Mayor Lou Lamatina said. "It's been a long road, but the improvements will improve the quality of life for our borough residents and the 40,000 cars per day which traverse Kinderkamack Road from New York State through Hackensack."

Lamatina added that he anticipates construction beginning as early as next month.

The project will widen Kinderkamack Road in the borough's central business district, with the goal of reducing traffic congestion that occurs daily near Linwood Avenue.

The plan also calls for new configurations for several streets near that intersection, replacing and upgrading the barriers near the NJ Transit rail crossing, adding dedicated turning lanes at the intersection with Linwood Avenue, and adding traffic lights along Kinderkamack Road at Lincoln Boulevard and Ackerman Avenue, among other improvements.

Bergen County's purchasing department opened seven bids from contractors vying to work on the construction project earlier this month.

The bids ranged from \$3.5 million to \$4.6 million.