

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

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**COUNTY ANNOUNCES RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR COLLAPSED
SECTION OF SINATRA DRIVE NORTH IN HOBOKEN**

\$1.7 million project will completely replace failed timber relieving platform with concrete relieving platform built on concrete piles. Road will re-open in May.

Jersey City, NJ — The Hudson County Division of Engineering released an action plan today to restore a collapsed of a section of the Sinatra Drive North roadway in Hoboken.

The plan calls for a total reconstruction of the section of roadway at 1300 Sinatra Drive North that fell in on the afternoon of Friday October 8th. A new concrete relieving platform resting on concrete marine piles will be constructed to support a new roadbed. This entirely new structure will replace the timber relieving platform that undergirded the road prior to the collapse. It will be completed by May 2011 at an approximate cost of \$1.7 million.

The County's action plan comes after a two-day, intensive review of site analysis provided by Langan Engineering of Elmwood Park, NJ, and visual inspection observations made by divers hired to look beneath the water where the sinkhole developed. Langan's analysis included the drilling of subsurface

borings, a review of relevant engineering documentation available about the site and surrounding environment and 3-D laser imaging of the collapsed roadway bed.

The County's review concluded that the nearly century-old timber relieving platform supporting 15-20 feet of sand and soil and the Sinatra Drive Roadway near 14th Street had experienced catastrophic failure due to a combination of age, marine life infestation and load stress.

Langan will continue to conduct its investigation as excavation and construction proceeds. Just north of the collapse is another timber relieving platform. It is newer than the collapsed portion but will be replaced as well unless further investigation proves that the newer platform whole and sound.

Constructed by the County along the Hudson River waterfront in 1997, Sinatra Drive North is a two-block section of road created as part of the effort to extend 14th Street in anticipation of new development in Northeastern Hoboken. It runs from 12th Street to the 14th Street Extension north of the ferry terminal. It is the only section of Sinatra Drive controlled by the County.

Shortly after the completion Sinatra Drive North, the Hoboken-based Applied Companies constructed The Shipyard, a residential/retail complex. Applied also constructed the section of Hudson River Waterfront Walkway alongside Sinatra Drive North. Sinatra Drive North runs between these two structures.

On October 8th, a 20x60 foot sinkhole in the road opened in front of the Lua Restaurant, located at 1300 Sinatra Drive North, requiring the closing of the road to vehicular and pedestrian traffic between 12 and 14th Streets.

Under a state of emergency declared last week, the County administration should be able to expedite the design and construction of the new concrete relieving platform structure and the roadway that will rest on it. Under normal project construction procedures, an effort like this would take approximately one year to complete according to officials from the Division of Engineering.

Selecting a design under the declaration of emergency is expected take approximately 30 days with construction estimated to take up to seven months. Expedited permitting approvals will be sought from the Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The County will seek grants and aid to pay for the work from state and federal sources, but will not wait to see how those requests fare before getting underway. Instead the administration expects to re-purpose funds from other, previously planned projects so that it can start the reconstruction process now.

"We are determined to see Sinatra Drive North restored as swiftly as possible," said Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise. "Our plan provides a safe, permanent solution to the problem. I want to thank Mayor Dawn Zimmer and the people of Hoboken for their cooperation and patience."

"I am pleased that we have an good plan in place to fix Sinatra Drive North as soon as possible," said Freeholder Anthony "Stick" Romano (District 5, Hoboken, Jersey City.) "We need to work as hard as we can to get this project completed and the road open for residents."

Updates regarding the status of the road will be available via the County's Twitter feed, which residents can sign up to follow at: *HYPERLINK* "mailto:HudCoTweet@twitter.com" HudCoTweet@twitter.com.

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