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**press Release**

**NEWS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2010

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**PLAN TO REHAB 92-YEAR-OLD BRIDGE IN WILLINGBORO MOVES FORWARD**

**Freeholders Accept \$1 Million State Grant For Bridge on JFK Way**

The Freeholders today authorized entering into an agreement with the NJ Department of Transportation to receive State funds to rehabilitate the bridge on John F. Kennedy Way over Mill Creek, between Levitt Parkway and Charleston Road, in Willingboro.

The anticipated cost of the rehabilitation is \$1.2 million and NJDOT has agreed to reimburse the County \$1 million for that construction through its Local Bridge Program funded by the Transportation Trust Fund. The program has offered \$1 million to each county in 2010 to preserve bridges more than 20 feet in length.

The County plans to rehabilitate the 92-year-old bridge, which is erected with concrete encased steel stringers with a reinforced concrete deck.

“Anytime you are able to secure outside grant dollars for a priority project, it’s a good thing,” said Freeholder Joseph B. Donnelly. “We still will need to complete design work, and secure necessary permits, but this is a major step in moving this project forward.”

During the building of Levittown in 1960, the 31-foot long bridge was widened to 36 feet, sidewalks were added on each side of the bridge and the deck was paved with asphalt. The town was renamed Willingboro in 1963.

The rehabilitation project will include installing steel sheet piling around the existing bridge abutments, removing and replacing the older portion of the bridge abutments, and the removal and installation of new support beams and deck.

The County plans to fund the balance of the construction cost through its annual Road and Bridge Bond Ordinance.

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