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Section of Delaware Avenue officially reopens in Camden

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CAMDEN

State Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere journeyed here Wednesday to officially reopen a section of Delaware Avenue north of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge.

"This is a prime example of Gov. (James E.) McGreevey's fix-it-first policy that focuses transportation reinvestment in the state's older urban infrastructure," Lettiere said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the corner of Delaware Avenue and Vine Street.

The \$2.1-million reconstruction of the winding road will facilitate access to the North Camden Industrial Park and a number of other businesses in the area.

Mayor Gwendolyn Faison pointed out the addition of sidewalks and said the reconstruction will be good not only for commerce but area residents.

"It's all part of a 'new day for Camden,'" she said, repeating a refrain she is fond of.

Extensive work has been done on Delaware Avenue south of the bridge, the site of major waterfront development in the city, including the state aquarium, the Riversharks ballpark, the Tweeter Center and, most recently, the conversion of the Nipper Building into market-priced apartments.

The reconstruction of the road north of the bridge will help extend that kind of redevelopment and integrate the waterfront, the mayor said.

The project began in April 2002 and was funded through the state Transportation Trust Fund.