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New retail strip to be built on Bronx line

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MOUNT VERNON - An abandoned lot near the Bronx line soon could be turned into a retail strip that would be within walking distance for area residents.

At a groundbreaking yesterday on First Street, Mayor Ernest Davis announced the plans for a \$1 million retail strip to hold six stores. The strip, between South 12th and South 13th avenues, would be in an area that contains few retail stores.

Kenneth Luquis of J-MAK Realty Corp., the owner of the property, said he wants to attract businesses that would benefit residents in the area.

"There are a lot of houses here, and people go into their cars and drive to Gramatan (Avenue) to get things they need," Luquis said. "Now they can stay here."

Luquis wants to see a food vendor and perhaps a Dunkin' Donuts in the strip. Luquis and his father own a check-cashing business and plan to open a branch in one of the six units.

Architect Peter Gaito of White Plains-based Peter F. Gaito and Associates said all the units will have storage areas. The strip will include an eight-space parking lot and should be completed in early 2008.
