

Island projects get \$9.8M in construction \$\$

ALBANY — The state Senate early today overwhelmingly approved a \$6.4 billion capital construction budget that includes \$9.8 million for Staten Island projects.

The Assembly is expected to pass the spending plan later today.

New allocations included in the budget are \$209,000 for renovations of the Richmond Manor Armory in West Brighton; \$51,000 for a therapeutic pool at the Staten Island Developmental Center and \$286,000 for renovations at the Institute for Basic Research, both Willowbrook. Most of the institute renovations are needed to accommodate a new CAT scanner at the research center, according to state Mental Hygiene officials.

In addition, capital funds are included for the state share — \$690,000 — of a continuation of a modernization of the St. George Ferry Terminal. The first part of the multi-million dollar project was completed earlier this year.

No dates have been set for work to begin on the funded projects.

The capital spending plan also carries over funds allocated in previous budgets. Included are \$4.5 million for renovations of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and \$50,000 for the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Rosebank.

In addition, the budget includes \$4 million in funding from the 1973 Transportation Bond issue for rehabilitation of the Staten Island Rapid Transit system. Gerald McLaughlin, a spokesman for Sen. John J. Marchi, said the funds will be used for new power substations along the railway.

The budget also does not list a timetable for these re-appropriations.