

To aid traffic flow, the consultant's report suggested that the college campus be connected to the Willowbrook Expressway by an exit/entrance ramp. Such a ramp, originally designed for the proposed Greenway, was partially constructed years ago; college officials suggest the ramp could be completed to keep traffic from overloading Victory Boulevard. However, they acknowledge the concept is "years down the road" from becoming reality.

Both CSI president Edmund Volpe and Farley say the approval of the CUNY board is fairly certain. "It haven't heard anything negative about the proposal from them," Farley said.

At their Jan. 28 meeting, the board is expected to endorse the site recommendation and authorize CUNY Chancellor Joseph Murphy to begin negotiations with the state on acquiring the property.

Those negotiations are crucial to the success of the proposal, Farley noted. "Our board will be saying where they want the consolidated campus to be, but it's up to others to give the property to us," he said.

The college proposal already has the informal support of the state budget office, which sees Willowbrook as the least expensive way to provide CSI with a new campus.

But others — including the city Parks and Planning departments and Island advocates for the handicapped — also have designs on the Willowbrook property, so the university must make its appeal to the task force, comprised of four state officials (including the state budget director) and nine Island representatives.

The task force will make recommendations on how to redevelop the Willowbrook property, which currently houses a state institution for the mentally retarded. SIDC is phasing out its operation and should close by the end of 1987, leaving vacant about 300 acres and 50 buildings.

City Parks and Planning officials want to obtain all the woodlands on the property, along with land currently used as community ballfields — some of the same areas to be requested by the college.

In addition, the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council has submitted to the task force a proposal that includes plans for a 60-acre camp, a 125-acre recreational complex and a 200-bed residential facility for the handicapped.

But even if the task force does not approve the college proposal, the final decision on allocating the property rests with the state Office of General Services (OGS) and ultimately, Gov. Mario Cuomo.

CUNY has already submitted a request for a \$7 million alloca-

tion this year to finance a architect's plan for the new campus. That allocation should be included in the governor's budget, to be released Tuesday. If expenditure is approved by the Legislature, Farley said architects could begin work by July.

Before the design process begins, consultants will work on matching the needs of the college with the resources available at Willowbrook. This report will serve as an outline for the architects, "sorting of a packaging of our needs," Farley said. It will be written by Edward Durell Stone Associates, which did the site selection study.

That study will determine precisely which buildings will be demolished and which will be renovated.

Assuming the design process begins on schedule, the college would seek money for construction in the 1986-87 state budget. "Hopefully by January 1987 we could start construction," Farley said. Construction would take two to three years.

But for now, Farley is cautious about looking too far down the road. "Our major concern at this point is that the state gives us the property," he said. "Until they do that, we really can't do anything."