

# CSI clears the last hurdle to relocation

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Plans to consolidate the College of Staten Island into a Willowbrook campus have successfully weathered a bureaucratic storm to receive the approval of a key state agency.

Edmond L. Volpe, president of CSI, said he was "elated" that the state Dormitory Authority, the lead agency in the campus' relocation, has accepted an environmental impact statement concerning the move and committed itself to financing the project.

"All the hurdles we had been facing have been cleared, and our timetable has actually begun to tick," Volpe said.

In the early 1990s, CSI plans to move from its Sunnyside and St. George campuses to the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center. Buildings there either will be demolished or renovated, and a number of new structures will be erected.

The move had been delayed for more than a year for a variety of reasons, including a dispute in the state Legislature concerning financing City University of New York projects, including the CSI campus, and the environmental review procedure.

Sen. John J. Marchi, R-Staten Island, was instrumental this summer in getting the city to

relinquish lead agency status to the state Dormitory Authority, which in turn oversaw the completion and approval of the environmental study. The authority is responsible for all CUNY construction projects.

When asked about the time element involved in the city's handling of the study, which the city had been working for about a year and a half before the state took over in July, Gerald F. McLaughlin, a spokesman for Marchi, said: "We're just happy the project is moving. Obviously, we wish it could have been expedited by the city, but we're happy

that at long last it seems to be in motion."

The environmental statement was actually approved on Nov. 7, and the dormitory authority decided Nov. 26 to finance construction, said Ronald Lane, the authority's chief of engineering services. The exact cost of construction has still not been determined, but it is expected to be "in the neighborhood of \$200 million," he said.

The state has appropriated \$20 million for the design of the campus. The dormitory authority has promised Marchi those funds once the environmental study was accepted. In addition, the City University of New York, of which CSI

is a part, has requested \$200 million in Gov. Mario Cuomo's proposed 1987 budget, Volpe said.

The state is expected to appropriate the money. Demolition of certain structures on the Willowbrook property could begin some time next year, and construction could begin in late 1987 or early 1988, Volpe said. Lane agreed that if everything proceeds smoothly, construction could begin late next year.

The process of building a new campus is complicated, but before construction can begin, the state must appropriate funds and sell bonds, CSI must hire an architect, the campus design must be approved and the state must hire contractors through a formal bidding procedure.

This month, Volpe and his staff will interview architects and hire an executive architect responsible for the overall campus and theater design and an architect to design the central academic complex. Early next spring, two more architects will be hired to do other portions of the campus, Volpe said.