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State Building Commission Greenlights Major New Projects on Madison's Northside

The State Building Commission took crucial steps yesterday in launching major new construction and renovation projects on Madison's Northside.

Two projects at the Mendota Campus will together likely require approximately \$100,000,000 in construction costs by the time work begins.

The cost of the Juvenile Treatment Center was increased by \$21,960,000 to an estimated cost of \$66,000,000 due to its expansion beyond the initial scope of the project. The Center, which was originally in the 2017 budget, has been through two planning processes at a cost of \$2.7 million. The project must now have final approval by the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

The State Building Commission also approved \$950,000 to plan the renovation of the Food Services Center at the Mendota Mental Health Institute which is projected to cost \$28.9 million. The Building Commission will approve the plan and design later this year which will allow construction to begin in 2023.

Rep. Baldeh, who represents the area where these projects will take place, noted, "These projects represent the state's commitment to providing up-to-date facilities that are efficient and safe for these patients, who are among the most vulnerable in our society and have the greatest need for our oversight and care. These projects will also improve the working conditions for the hundreds of employees who work night and day to provide necessary services."

"Although the approval process is slow, in some cases taking a decade from the initial proposal to construction, we can be assured that there are many steps of review and if necessary, reconsideration, until final approval."

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