

Labor-county agreement on new MCC campus

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February 9, 2015

Monroe County has reached an agreement with the local group representing construction unions for work on Monroe Community College's new downtown campus that is expected to save money and ensure hiring from local unions.

The project labor agreement, announced Monday and slated to be presented to the Monroe County Legislature for approval on Tuesday, is with the Rochester Building and Trades Council.

It could save as much as \$644,342, according to the county, and should result in at least 75 percent of the workers coming from local construction unions.

"The most significant advantage is that it saves taxpayer dollars and provides protections that will ensure the project stays on a timeline," said county spokesman Justin Feasel.

Dave Young, president of the local Building and Trades Council, added: "I think it's fair. Each side compromised."

The agreement comes at a time the county is gearing up for work on this \$72 million project, located in a complex of buildings at the site of Eastman Kodak Co.'s corporate headquarters at Morrie Silver Way and State Street. The county, which is MCC's sponsor, is overseeing the project.

The county has negotiated project labor agreements for other major construction projects, such as its Regional Crime Laboratory, the O'Rourke Bridge and the expansion of Building 9 at MCC.

Under the terms of the new agreement, the unions agreed to a work week of four 10-hour days, instead of five eight-hour days. That could save the county \$224,800.

Other savings include maximizing the use of apprentices under the agreement, which could save \$50,777.

The county will pay for half of the \$72 million price tag for the project, with the rest coming from the state. Most of the money will be spent on renovating the buildings for MCC's use.

Young expects work on the project to involve about a dozen unions and begin in the fall. The renovated buildings are slated to be ready for MCC's move-in during the summer of 2017.

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