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THE MONROE NEWS

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Attending Feb. 19's I-75 project open house at Monroe City Hall were MDOT staff members, from left, Jayme Rubley, project manager and engineer, and Mike Davis Jr., regional planner. SUZANNE NOLAN WISLER/MONROE NEWS

MDOT offers a new update on Monroe County I-75 project

Suzanne Nolan Wisler
The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

MONROE, MI — Michigan Department of Transportation is getting closer to starting construction work on its \$325 million I-75 project in Monroe County.

County residents got their first look at detailed plans Thursday, Feb. 19, during a three-hour open house at Monroe City Hall. About 40 people attended.

Plans include permanently removing I-75's Elm Avenue interchange.

In October 2024, MDOT announced it received federal funding for its plans to rebuild 2.4 miles of I-75 from LaPlaisance Road to North Dixie Highway, which runs through the city of Monroe

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Jayme Rubley, second from right, project manager and engineer for MDOT, talks about the Monroe County I-75 project with open house attendees Feb. 19 at Monroe City Hall. SUZANNE NOLAN WISLER/MONROE NEWS

New MCCC programs match job demand

Lisa Vidaurri Bowling
The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many community colleges are emphasizing career-focused credentials and updating curricula to align with current job needs.

"That is the only reason for program development," said Grace Yackee, vice president of instruction at Monroe County Community College in an email. "At the end of the day, the goal is more than a living wage. The goal for our students is to establish (or contribute to) a career track that provides opportunity for growth and advancement. Sometimes a certificate will meet this goal."

Yackee said in other cases a two-year degree is required and some students will continue their education to obtain bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees.

As an investment in health and public safety programs, Monroe County Community College (MCCC) has significantly expanded its offerings by launching several new academic programs with certificate options.

Based on a comprehensive program review and community needs assessment in 2022, MCCC launched nearly a dozen new academic programs and certificates for 2025.

The new associate degree programs include Data Analytics, Digital Media Marketing and Communications, Health Sciences (with psychology/sociology tracks) and Paralegal plus certificates in Construction Management

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The River Raisin Bridge in Monroe is shown. The bridge will be replaced as part of MDOT's Monroe County I-75 project.

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