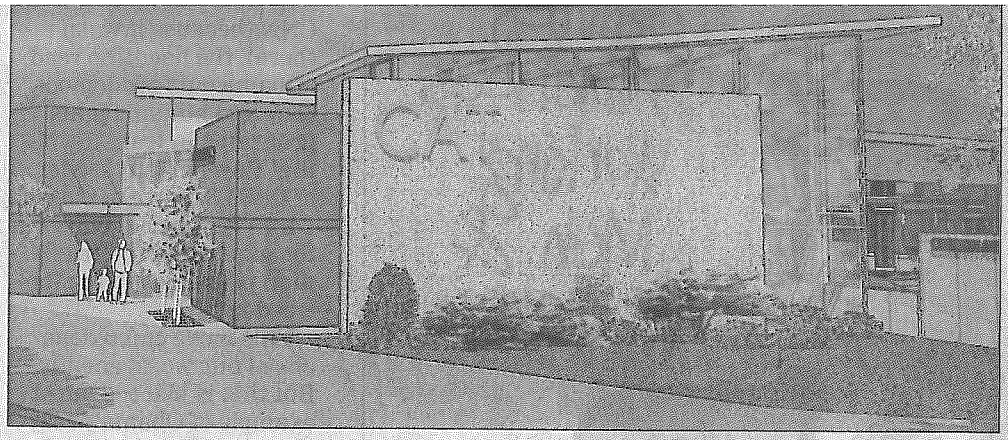


FOR THE JOURNAL

A rendering of the new Clemson Area Transit headquarters, to be located on West Lane, as presented by Neal Prince Architects to Clemson City Council Monday night. The South Carolina Department of Transportation's Mass Transit Division officially awarded Clemson $2.5 million in federal stimulus funds last week and the money was unanimously accepted by City Council Monday night.

Clemson accepts funding for new transit facility

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Last week, officials with the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) Mass Transit Division announced their approval of $2.5 million in federal stimulus funds for construction of the new Clemson Area Transit (CAT) headquarters on West Lane.

On Monday night, Clemson City Council unanimously and enthusiastically accepted that gift.

"This is a very, very exciting step forward in our transit system and the city," said Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy.

Chuck Hultstrand and Dean Oang, of Neal Prince Architects, serving as the design firm for the new CAT headquarters, presented details regarding the new facility to the full council. Hultstrand said the facility has the capability to park 31 buses under a covering and features a bus washing section, large conference section and the ability to host community events. There will also be visitors parking and permeable pervious parking, in that any rainfall will dissipate into an area underground.

"That will serve as a demonstration area so people can actually see it in action," Hultstrand said.

While the front entrance features a lobby and kiosk with information on other forms of transportation and mobility systems, Hultstrand said the bus driver area will be located out of public view. That area will include locker rooms and a kitchenette area.

In an effort to keep with the city's emphasis on environmental friendliness, Hultstrand said the facility has a "sustainable design" that is very openly day lit, yet contains screening aspects so that the harshest sun from the southwest is protected by a perforated metal screen.

Hultstrand said the facility also features solar sensor light controls, so that lights will dim as daylight increases; natural materials for the exterior, including stainless steel; a concrete deck and "a lot of glass" to allow daylight inside. The bus washing area will include the capability of recycling water.

In addition, native plants will be used in the landscape of the facility in order to minimize the need for irrigation.

"We're looking for low maintenance, recyclable materials," Hultstrand said.

The new facility is one in which Hultstrand said the city can take great pride.

"It (West Lane location) fits the project like a glove," he said.

Abernathy told Hultstrand and Oang that they "have done a good job, beyond my wildest imagination."

"I can't get over a facility like this, with 31 buses in it, that is so green," Abernathy said, adding, "This is going to be a showcase."

Although response from City Council was overwhelmingly positive, several council members suggested that wording that includes "Clemson" be placed on the wall at the entrance to the facility. The architectural rendering only displays "CAT" and City Administrator Rick Cotton said any additional wording wouldn't be a problem.

"It's a nice, large wall," Cotton said.

Hultstrand said construction of the new CAT facility will take place after the start of the New Year and take about a year to complete.

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