Seneca Daily Journal 2/17/2010

Greenville firm apparent low bidder for CAT facility

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Able Construction of Greenville is the apparent low bidder of what Clemson officials say was a record 19 companies vying to construct the new Clemson Area Transit headquarters on West Lane.

City Administrator Rick Cotton said prices submitted by the companies, representing four states, ranged from $2.8 million to Able's winning selection of $2,297,000.

"You can see these are very, very tight bids," Cotton said. "The bottom five bidders were very close."

CAT Executive Director Al Babinicz said he is delighted with the prices received.

"This will allow CAT to build into the future and the green facility is CAT's commitment to environmental sustainability," Babinicz said. "This green building will be a showcase and a model for the transit industry.

"CAT will be putting people to work, building our needed transportation infrastructure and, at the same time, helping the environment."

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

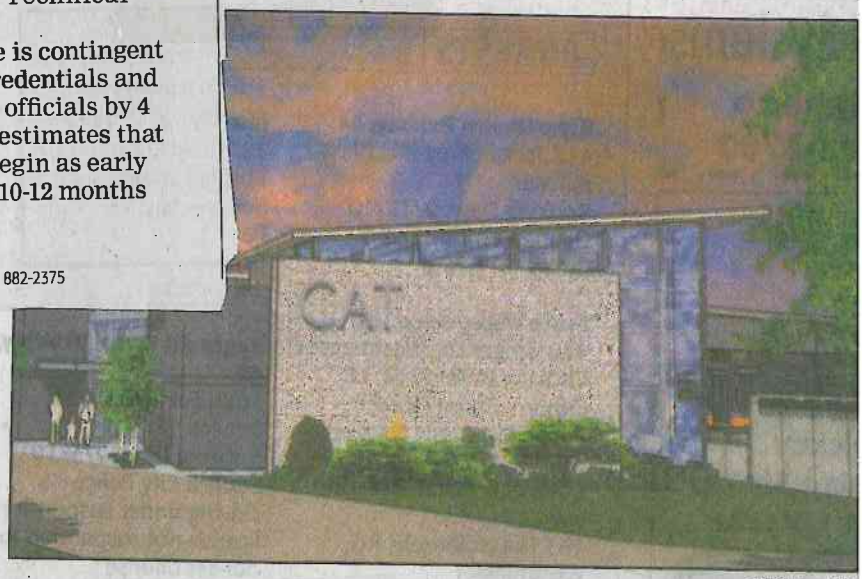
The new facility will also have a large conference section and the ability to host community events. Native plants will be used in the landscape of the facility in order to minimize the need for irrigation.

In October, CAT was awarded federal stimulus funding for construction of the facility officials say will centralize bus parking and offices. CAT routes currently serve parts of Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties. They connect Clemson, Southern Wesleyan and Anderson universities and Tri-County Technical College.

> **'This will allow** CAT to build into the future and the green facility is CAT's commitment to environmental sustainability.'
>
> **Al Babinicz**
> CAT Executive Director

The low bid by Able is contingent on their providing credentials and qualifications to city officials by 4 p.m. today. Babinicz estimates that construction could begin as early as March 1 and take 10-12 months to complete.

greg@dailyjm.com | 882-2375



FOR THE JOURN

An updated rendering of the new 20,000 square-foot Clemson Area Transit headquarters on West Lane, where construction is set to begin next month.