Greenville firm gets bid for $2.3 million CAT facility

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Construction of the new Clemson Area Transit facility on West Lane is closer to becoming a reality as City Council has selected the firm that will build the facility.

Council approved the $2,297,000 low bid of Able Constructors, of Greenville. Concerns by several general contractors and subcontractors regarding the validity of the Able bid were successfully resolved.

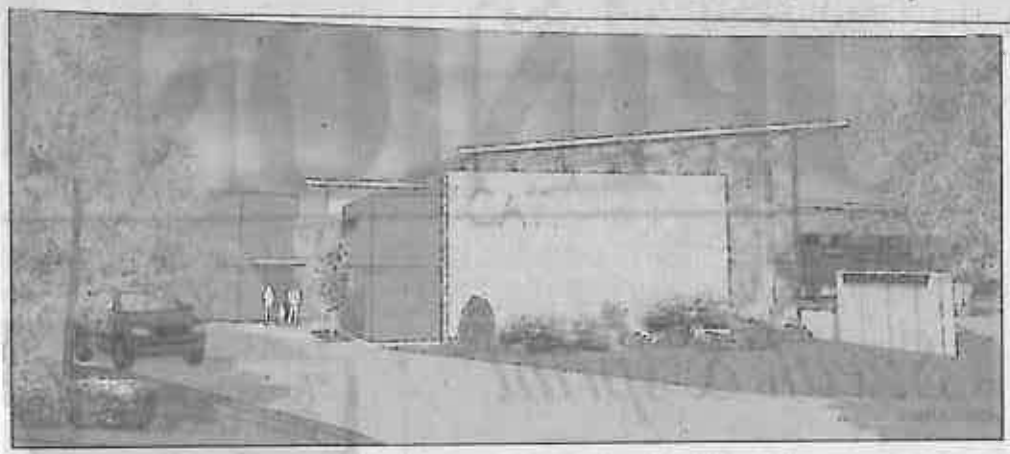
Chuck Hulstrand, of Neal Prince Architects, which is administering the project for the city, told council members that a subcontractor who was not licensed in South Carolina on the bid sheet is covered under the general contractor's license.

"In this case, the general contractor can utilize services of non-licensed subcontractors to perform within their general limitation as long as the general contractor is responsible for the work and is overseeing it," Hulstrand said.

Council also unanimously approved a $45,155 construction administration contract with Neal Prince Architects to ensure the design is installed properly. Throughout construction, Prince will observe progress and note when it does not conform to design drawings and review the contractor's request for payments to ensure they are billing for what has been installed.

The new CAT facility will emphasize environmental friendliness, including solar sensor light controls, so that lights will dim as daylight increases; with 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 recycling of water.

The new facility will have the capacity to park 31 buses under cover and feature a conference section and ability to host community events. There will also be visitors parking.



FOR THE JOURNAL

Able Construction Company, of Greenville, selected last month as the apparent low bidder to construct the new Clemson Area Transit facility on West Lane, received final approval by Clemson City Council earlier this week.

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

Native plants will be used in the landscape to minimize the need for irrigation.

Last October, CAT was awarded federal stimulus funding for construction of the facility that officials say will centralize bus parking and offices. Executive Director Al Babinicz estimates it will take 10-12 months to complete construction.

A formal groundbreaking ceremony is expected to take place at the future CAT site in April.

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