Groundbreaking set for new

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The next step toward what will eventually be a new and environmentally green Clemson Area Transit facility will be a groundbreaking Tuesday.

The 10:30 a.m. event will take place on West Lane.

Federal, state and local officials, CAT partners, lawmakers and the public are invited. Due to lack of parking at the site, transit officials suggest parking at Ingles and taking CAT to the site.

CAT Executive Director Al Babinicz said Wednesday the project is on time and on budget.

"We're building the future, and this building is our commitment to innovate environmental sustainability," Babinicz said. "CAT will save money and that means more and better services for the community we serve. This creative new green CAT bus facility will also be the first and only one of its kind in South Carolina and the transit industry."

Able Construction Company of Greenville was awarded the project for $2,297,000. CAT was awarded federal stimulus funding for construction of the facility

Babinicz said the new facility's emphasis on environmental friendliness includes: solar recycling construction materials, solar panels, solar technology that includes spinning the electric meter backwards whenever solar power created exceeds demand, solar water heaters and heat retaining and reflecting windows.

The new facility will park 31 buses under cover and have a bus washing section, conference area available for community events and visitor parking using pervious materials that will allow rainfall to dissipate into an area underground. Native plants will be used in the landscape to minimize the need for irrigation.

CAT first began service in Clemson in 1996. It has since expanded to parts of Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties as well as connecting Clemson, Southern Wesleyan and Anderson universities and Tri-County Technical College.

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CAT facility



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Able Construction Company of Greenville is the frontrunner to build the new Clemson Area Transit facility.