LOCAL NEWS

Transit facility work to kick into high gear

Clemson Area Transit headquarters touted for jobs, environmental features

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CLEMSON — Work is expected to start next month on a mass transit facility in Clemson that promoters say will bring jobs and benefit the environment.

Able Construction Co. in Greenville is the apparent low bidder on a new green Clemson Area Transit headquarters, according to Al Babinicz, executive director for the transit system.

"This will allow CAT to build into the future," Babinicz said after announcing the low bid.

Able's bid totaled $2.3 million and was one of 19 companies to make proposals for the project, he said.

Last October, CAT received $2.5 million in federal stimulus funding for the environmentally friendly facility to be built on West Lane off State 93.

"This project will put people to work and help the environment with a green facility," Babinicz said.

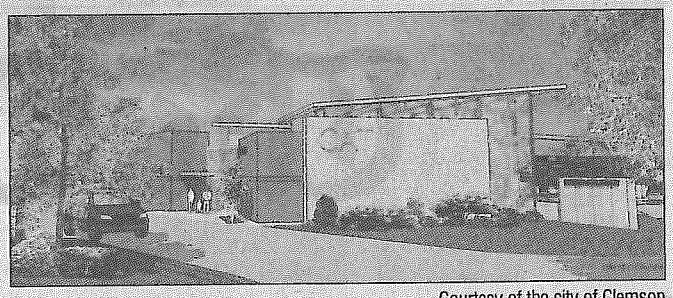
The city of Clemson, which helps fund operation of the bus system along with Clemson University, completed work earlier this year on the demolition and removal of two abandoned houses at the site.

Clemson paid Carter Construction $16,100 for the demolition of the two buildings, with another $2,500 going to a separate company for removal of asbestos from the site.

Babinicz has said the new facility will be a showcase for South Carolina and a model for the transit industry.

The facility is expected to include solar energy use, heat-retaining and reflecting windows, energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting, a reclamation and recycling system for storm water, pervious parking surfaces and use of native plants.

Transit officials expect that by centralizing bus parking and offices at one location, the system will save money and wear and tear on buses and streamline administrative operations. That savings will ultimately mean more and better bus services for the community, Babinicz has said.



Courtesy of the city of Clemson

The new Clemson Area Transit headquarters will use solar energy and have heat-retaining windows.

CAT routes currently serve parts of Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties and connect Clemson, Southern Wesleyan and Anderson universities and Tri-County Technical College.

Construction on the new headquarters building will take 10 months to a year to complete.