

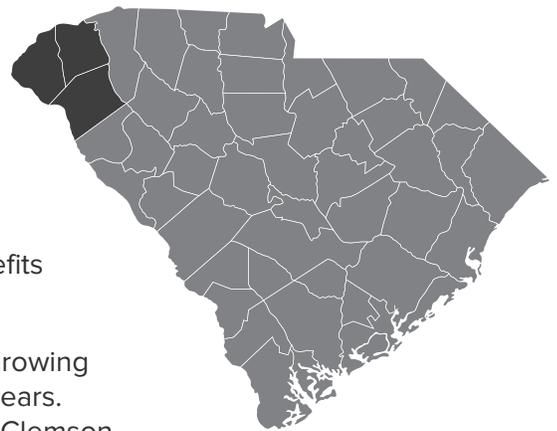
# SOUTH CAROLINA TRANSIT PARTNERSHIPS



Public transportation systems typically receive isolated funding and are constrained to a college, municipality or county. This arrangement restricts ridership and reduces the positive impact that the transit systems can have on citizens and the community. In South Carolina, there is an increasing effort to change this structure.

Since 1996, neighboring towns and cities in northwestern South Carolina have been collaborating to form strong partnerships in order to create an interconnected rural transit framework that benefits citizens, local governments, local businesses and the environment.

Clemson Area Transit (CAT), a fare-free system, is one example of a growing interconnected transit framework, and has been in operation for 20 years. It is sponsored by the City of Seneca, Clemson University, the City of Clemson, the Town of Pendleton, the Town of Central, Anderson County, the SC Department of Transportation, and the Federal Transit Administration. Service also includes Anderson University, South Wesleyan University and Tri-County Technical College.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Key stakeholders from various local and state governmental agencies have been working with local, state and federal funding partners. This growing public-private partnership has established and continues to build upon goals for northwest South Carolina citizens and businesses:

### Clemson Area Transit

- Approximately 389,000 people
- Estimated 2 million passengers per year
- City of Seneca has first all-electric bus authority in nation (zero emissions)

- Deliver convenient and dependable public transportation
- Create jobs from the purchase of locally manufactured all-electric buses
- Lower transit system operating expenses
- Reduce the environmental impact of the transportation industry through increased mass transit usage
- Eliminate public transit emissions in the City of Seneca with a fleet of all-electric buses
- Improve emissions via an initiative to apply for another FTA grant to replace 12 diesel buses in the City of Clemson with 12 all-electric buses



These accomplishments have been made possible by the diligent work and collaborations of the following:

### Local Level

City of Seneca (Mayor's Office, City Administrator's Office, City Council)  
City of Clemson (Mayor's Office)  
Clemson University (Sustainability Plan and International Center for Automotive Research)  
CAT Bus (Clemson Area Transit)  
Town of Central  
Town of Pendleton  
SC Department of Commerce – Secretary of Commerce  
South Carolina State Senators  
SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT Commission)  
Proterra Buses of Greenville, SC  
Southern Company (Electric Utility)

*"It takes a lot of people working together from all branches of government to make this happen."*  
Seneca Mayor Dan Alexander

*"Seneca will be the first, Number 1, to have an all-electric bus authority in the state of South Carolina and our nation. We'll be Number 1."*  
Seneca City Administrator Greg Dietrick

### Federal Level

Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE)  
Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

After 20 years of collaborating and strengthening relationships, this transit "dream team" has a long list of accomplishments. Its most recent success is the transition of the City of Seneca's six-bus fleet to all-electric buses. This was made possible through \$4.1 million in grants from the FTA Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction, \$510,000 in matching city funds from Seneca, \$540,000 in grant funds from SCDOT, as well as various electrical infrastructure improvement grants.



### WIN-WIN-WIN

The transit collaboration has resulted in operational savings, environmental benefits and economic development.

- Operational Savings: Decreased fuel and maintenance costs
- Environmental Benefits: Reduced emissions, especially with the addition of all-electric buses
- Economic Development: Increased job opportunities

*"For every dollar invested in public transportation, four dollars is generated in economic benefits to the community."*  
Al Babinicz,  
Director of the Clemson Area Transit system



Nothing Compares

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