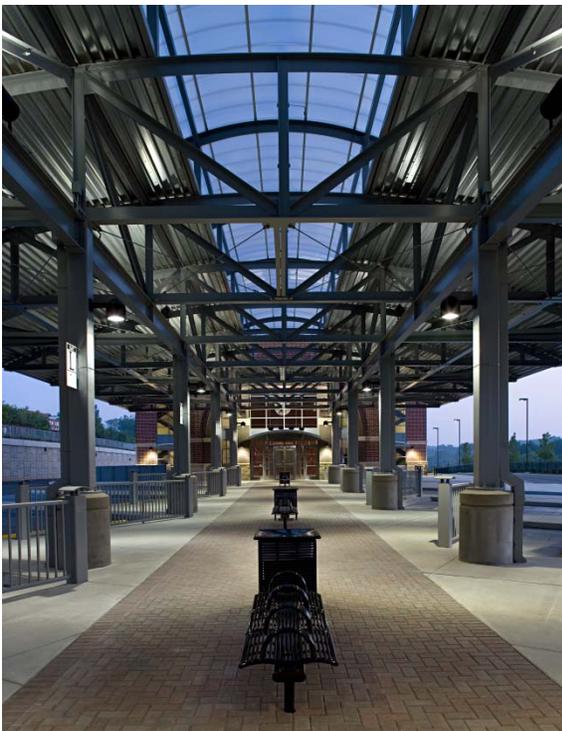


Athens-Clarke County Multimodal Transportation Center



The Athens-Clarke County Multi-Modal Transportation Center has earned national recognition since opening in the fall of 2006 and has help to transform our community's perspective on Public Transportation in many positive ways. The Multi-Modal Transportation Center (MMTC) has received several national awards. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) of Atlanta recognized the MMTC with one of its most prestigious honors – the 2007 “Development of Excellence” award, the American Institute of Steel Construction 2007 award for “Innovative Design in Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel”,

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the 2007 Brick Institute of America Brick In Architecture Award and the 2006 Athens Grow Green Coalition “Best New Development”.

Because the Multi-Modal Transportation Center enhances the comfort and convenience of our citizens’ daily commute, the entire community benefits. The Athens Multi-Modal Transportation Center serves as a hub for a variety of transportation modes, linking transit riders, pedestrians and bike travelers with the Athens Transit System/University of Georgia Campus Transit System, the Oconee River Greenway, and a downtown parking deck. The facility is also located adjacent the railway line that is envisioned to provide commuter rail service between the Atlanta Metro Region and the Athens Urbanized Area in the future. Further, the design of the facility anticipated and will accommodate this rail service. The facility is designed in anticipation of the integration of inter-city bus service, a new near-by “Park-N-Ride” and a “Rails to Trails” connection to the facility.

The Multi-Modal Transportation Center serves approximately 4000-5000 passengers a day. The Transportation Center features a bus transfer facility including 17 covered bus bays; a climate controlled waiting areas, administrative offices, public restrooms, passenger drop of area, ticket/information booth, and bicycle storage. A pedestrian bridge connects the bus transfer facility to downtown via a parking deck and the Classic Center Convention and Performing Arts Theater Complex. The 646-space deck was design to meet the parking needs of both the Multi-Modal Transportation Center and the Classic Center.

The facility was constructed utilizing local funds only. Typically, federal grants would pay 80 percent of the costs for public transit facilities. However, in this instance citizens of Athens-Clarke County approved a local referendum to pay a one cent “Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax” (SPLOST) to fund the project. The special purpose tax also paid for an additional 2200 feet of roadwork, infrastructure and an aerial pedestrian bridge to improve access to the facility.

In designing the Center, the Unified Government sought to take a contemporary approach to the classic train station aesthetic, and to reflect upon the historic downtown area. The MMTC has an appealing combination of architecturally exposed structural steel, brick, cast stone and glass. Building on the idea of the project as a bridge, the design serves to tie in both the historic and transportation elements of the Center. The result is a transportation center serving the Athens community extremely well, while providing an example of what can be achieved when designing and constructing projects with forward thinking, vision and citizen's in mind. These actions serve as a public and local governmental commitment to the importance of public transportation infrastructure in this community.

Lastly, it is noted that in addition to the MMTC been a huge success as a transportation facility, and has also served as a catalyst for the redevelopment of a former warehousing area to in town multi- family residential developments that desire close proximity to the MMTC, the Greenway, and the Central Business District.

Athens Transit, a department of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, operates thirty-one buses, which provides 8000 – 9000 trips per day and just over 1.9 million passenger trips per year to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.