



Communications Department

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City Opens JET Regional Transfer Center

The City of Jonesboro will hold a grand opening of the new JET Regional Transfer Center (RTC), located at Caraway Road and Matthews Avenue, on Friday, October 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. The program will include speakers from the City Administration, Arkansas State University, and other community leaders. After the program, the facility will be open to the public for self-guided tours.

The new transfer center will serve the city's transit system, as well as provide facilities for other regional transit systems to transfer passengers to and from JET. The facility is designed to accommodate up to eight 60-passenger coaches at one time.

The RTC will provide easily accessible waiting space, rest rooms, and driver support areas for JET. The RTC will serve not only the riders of JET and other multi-passenger vehicles, it will also provide others a place to interact with JET transit services. Pedestrians, bicycle riders, taxi passengers, and other transit passengers will all be able to use the facility to catch a JET bus.

The opening of the Regional Transfer Center will usher in a new era for the city's transit system. Growth in ridership and the addition of bus routes created the need for a 'hub' approach to the fixed route service. When the 'hub' approach was first implemented in January 2014, ridership grew by more than 50% in just one year. Up to now, the 'hub' or 'transfer point' has been a parking lot a short distance south of the location of the RTC on Caraway Road. Riders will now have a facility specifically designed to serve as a transit system transfer center. This is the first facility in the city of Jonesboro specifically designed and constructed to serve JET riders.

All five fixed routes serviced by JET will pass through the RTC, giving passengers the ability to transfer from route to route and reach any point JET serves. As part of incorporating the RTC into the system, JET is also implementing new routes to better serve its ridership.

Future uses for the RTC include providing rural public transit systems like the Jonesboro/Craighead County-based Northeast Arkansas Transit System (NEAT) and the Black River Area Development transit system (BRAD) that operates from Pocahontas a place for their

passengers connect to the JET system. Also, discussions have been held with Greyhound to have the RTC to eventually become its stop in Jonesboro. Moreover, with the proximity of the RTC to the Jonesboro Regional Airport, JET could help air passengers flying into Jonesboro connect with rural and intercity buses that can carry them to neighboring cities and towns.

The Regional Multi-Modal Transfer Center was designed to be an iconic, economical, and functional facility. It shares design elements with many other public buildings in Jonesboro, as well as a commitment to the safety and security of those using the facility. The RTC has been in the planning stages for over two years. Bailey Contractors was awarded the construction contract of \$1,136,800.00. Cromwell Architects Engineers is the architectural firm for the project. Construction began in April, 2015 and the RTC will begin serving the public as part of the JET system on Monday, October 26, 2015.

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