

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The new Cambria County Transit Authority (CamTran) bus maintenance and operations facility has reclaimed a six-acre brownfield site, improved safety for staff, is facilitating the conversion of buses to lower-emission fuels, and will ultimately improve transit service and encourage the redevelopment of a disadvantaged neighborhood.

CamTran operated from 1890s-era buildings that required constant maintenance. The bus storage and maintenance facility were separate from each other, so the buses had to be driven between the facilities when they needed repairs, often in inclement weather. CamTran is converting its fleet of buses to compressed natural gas (CNG), and the cost of upgrading the old facility to meet associated codes would have been prohibitive.

Michael Baker Jr., Inc., a company of Michael Baker International, provided program management, design management, and construction services for the 93,915-square-foot facility. Despite design challenges and subzero temperatures during construction, the Baker team completed the construction of the facility on time and \$500,000 under budget.

Soil instability and contamination issues required the use of innovative civil design solutions. Retaining walls were required to elevate the structure above the floodplain. Other challenges included designing the structure and building systems to comply with codes for the maintenance of CNG-fueled buses.

The new building provides self-contained bus fueling, maintenance and storage, work areas for administrative staff, and is fully compliant with CNG codes. The facility provides a safer environment for staff and will facilitate the conversion of CamTran's fleet to CNG fuel, ultimately improving service and saving costs for transit riders.