



The COMET Committee Meeting minutes are prepared and presented in **summary form**, audio recordings of the meetings are on file at The COMET and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to hear the recording from the meeting, please contact Paige Jernigan @ cometadmin@catchthecomet.org.

Per SC Code of Laws, Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 30-4-80 - All public bodies shall notify persons or organizations, local news media, or such other news media as may request notification of the times, dates, places, and agenda of all public meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled, or called, and the efforts made to comply with this requirement must be noted in the minutes of the meetings. **The COMET complied with the notification of this meeting on May 3, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Committee
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 -1:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Conference Room A**

Members Present:

Jacqueline Boulware*
Carolyn Gleaton
Derrick Huggins, Chair
Lill Mood

Guests Present:

Julius Williams, Transit Rider
Reginald Simmons, CMCOG

Absent Committee Members:

Joyce Dickerson
William (B.J) Unthank

**Indicates participation by phone.*

The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
Brittany Higgins, Travel Trainer
Paige Jernigan, Interim Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huggins called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.



DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Gleaton and seconded by Mr. Huggins to adopt the agenda.

Approve: Boulware, Gleaton, Huggins, Mood

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed.

3. MINUTES

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to approve the minutes from April 10, 2019.

Approve: Boulware, Gleaton, Huggins, Mood

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed.

4. OLD BUSINESS (John Andoh)

A. Work Plan for FY 2019 – 2020

Mr. Andoh stated that at the last meeting the Intermodal Committee decided to develop a work plan for the upcoming year to focus on, Page 9. The committee has stressed that the plan should be practical and easy to implement within a one (1) to ten (10) year time frame.

A. Facility Enhancements

B. Service Enhancements – Public Transit

C. Service Enhancement – Mobility Options



Mr. Andoh explained each project and encouraged discussion from the committee members. The Staff and the Committee will have to coordinate with relevant agencies. He

requested approval from the Intermodal Committee to begin work on these proposed Work Plan.

Mr. Huggins reiterated the importance of buy-in from several stake holders and key players. Ms. Mood added these stake holders need to have a seat at the table. Mr. Huggins agreed adding “empowered” participants. Intermodal implies to her more participants in implementing projects.

Committees and task forces, per Ms. Mood and Mr. Andoh, would be a strategic way to start. Mr. Huggins asked Mr. Simmons what he suggests in terms of getting more participation. Mr. Simmons added that we must get project specific and identify what areas specifically are going to impact stake holders. This will hopefully cause a sense of urgency.

Ms. Mood commented that DOT is very resistant to concept of high-volume occupancy transportation. Mr. Huggins agreed and stated that we, the committee do not want to focus or get bogged down on tasks that we know can’t happen. He inquired about the ability for Mr. Simmons and others to have a vote on some of these projects. Unfortunately, Mr. Andoh stated that a By Law change would have to take place for voting capability for Mr. Simmons. He added, this is an example of where task force formation and participation would allow an opportunity for key stake holders to have buy in.

Mr. Huggins and Mr. Andoh agreed that lobbying to have key players attend the meeting needs to happen. Ms. Mood reiterated that we need to carefully identify a plan specific to persons at the table. She added that not mentioning rail is discouraging. Mr. Huggins agrees but he wants to see more access to the existing entities, Amtrak. Mr. Huggins feels that the word “rail” should be added into the plans. He asked Mr. Andoh to get creative on wording, for example, we are partnering or at least having a conversation with Amtrak.

Ms. Mood suggested that we breakdown what visitors see as the entrance to the city and how they connect with transportation when they get to Columbia. Mr. Huggins stated that we should start with small steps for implementation of Phase One (1) of the Intermodal Transit Center. Ms. Mood commented that like the COG, we need the right people from CSX or Norfolk Southern. It was agreed that Mr. Andoh and Mr. Huggins would begin working on a plan of action.



Mr. Andoh mentioned National Passenger Railroad Corporation (NPRC) as a relevant agency that we need to work with and they would know the appropriate people to contact. He added that NPRC is leasing the Amtrak station currently. The city owns the parking lot, building, and the land but CSX owns the rail and the platform and Amtrak runs the service. Mr. Andoh added that this is an achievable and attainable option is to work towards building

the Intermodal Transit Center at the Amtrak station. He added that North Charleston has done this. Mr. Huggins suggested a trip to North Charleston to see the operation.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Huggins and seconded by Ms. Mood to adopt the building plan of the Intermodal Transit Station.

Approve: Boulware, Gleaton, Huggins, Mood

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Regional Intermodal Facility Discussion / Transit Center Road Map

On Page 11, Mr. Andoh referenced that the priority should be replacing the Laurel and Sumter location. He stated that The City has expressed concern with the Assembly Street location and as result, we are working with the COG to properly close the facility. He added that he fears The City has concerns that the same issue is occurring at the Laurel and Sumter location.

Ms. Brittany Higgins joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Mr. Andoh asked if the closure of the Laurel and Sumter street location be a priority now or later. He referred to Pages 16 - 20 in the packet and reviewed each of the possibilities and discussed the study the COG did identifying twenty-two (22) potential sites for the ITC. Mr. Andoh distributed System Maps and discussed the potential locations. Mr. Andoh added that the consultant that helped with the COG study has agreed to help us determine the best form of action. Mr. Huggins asked how much the study costs? Mr. Simmons stated \$350k because of the comprehensive detail.



Mr. Huggins would like to see ITC's that are comparable in size and are experiencing the same issues and how they have evolved. Mr. Andoh added that the consultant just completed this project in Richmond, Virginia and suggested he come to speak to us regarding this project.

Mr. Huggins suggested decommissioning of both facilities, Laurel and Sumter and Assembly and going to a grid system. Discussion ensued. Mr. Andoh stated that he is

working with the Vista Guild but emphasized that he told them that this ITC would not be a replacement for Laurel and Sumter. Mr. Huggins agreed and urged a strong opening statement reiterating that this is not a replacement of Laurel and Sumter.

Mr. Williams asked about the possibility of having restaurants and meeting facilities. Mr. Andoh confirmed this is in the plan and added he even mentioned this to the Vista Guild about them using the space for meetings. Mr. Huggins added that he loves the Busby Street Center. Ms. Mood added our ITC would be a great Visitor Center. Mr. Huggins added that he needs to get Mr. Simmons on campus to meet with some prominent people. Mr. Huggins commented that we fail to list all our resources and the importance of marketing our positive attributes.

Ms. Boulware stated that it is important that some of the school age students need to know more about The COMET. Ms. Higgins explained that we are currently working with the schools. She added the only one we haven't visited is the Lexington School District. Ms. Boulware suggested an Amtrak ride through the country as an example. It was agreed that the selling point to our city is that one facility can get you to anywhere in the world.

Mr. Andoh concluded that we want to start the process of pursuing ITC by building support. He added he will have Brownstone come in and present the plans. And he will present on his meeting with the Vista Guild.

B. Presentation from CMCOG on Planning Processes

Mr. Simmons summarized the CMCOG presentation, Agenda Item # 5.B on Page 22.

6. LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL/PERSONNEL (may require executive session)

No Legal/Contractual/Personnel matters to discuss.

7. ADJOURN



Mr. Huggins adjourned the meeting without motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this May, 2019, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:
Paige Jernigan

Paige Jernigan, Interim Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

Andy Smith

Andy Smith, Secretary