



The COMET Board 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 @ paige.jernigan@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 March 6, 2019.**

**The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Service Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 -12:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Conference Room A**

Members Present:

Ron Anderson
Lill Mood
Colonel (R) Roger Leaks, Jr., Chair (arrived at 12:31pm)
Derrick Huggins
John V. Furgess, Sr.

Guests Present:

Alan Bristol, Transdev GM

Absent Committee Members:

Joyce Dickerson
Carolyn Gleaton

**Indicates participation by phone.*

COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
LeRoy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ron Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA



Ms. Mood requested the chart that used to be presented by Transdev to be reintroduced to the Service Committee. This will be done in the future with the understanding that the numbers that are presented to the committee will be from the previous month.

Mr. Huggins asked about retention numbers for our drivers. Mr. Bristol explained that current pay is higher compared to other transportation entities at \$22 per hour with annual leave.

Appreciation for our drivers: Driver appreciation month, celebrations, Food Truck, etc.

7. RIDERSHIP REPORT (Luis R. Ortiz Sanchez)

Mr. Sanchez explained that 234,224 boarding's for the month of January 2019 with an increase of 13,511 riders compared to last January 2018 at 221,109. Of note is the fact that January 2019 operated with 2 less days than January 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding the route changes based on the Corridor Route chart. Route 201 and Route 11 were examined, and Mr. Sanchez explained that the routes were unable to operate under certain time constraints. Changes are being made to improve these routes.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. On time performance concerns

Mr. Andoh mentioned that bids have been sent out to update our current technology systems to track new transportation passenger data. This will give us more accurate numbers in real time and will allow us to make modifications as needed. The next step would be a recommendation to the board for approval of contract.

Mr. Andoh explained the Pulse System where all buses arrive and depart at the same time. This would eliminate layover time. Conversation occurred about time versus inconvenience and stop consolidation. It's important not to compromise headway while keeping safety and accessibility in mind.

Mr. Andoh summarized the 501 & Route 55 pros and cons per committee request. It was recommended that 2 more buses be added to the 501 at a cost of \$650k and an additional bus to 55 at a cost of \$325k. The Sandhill area is becoming more saturated with passengers traveling to retail jobs. The bus purchase will extend the route and increase efficiency.

Recommendation by Mr. Andoh to take the bus purchase to the board for further discussion.

Motion:



11. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Huggins to adjourn.

This meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this March, 2019, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:

Paige Jernigan
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

Andy Smith

Andy Smith, Secretary