



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 at pjernigan@thecometsc.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 Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
COVID-19 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, April 17, 2020-12:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Teleconference

Members Present:

Col. Roger (R) Leaks, Jr.*
Derrick Huggins*
Lill Mood*

Guests Present:

Pamela A. Baker, Burr, Foreman, McNair Law Firm*
Jackie Bowers, Operations Manager, Transdev*
Larry Gabaldon, Interim General Manager, Transdev*
Monica Taylor, Department of Environmental Affairs, DHEC
Tanisha Woodson, Human Resources, Transdev*

**Indicates participation by phone.*

Absent:

None

The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
Pam Bynoe-Reed, Marketing and Public Information Manager
Eric Harris, Planning and Development Specialist
Brittany Higgins Terry, Mobility Management Specialist
Paige Jernigan, Administrative and Customer Service Specialist
Crystal Willis, Financial Accountant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Col. Leaks called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA



Motion:

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

Approved: Huggins, Leaks, Mood

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Update of the COMET Operations

Mr. Andoh gave an overview of the current operating procedures. He explained that we are implementing a Sunday level of service and for those outside the service area, providing an "on demand" service using the green Re-Flex buses. He added that four (4) buses will be deployed and passengers must contact one (1) hour in advance for pick up. Mr. Andoh explained that this service will be free until the State of Emergency declaration is lifted.

Mr. Andoh explained the utility personnel and the cleaning detailing process. Mr. Gabaldon noted that the employees are receiving masks, gloves, and sanitizer wipes. The social distancing measures are continuing, and rear entrancing is still occurring due to free fares.

Mr. Andoh asked Transdev about the employees that have been furloughed and requested a report to the Committee from a human resource perspective. Ms. Woodson explained that she has been issuing letters to mortgage and vehicle companies for payment deferment for the furloughed employees. She added that there have been no challenges with unemployment, and they are offering opportunities at other locations to help fill the gap in employment.

Mr. Huggins expressed his concern and urged that we should strive to offer any opportunities for help/aid that can keep those employees in the Columbia area. He also suggested that those employees being furloughed assisting in other areas such as bus cleaning, etc. Ms. Woodson stated that this would pose a Union issue as employees are not allowed to do jobs different from what they have been hired to do.

Ms. Mood inquired about passengers being passed up when the buses are full in areas that are in high demand. Ms. Woodson assured the Committee that they have addressed this issue by providing extra buses on those heavy routes. Ms. Mood asked if it was possible to provide the riders with masks. Mr. Gabaldon stated that masks are very limited, but they are suggesting riders to bring their own if possible. He mentioned they have provided fliers and marketing materials encouraging social distancing and proper techniques to prevent the spread of germs.

Ms. Taylor discussed DHEC efforts and explained the resources available: furlough aid, providing informational documents, partnerships with organizations for sanitizers and (homemade) masks, video tutorials, and possible bus kits. Col. Leaks urged the Committee to reach out to some of the



organizations in an effort to provide these resources quickly to the front-line staff. Ms. Taylor agreed and stated that she and Mr. Andoh will work together to work on implementing some of these resources.

B. Payment of Administrative Leave for Transdev

Mr. Andoh stated that he has emailed Transdev regarding payment of the employees that are being furloughed. Transdev confirmed they are working internally to provide this information to the Committee at a future meeting. Conversation ensued regarding two (2) drivers per bus and the Federal Transit Administration funding.

C. Bus Operator Barriers Research

Mr. Andoh stated that they are testing a barrier on the DART vehicles and seeking a permanent solution and awaiting quotes. Mr. Gabaldon mentioned that Charleston is using a clear shower curtain as a barrier. He added that they are going to use these on the DART vehicles since there is not a rear entrance. Ms. Mood requested a picture be sent to help the Committee to visualize the shower curtain.

Mr. Huggins expressed his appreciation of the Committee and Mr. Andoh's hard work.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Huggins and seconded by Ms. Mood to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks, Mood

Absent: None

4. ADJOURN


No motion needed for adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 P.M.


CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this April, 2020, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:


Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:


Andy Smith, Secretary

