



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 22, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
COVID-19 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, April 24, 2020-1:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Teleconference

Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

Jackie Bowers, Operations Manager, Transdev*
Larry Gabaldon, Interim General Manager, Transdev*
Rosalind Lorick, Quality Control Manager, Transdev*
Betty Robinson, Safety Manager, Transdev*
Tanisha Woodson, Human Resources, Transdev*

**Indicates participation by phone.*

Absent:

Lill Mood

The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
Pam Bynoe-Reed, Marketing and Public Information Manager
Leroy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO
Eric Harris, Planning and Development Specialist
Paige Jernigan, Administrative and Customer Service Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER
Col. Leaks called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Huggins and seconded by Col. Leaks to adopt the agenda.



Approved: Huggins, Leaks
Absent: Mood
Motion passed.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2020

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Huggins and seconded by Col. Leaks to approve the minutes from April 17, 2020.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks
Absent: Mood
Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Update of the COMET Operations

Mr. Gabaldon gave an update of the current operating procedures. He explained that we are still implementing a Sunday level of service and continuing to provide an "on demand" service. Col. Leaks asked about the crowding on the buses and how frequently riders are being passed. Mr. Gabaldon and Ms. Woodson explained that things seem to be going well and they are adjusting to the social distancing complaints. It was noted that the social distancing measures are continuing, and rear entrancing is still occurring due to free fares.

Ms. Lorick stated that they are looking closely at the routes to make sure that the ones with high ridership are being serviced as needed. Mr. Harris explained he is working on a contingency plan as the barriers begin to lift. Mr. Andoh mentioned that they are using the Automated Passenger Counters to help monitor the number of riders we are serving.

B. Food Delivery

Mr. Andoh stated that staff have been working with the City of Columbia Food Policy Committee to develop a program to allow for meal delivery services for seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents. With the CARES Act funding, this service is attainable for six months. Staff is prepared to implement this program, which will bring community involvement to The COMET. It is anticipated that this meal delivery service can get the vehicle hourly rate down to \$69.46 should The COMET get to 404.5 vehicle hours per weekday, resulting in the restoration of 3 to 6 bus operator jobs.

Col. Leaks asked about the advertising of the Food Delivery Program. Mr. Andoh confirmed that The COMET's Marketing Manager is working on coordination efforts for promotion in the community. Mr. Huggins commended Mr. Andoh and his staff for their effort.

Motion:



A motion was made Mr. Huggins and seconded by Col. Leaks that the Task Force endorses and supports the food delivery plan.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks

Absent: Mood

Motion passed.

C. City of Columbia Coronavirus Task Force Update

Mr. Andoh stated that he and Mr. DesChamps were involved in a round table discussion with local leaders with the City of Columbia and as no decisions were made, discussion of how to reopen the city is main priority. The Governor has not made any indication of extension yet. Discussion ensued regarding ridership numbers as result of the closings. Mr. Andoh stated he doesn't see any significant ridership changes any time soon.

It was confirmed that The COMET Central is still closed. Mr. Andoh stated that we will follow the City of Columbia's direction. Mr. Huggins urged listening to the Drivers to provide adequate resources for all. Mr. Harris agreed and stated he is working on this from a data centered stance but input from Drivers is important.

D. Governor Revised Executive Order

Mr. Andoh stated that Item C and Item D were discussed together as they go hand in hand. He added that he had nothing further to add. He stated he will keep the Task Force updated as changes arise. Mr. Huggins expressed his appreciation again.

Ms. Woodson mentioned a company called SC House calls that would be willing to test our drivers at a cost of \$125 dollars. She stated that she has submitted insurance to see if the test could be covered. She added that you do not have to have signs or symptoms to be tested. She also confirmed that they will also test for antibodies. An update on this service will be available at the next meeting.

5. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Huggins and seconded by Col. Leaks to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks

Absent: Mood

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 P.M.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this _____, 2020, Agenda Item _____



Prepared by:

Paige Jernigan

Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

Andy Smith

Andy Smith, Secretary