

# The COMET On The Go!

## Welcome to The COMET On The Go!

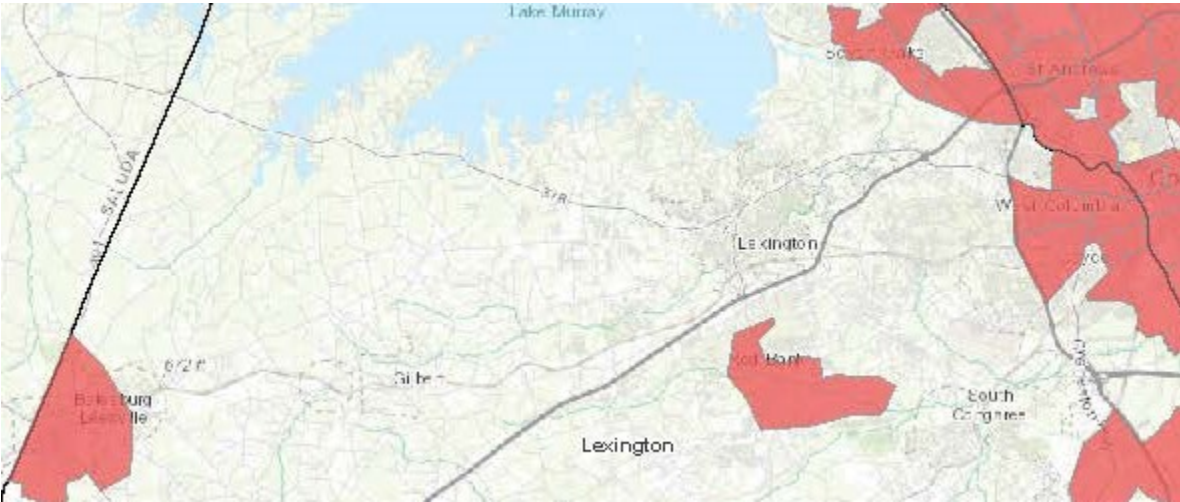
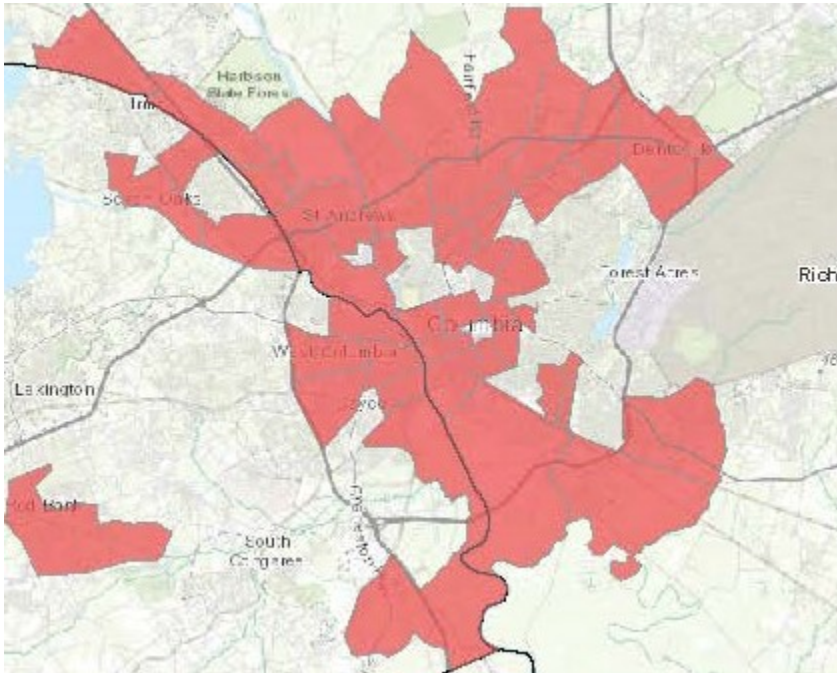
The COMET is helping you go around the Columbia Metropolitan Area easily! The COMET will pay up to \$8.00 for ridesharing trips that start and end in The COMET fixed route service area on Lyft and Uber. There are two programs that are available to you:

- ***COMET @ Night:*** Seven days a week between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., apply the promo code which are available on board the inside of The COMET buses to get the up to \$5.00 discount, up to 20 times per month.
- ***COMET To The Market:*** Seven days a week between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., apply the promo code **COMETMARKET20** and your trip must originate or end at the following fresh food markets:
  - Walmart & Walmart Neighborhood Market
  - BiLo
  - Kroger
  - The Fresh Market
  - Whole Foods Market
  - Aldi
  - Blossom Shop
  - Food Lion
  - Gourmet Shoppe
  - La Estrella Supermarket
  - Lowe's Fresh Food
  - Ole Timey Meat Market
  - Piggy Wiggly
  - Publix
  - Rosewood Market & Deli
  - Sam's Club
  - Costco
  - Save-A-Lot
  - State Farmer's Market
  - Target
  - Trader Joes
  - Supermercado El Mariachi
  - Earth Fare
  - KJ's Market IGA

COMET To The Market can only be used twice a week per passenger. Anything over \$8.00 is the responsible of the passenger. The code must be entered to receive the discount. **You can only use COMET To The Market, if you board or alight in a food desert area AND a grocery store.**

Food desert areas in Richland in Lexington Counties can be identified here:

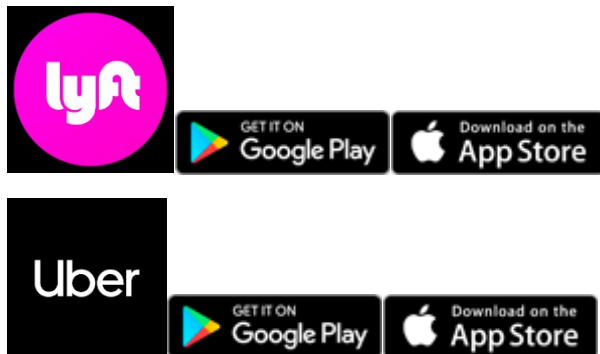
<https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/fooddesert/>



**Uber service is available until a future to be determined date. After that date, all trips must be taken on Lyft.**

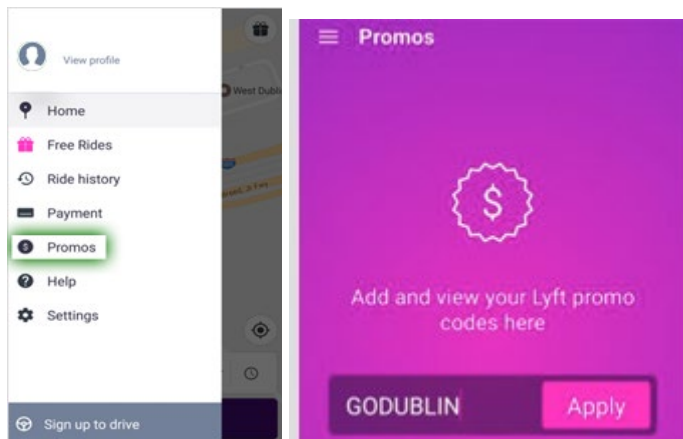
## How It Works

1. Download the app for Lyft or Uber on your smartphone:

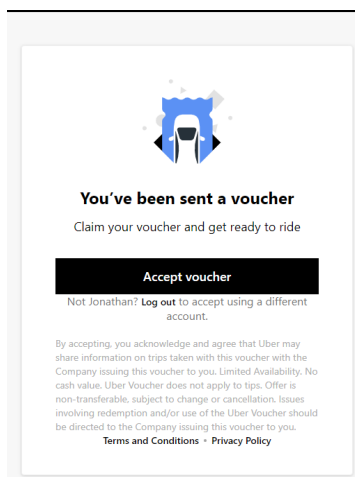


2. Open the app

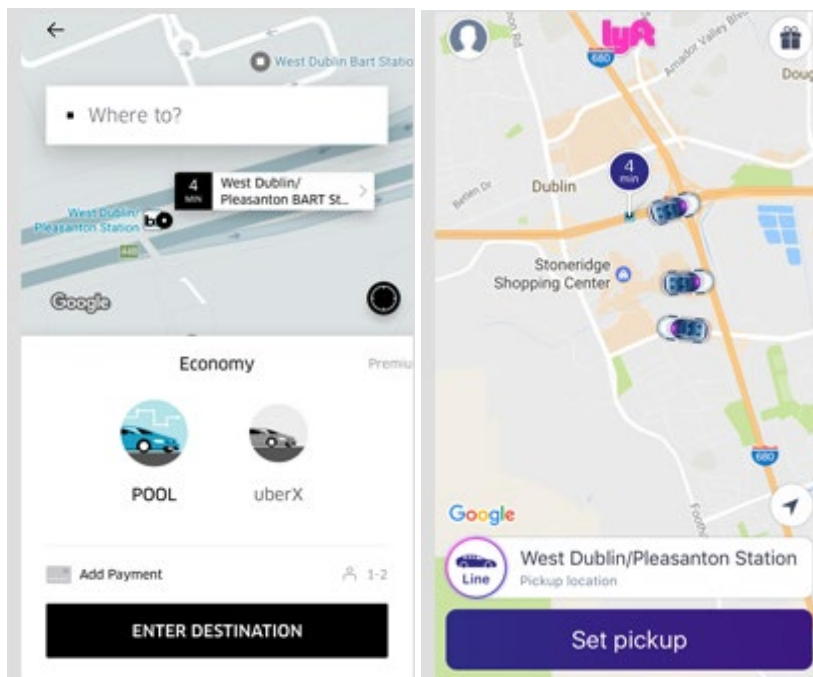
*For Lyft* – go to the menu bar and then select “Promos”. Enter the promo code (found on the bus for COMET @ Night) or COMETMARKET20 for COMET To The Market. **Select “Apply”**.



*For Uber* – You need to register for a discount by visiting [t.uber.com/CometMarket](https://t.uber.com/CometMarket) (For COMET to The Market) and for COMET @ Night by getting the code on the buses. The link will take you to a voucher page. Click accept voucher.



## 5. Set up your trip using UberX or Lyft Shared:



6. Your discount will be subtracted automatically once your trip concludes.

### Contact Information

Uber: [help.uber.com](https://help.uber.com)

Lyft: [help.lyft.com](https://help.lyft.com)

The COMET: [CatchTheCOMET.org](https://CatchTheCOMET.org) or [info@TheCOMETSC.gov](mailto:info@TheCOMETSC.gov)

### General Tips

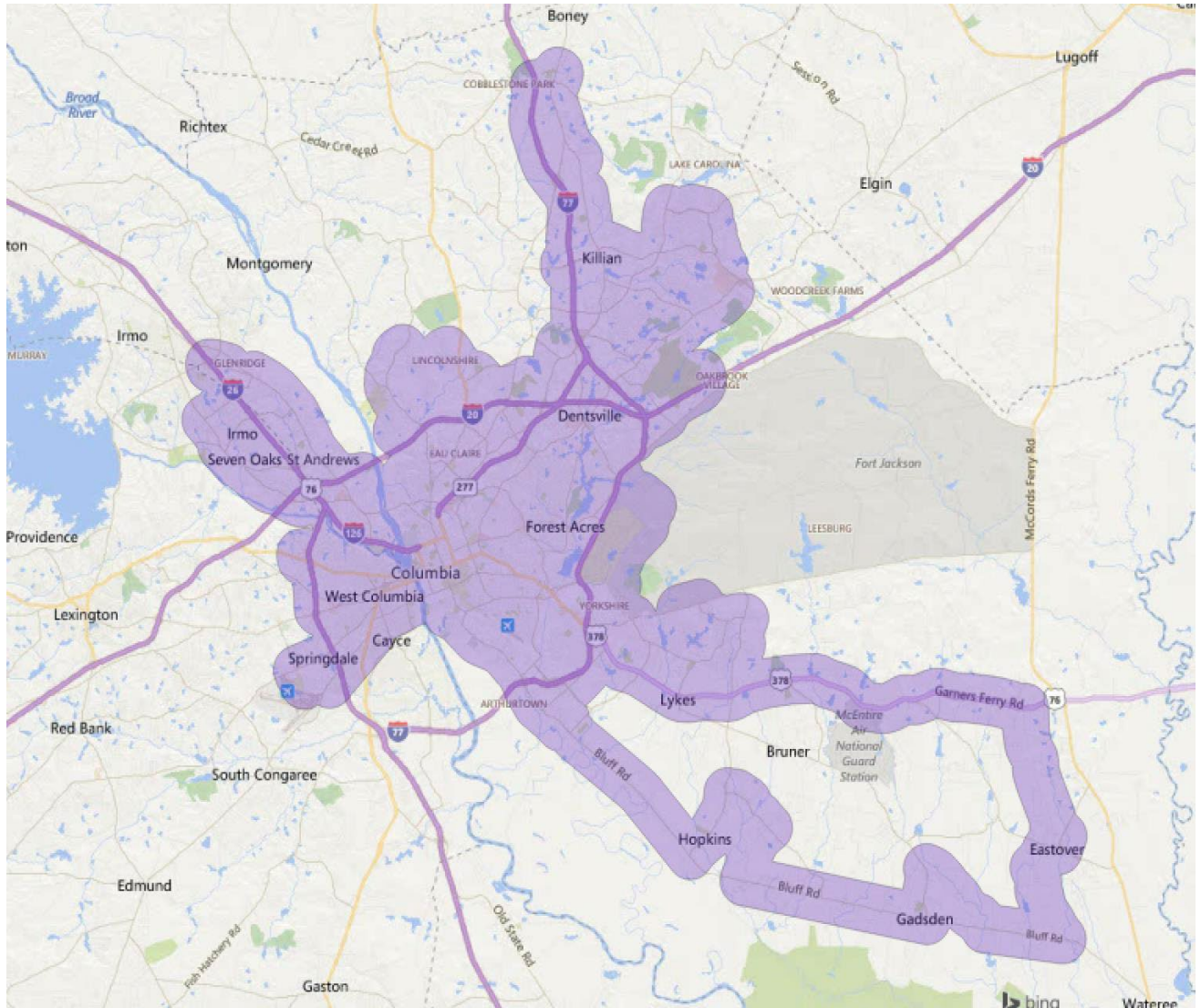
COMET @ Night is only available between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., seven days a week, within The COMET service area. If your trip originates or ends outside The COMET service area, the discount is not valid. **This service can only be used 20 times a month.**

COMET To The Market is only available between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week, within The COMET service area to and from a fresh food market. If your trip originated or ends at a location that is not a fresh food market within The COMET service area, the discount is not valid. If your trip originated or ends at a location that is not in a Food Desert area, the discount is not valid. **This service can only be used twice a week per passenger.**

### The COMET Service Area

- Columbia
- Forest Acres

- St. Andrews/Broad River
- Spring Valley/Wildwood
- Northeast Richland
- Fort Jackson
- Eastover
- Hopkins
- Lower Richland
- Gadsden
- West Columbia
- Cayce
- Springdale
- Lexington
- Batesburg-Leesville



### **Do I have a choice whether to use Lyft Shared or a regular Lyft ride?**

To qualify for the 50% discount, up to \$8.00, you must select the Lyft Shared option when booking your ride. This helps keep costs low and reduce the number of cars on the road. If you choose a regular Lyft ride you will be responsible for paying the regular fare. In the case of Uber, due to their inability to comply with shared or group trips as required by the Federal Transit Administration, The COMET's participation will end with Uber once the Federal Transit Administration removes the exemption regarding solo rides.

### **No Smartphone or in a Mobility Device?**

Call (803) 255-7124 between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 a.m., a DART Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) will pick you up within **60 to 90** minutes of request. The service will be priced at \$10.00 per one-way trip.

### **No Credit Card?**

Lyft and Uber require the use of a credit card, debit card with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express logo, prepaid credit cards with Visa, American Express and MasterCard (from stores) or the use of PayPal, Google Pay and Apple Pay. You can purchase Lyft Gift Cards online at <https://www.lyft.com/gift> only. Uber Gift Cards are available at stores, online through Amazon and <https://www.uber.com/us/en/gift-cards/>. If you want to use this program, The COMET encourages the purchase of a prepaid gift card with the Visa, American Express or MasterCard logo, if you do not have a bank account. These can be purchased at Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Target, grocery stores and drug stores.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is The COMET On The Go?**

The COMET On The Go is a rideshare promotion where The COMET will pay up to \$8.00, for any rides with our participating partners within The COMET service area for either COMET @ Night or COMET To The Market programs.

#### **Who are the participating providers?**

The current participating providers are Lyft and Uber.

#### **Why did The COMET create The COMET On The Go Promotion?**

Providing transit service in less-populated areas is challenging, and frequent bus service cannot operate efficiently. The COMET On The Go is a promotion with rideshare companies to give Columbia Metropolitan Area residents easy, affordable transportation solutions at night and to get to and from fresh food markets.

### **When and where is The COMET On The Go valid?**

COMET @ Night is only available between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m., seven days a week, within The COMET service area. If your trip originates or ends outside The COMET service area, the discount is not valid. **This service can only be used 20 times a month per passenger.**

COMET To The Market is only available between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week, within The COMET service area to and from a fresh food market. If your trip originated or ends at a location that is not a fresh food market within The COMET service area, the discount is not valid. If your trip originated or ends at a location that is not in a Food Desert area, the discount is not valid. **This service can only be used twice a week per passenger.**

### **What if I don't have a smartphone?**

Call (803) 255-7124 between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 a.m. They will schedule a ride with Uber or Lyft for you.

### **What can I do if I cannot afford a Smart Phone?**

The state of South Carolina has a program to assist with the cost of Smart Phones and service. For more information visit here: <https://ors.sc.gov/consumers/telecommunications/lifeline>.

### **Is there service for people with disabilities?**

The service provided by a WAV operated by DART and will be priced at \$10.00 with a vehicle showing up within 60 to 90 minutes of call during the service hours of COMET To The Market and COMET @ Night.

### **What if I don't have a credit card?**

Lyft and Uber require the use of a credit card, debit card with a Visa, American Express or MasterCard logo, prepaid credit cards with Visa, American Express and MasterCard (from stores) or the use of PayPal, Google Pay and Apple Pay. You can purchase Lyft Gift Cards online at <https://www.lyft.com/gift> only. Uber Gift Cards are available at stores, online through Amazon and <https://www.uber.com/gift-cards/>. If you want to use this program, The COMET encourages the purchase of a prepaid gift card with the Visa, American Express or MasterCard logo, if you do not have a bank account. These can be purchased at Walmart, Target, grocery stores and drug stores.

### **How do I know using rideshare is safe?**

All participating partners offer criminal background checks, DMV checks, vehicle inspections and provide \$1 million liability insurance for all drivers and vehicles. In addition, there is a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy. Finally, Lyft and Uber offer a rating system; if you rate a driver less than 3 stars, you will never be matched with that driver again. If you do experience a safety incident, call 911 if necessary, then call the participating partners emergency response line as provided for in their individual phone apps. Details on Lyft safety tips are here:

<https://www.lyft.com/safety/rider> and Uber safety tips are here:  
<https://www.uber.com/us/en/ride/safety/tips/>

### **Is tipping required?**

Tipping is not expected or required. The COMET does not cover the cost of tips and it is at your discretion.

### **What kind of data is shared with The COMET? Is a user's name attached to this data? Can The COMET watch my every move?**

The data is completely anonymous, so The COMET will not be able to track where someone is or learn exactly where they've been or are going. The COMET will receive data such as: frequent destinations, peak travel times and other non-address specific, block level information.

### **What if I want to go just outside of the service area? Is the discount valid until I'm outside of that area, or do I have to pay for the whole trip?**

If you travel outside The COMET service area, you will be responsible for paying the entire fare, regardless if the trip originates or ends outside The COMET service area. The COMET On The Go promotion would not apply. For The COMET To The Market, you must board or alight at a fresh food market which are: Walmart & Walmart Neighborhood Market, KJ's Market IGA, Earth Fare, BiLo, Kroger, The Fresh Market, Whole Foods Market, Aldi, Blossom Shop, Food Lion, Gourmet Shoppe, La Estrella Supermarket, Lowe's Fresh Food, Ole Timey Meat Market, Piggy Wiggly, Publix, Rosewood Market & Deli, Sam's Club, Costco, Save-A-Lot, State Farmer's Market, Target, Supermercado El Mariachi and Trader Joes. In addition to ride COMET To The Market, the trip must originate or end in a food desert area within Richland and Lexington Counties as shown here: <https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/fooddesert/>

### **How long can I expect to wait for my ride to show up?**

Actual wait times depend on how many drivers are currently in the area, but in most cases a ride will arrive within 15 to 20 minutes.

### **Can anyone use The COMET On The Go?**

Yes, anyone 18 years old and older can use The COMET On The Go promotion. All of the participating providers have 4-doors and accept service animals and oxygen. If you are unable to ride in a sedan, you can request a WAV from DART.

### **How is The COMET On The Go paid for? Were taxpayer dollars used to develop this program?**

The COMET On The Go promotion is paid for by local Richland County Transportation Penny, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Lexington County General Funds.

### **Are booking or services fees included in The COMET On The Go discount?**

Booking or service fees are not included in The COMET On The Go discount.



**I have some ideas for improvements. How can I give feedback? Interested in becoming a Provider?**

The COMET is eager to hear your ideas. Please e-mail John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO at [john.andoh@CatchTheCOMET.org](mailto:john.andoh@CatchTheCOMET.org) or call (803) 255-7087. Contact Mr. Andoh if you are a Transportation Network Company and are interested in participating in The COMET On The Go Rideshare Promotion.

### **Legal Disclaimer**

**“THE COMET ON THE GO” PROGRAM MERELY PROVIDES A DISCOUNT FOR CUSTOMERS WHO CHOOSE TO UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF THE PARTICIPATING THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS. THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY DOES NOT PROVIDE A WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AS TO THE QUALITY OR SAFETY OF ANY OF THE PROVIDERS UNDER THAT PROGRAM. ALL WARRANTIES, CONDITIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, INDEMNITIES, AND GUARANTEES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENT OR SERVICE AND THE OPERATION, CAPACITY, SPEED, FUNCTIONALITY, QUALIFICATIONS, OR CAPABILITIES OF THE SERVICE PROVIDED HEREUNDER, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARISING BY LAW, CUSTOM, PRIOR ORAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY OF SATISFACTORY QUALITY, MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE AND NON-INFRINGEMENT, ARE HEREBY OVERRIDDEN, EXCLUDED, AND DISCLAIMED.**

View Lyft Terms and Conditions here: <https://www.lyft.com/terms>

View Uber Terms of Service here: <https://www.uber.com/legal/en/document/?country=united-states&lang=en&name=general-terms-of-use>