



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 Friday, May 8, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
COVID-19 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, May 15, 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:

Larry Gabaldon, Interim General Manager, Transdev*
Rosalind Lorick, Quality Control Manager, Transdev*
Merritt McNeely, Flock and Rally, Vice President of Marketing*
Betty Robinson, Safety Manager, Transdev*
Tanisha Woodson, Human Resources, Transdev*

**Indicates participation by phone.*

Absent:

None

The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Marketing and Public Information Manager
Leroy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO
Alexis Feliciano, Transit Traffic Checker
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 12:19 P.M.
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA



Motion:

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

Approved: Huggins, Leaks, Mood

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM May 8, 2020

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to approve the minutes from May 8, 2020.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks, Mood

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Update of the COMET Operations

Mr. Gabaldon gave an update of the current operating procedures. He explained the challenges with full buses and as a result, thinks moving to the enhanced Saturday service is appropriate. He added that they are continuing social distancing. He continued that they are sending additional buses for those that are high demand in ridership.

Mr. Gabaldon explained that the bus cleanliness process changes. He mentioned that they have added a supervisor on the Service Line to focus on the cleanliness and stated that the random spot checks would continue. He added that they are working hard to ensure the buses are clean before they are put in service.

B. COVID-19 Marketing

Mr. Leaks requested further explanation in the marketing procedures to alert riders. Ms. Bynoe-Reed stated the many ways The COMET is marketing during the Pandemic. Examples include, press releases, TransLoc, social media, on buses, Midlands Transit Riders Association, etc.

Ms. McNeely gave statistics of the social media platforms. Ms. McNeely and Ms. Bynoe-Reed explained that they are using print media, advertising in news publications, press releases and radio ads to those who do not have internet access.

Ms. Mood asked about the testing for the COVID virus. Mr. DesChamps stated that it was approved by the Board and we will begin implementing this testing process. Mr. Andoh explained that we are still getting quotes on protective barriers for the small and large buses.

Mr. Andoh explained that the Governor did extend the State of Emergency until May 28, 2020. He added we are looking to implement the Saturday service on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Mr. Andoh



stated that Staff agree that we should remain free fare for at least a year.

Ms. Bynoe-Reed presented to the Committee a communications timeline demonstrating how The COMET has reacted to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Ms. Mood and the Committee complimented Ms. Bynoe-Reed and the staff on the presentation and all the hard work completed. She suggested sending the presentation to the entire Board. Ms. Bynoe-Reed agreed and noted to do so.

Discussion ensued regarding mitigating factors of shut down and proactive measures if a driver or rider tests positive. Ms. Mood explained the Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC) public health regulations: if someone tests positive, they must self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days. DHEC would interview those exposed and then plan a follow up.

Ms. Mood noted that The COMET would need to prepare for fourteen (14) days of quarantine. Then we would contact the local health department and operate on the protocol given. Mr. Huggins suggested putting together factors that will not expose our drivers. Ms. Mood suggested reaching out to our local health department for their testing initiatives.

5. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Col. Leaks and seconded by Ms. Mood to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: Huggins, Leaks, Mood


Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 P.M.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this June, 2020, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:


Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:


Andy Smith, Secretary

