



*The COMET Intermodal 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 @ [cometadmin@thecometsc.gov](mailto:cometadmin@thecometsc.gov).*

*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 December 6, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.*

**Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Committee Workshop  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 -9:00 A.M.  
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Conference Room A**

**Members Present:**

Derrick Huggins, Chair\*  
Jacqueline Boulware\*  
BJ Unthank

**Guests Present:**

John Fellows, City of Columbia  
Bart Walwrath, President, Vista Neighborhood Association

**Absent Committee Members:**

Joyce Dickerson  
Lil Mood

*\*Indicates participation by phone.*

**COMET Staff Present**

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huggins called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was not present at the opening of the meeting, so it was determined that the meeting will continue with informational/non-voting items.



and traffic from local and intercity buses, which many are perception related issues. Should federal funds be used and for the facility to score well for competitive Federal grants, intercity and local buses would need to serve the facility. Should public opposition occur, it may be in the best interest to move the facility, if Amtrak agrees, to keep the station on the rail line.

Mr. Andoh reviewed the Amtrak and CSX routes on Page 11, 12 and 13. Mr. Huggins stated that he doesn't feel that we will get support at the Pulaski street site and we must have the support from the City Manager and Mayor. He recommended looking at other locations. He is concerned about the perception and added it will be a difficult task to accomplish at Pulaski street.

Mr. Walwrath stated his concerns: 1) size of the area, 2) high density housing, 3) buses running at night. He suggested the Old Columbia Mall. Mr. Andoh agreed that that location is a potential and added that a Super Stop is being constructed there currently. Mr. Fellows mentioned that no matter the location, it will be difficult due to the association of transit and homelessness. He added that transit can be an economic development stimulus but in Columbia it is a fear and struggle that must be addressed. Mr. Huggins asked if the City has a homeless task force/committee. Mr. Fellows stated that he will try to find out from Ms. Wilson and get back to the Committee.

It was discussed that intercity bus has had negative perceptions in Columbia, SC as evidenced in the media and through concerns expressed to The COMET by various parties. Mr. Andoh added that Greyhound was forced to relocate to Buckner Road as they were not able to find a reasonable location. Megabus has been rejected by the City of Columbia to use Laurel and Sumter Streets due to the fear of safety and homelessness.

Mr. Andoh explained that Greyhound and Southeastern Stages are located at 710 Buckner Rd, Columbia, SC 29203 and Megabus is located at Lucius Road and Marlboro Street in Columbia. They have a 15-year lease as of March 13, 2015, however, they have the option to terminate, provided that an intermodal facility can be identified. Megabus has a lease with The COMET to use its facility and the lease is month to month, with the option to terminate with a 30-day notice. Both Greyhound and Megabus support an intermodal facility and would like to be co-located in one to provide better amenities and security to their passengers.

ii. Replacement to Laurel and Sumter

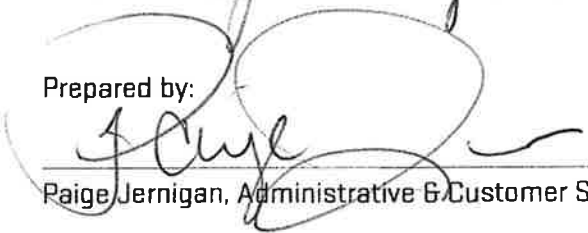
Mr. Andoh specified that complaints from the City, Main Street Partnership and area businesses has occurred over the last 10 years about Laurel and Sumter Streets and even



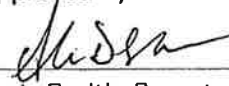
CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this January, 2020, Agenda Item \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:

  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

  
Andy Smith, Secretary