



The COMET Board 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@catchthecomet.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 April 5, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.***

**Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Committee Workshop
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 -3:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Conference Room A**

Members Present:

Derrick Huggins, Chair* (arrived at 3:09 p.m.)
Lill Mood
Jacqueline Boulware*

Guests Present:

Julius Williams, Transit Rider
John Fellows, City of Columbia
Reginald Simmons, CMCOG

Absent Committee Members:

Joyce Dickerson

**Indicates participation by phone.*

COMET Staff Present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Andoh called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in Mr. Huggins absence.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.



- Water Transportation
- Streetscape Projects
- Express Bus

- Bikeshare, Carsharing and Micro-Mobility

Mr. Andoh explained each priority project in detail and encouraged discussion from the committee members.

Ms. Mood asked for clarification on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and its use of a separate lane. Mr. Andoh confirmed. He then compared the (BRT) to the Two (2) Notch route as a precursor to light rail if demand picks up.

Mr. Huggins arrived at 3:09 p.m.

Ms. Mood opened the discussion by listing priorities from least to greatest. She remarked that her lowest priority would be water transportation. She added that the rivers are not navigable because of the water levels rising and falling. Mr. Fellows mentioned that this is the reason canals were built. Mr. Fellows explained that Lake Murray could be a potential water transport route. He did say that the community would protest due to the extra volume of traffic. Ms. Boulware agreed and remarked the liability of water transport would be of concern.

Mr. Andoh mentioned that he would like to focus on short range priorities such as the replacement of Laurel Street. He stated that he thought the Amtrak station would be a possibility of housing a small intermodal facility but that this would not replace the Laurel Street location. We would have some COMET routes, USC, bikeshare, etc., traveling to that location. Conversation carried on discussing the purchase of the land next to the Amtrak station which is currently owned by a bank. Mr. Andoh suggest grant funding through the FTA.

Mr. Fellows spoke about parking and the fact that the Convention Center is discussing expansion. He does think that entrance on both sides of any intermodal facility is important. Ms. Mood agreed and added that the Amtrak or the MegaBus location have limited parking, so this is something to take into consideration.

Ms. Mood expressed that Intercity Rail, Commuter Rail and the Intermodal facility should be high on the priority and she would love to see this located at the Amtrak station. Mr. Huggins asked about the parking lot behind the Transit Center currently. Mr. Andoh



Mr. Andoh stressed the importance of working closely with agencies, legislature and funding sources that will help us remain fiscally sustainable. Discussion regarding intercity rail and viability continued.

Mr. Simmons stated that we need to begin at a grassroots level to be sure everyone benefits, like the New York subway. He also added that we must change the mindset, possible

versus feasible. Mr. Andoh added we must conform to the Regional Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan as we must have their support. Regarding mindset, Ms. Mood mentioned a few areas where we could begin, transplants and the aging population.

Mr. Fellows spoke of the Comprehensive Plan of the City survey and the two (2) resounding issues facing Columbia: 1) We do not finish what we started. 2) We do not stay on track in our prioritization. He added that Columbia does not forget when something goes bad. We need to celebrate our successes better. He urged that the bus corridors should be high on the priority list.

Mr. Huggins said we should start tackling the small jobs that are doable and increase ridership. College students and retirement communities would be a great place to start. He mentioned that we should be aware of who the riders are supporting.

Mr. Andoh summarized three (3) categories of priorities:

- A. Facility Enhancement: Park and Ride – Intermodal Regional Transit Center/Improve Corridors
- B. Service Enhancement: Express-BRT Light & Enhanced Buses/Streetscape
- C. Service Enhancement: Bike Share & Micro Mobility/Car Share

CD change occurred.

Ms. Mood mentioned parking lots covered by solar panels, school parking lots, etc. Mr. Huggins mentioned the express route and the USC relationships with the airports. Discussion continued regarding Columbia Airport versus Charlotte Airport pros and cons.

Mr. Andoh stated that he will create a fact sheet that will help refine the list and develop a plan. Each plan will be specific to each region and their specific needs. Mr. Huggins reminded the committee the importance of inviting influential people such as the Mayor, county staff, county manager, Mr. Doug Frate, SCDOT, etc. Ms. Mood agreed and




Andy Smith, Secretary