



*The COMET COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Subcommittee 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.gov](mailto:pjernigan@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 Monday, December 7, 2020 at 3:15 AM.*

**Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority  
COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Meeting  
Friday, December 11, 2020 - 12:00 PM**

**3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Conference Room A**

**Members Present:**

Lill Mood  
Derrick Huggins

**Guests Present:**

Maurice Bell, RATP Dev  
Joe Sanchez, Asst, General Manager/Operations Manager  
Andy Smith, Guest  
Robert Smith, Senior VP/Client Relations, RATP Dev  
Ronnie Sweeny, Maintenance Manager, RATP Dev\*

**Members Absent:**

None

*\*indicates participation by  
phone*

**The COMET Staff Present:**

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO  
Leroy DesChamps, Director of Administration Operations/COO  
Tanisha Gibbons, Interim Customer Experience & Contract Compliance Specialist  
Eric Harris, Planning & Development Specialist  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  
Mr. Huggins called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.  
A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**



**Motion:**

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

Approve: Huggins, Mood

Absent: None

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2020 MEETING**

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to approve the meeting minutes.

Approve: Huggins, Mood

Absent: None

**4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Update of Executive Order**

Mr. DesChamps explained that the Governor's Executive Order has been extended for another fifteen (15) days. He added that we will continue to follow the Executive Order of the Governor.

**B. Update of The COMET Operations – including Food Delivery, Vehicle Cleaning & COVID-19 Policy**

Mr. Sanchez stated that they delivered eighty-five (85) meals, a decline from last month. Mr. Andoh confirmed that the FTA has extended the food delivery to 1/20/22.

Mr. Sanchez described that the vehicle cleaning is being entered into the data management system for better tracking. For the month of November two hundred three (203) buses were detailed. One hundred thirty-six (136) foggings and six hundred seven (607) interior and exterior cleanings were performed. He further added that the bus wash is now at 90% and they are working with the vendor have it calibrated.

At this time, the service line is manually brushing the buses. Ms. Mood reiterated the importance of a checklist.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the 801bus route is still overcrowded, and they have decided to send a tripper when overcrowding occurs. The Committee discussed the trends regarding the overcrowding on the buses.

Mr. Andoh added that the bus route on Fort Jackson will be resumed and cleaned before and after each route. Discussion ensued regarding the cleaning requirements.

Mr. Andoh mentioned that Staff is investigating the possibility of changing the cloth seats on the buses to a vinyl to prevent bed bugs and accidents that may happen. He did state that the 801 bus is the pilot bus, and it would cost approximately \$304,000 to



outfit the entire fleet. He further stated that this would have to be recommended to the Board as it exceeds the Executive Director's spending authority. Mr. Huggins asked that the Staff keep the Committee up to date on the Ft. Jackson route and the feedback regarding the seat changes.

#### C. Update of Testing

Mr. Sanchez broke down the testing for the Committee:

Administration: 17 tested

Operations: 92 tested

Maintenance: 9 tested

Transport Care Services: 28 tested

Total: 146 tested

He did confirm that there have been no positive tests from the Lovelace Medical testing that took place. He also verified that a kiosk for testing has been ordered for the maintenance area.

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#### D. Update of Driver Barriers

Mr. Sanchez explained that forty (40) cut away buses are complete and also two (2) vans. He added the NABI buses have one (1) complete and two (2) in progress. He stated there is an issue with the fareboxes. He confirmed that all the barriers are here just not completely installed due to the placement of the fareboxes. Mr. Andoh added that we are working with the vendor to get the issue resolved as soon as possible.

#### E. Update on DART Office Space

Mr. Sanchez updated the Committee on the DART office space for Transport Care Services. He added that they have staggered the schedule to ensure that there is adequate workspace and they will continue to adjust the schedule as needed.

#### F. Update of Vaccination and Impacts to Public Transit

Mr. Andoh mentioned the vaccination and the impact on transit. He added that there is push to have public transit employees be considered under the CDC and DHEC plan outlined in the packet. The Committee discussed the plan in further detail.

#### G. Discussion about use of FAR-UV Technology On Buses and in Buildings

Mr. Andoh explained that the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments has reached out to us and would like to have The COMET use this new FAR-UV Technology on our buses. He asked if they would consider a pilot program until we learn more about the product.

Mr. Huggins cautioned the Committee and Staff about the importance of making sure that this is approved by FTA and the DHEC.

Mr. Andoh did state that we are allowing COVID testing to take place at COMET Central





with our partnership with DHEC.

5. **ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to adjourn the meeting.

Approve: Huggins, Mood

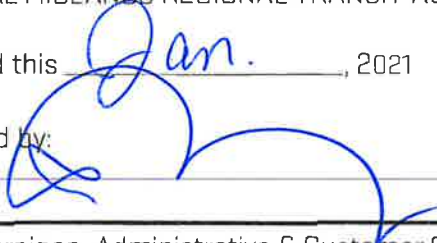
Absent: None

*The meeting adjourned at 12:34 P.M.*


CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this Jan., 2021

Prepared by:

  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

  
Allison Terracio, Secretary

