



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](mailto: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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority  
COVID-19 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
Friday, July 24, 2020-12:00 P.M.  
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Teleconference

**Members Present:**

Col. Roger (R) Leaks, Jr.\*  
Lill Mood\*  
Derrick Huggins\*

**Guests Present:**

William Jackson, Safety & Training Manager, RATP Dev  
Joe Sanchez, Assistant General Manager/Operations  
Manager, RATP Dev

*\*Indicates participation by phone.*

**Absent:**

None

**The COMET Staff Present**

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO  
Pam Bynoe-Reed Manager, Marketing and Public Information  
LeRoy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO  
Alexis Feliciano, Transit Traffic Checker  
Kristen Forbus, Intern  
Tanisha Gibbons, Interim Customer Experience and Contract Compliance Specialist  
Eric Harris, Planning and Development Specialist  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative and Customer Service Specialist  
Arlene Prince, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Civil Rights Officer  
Brittney Terry, Mobility Management Specialist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Col. Leaks called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M.  
A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.



## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Col. Leaks to adopt the agenda.

Approved: Leaks\*, Mood\*

Absent: Huggins

Motion passed.

*Huggins joined the call at 12:03 P.M.*

## 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM July 10, 2020

### Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Col. Leaks to approve the minutes from July 10, 2020.

Approved: Leaks\*, Mood\*, Huggins\*

Absent: None

Motion passed.

## 4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Update of the COMET Operations, Vehicle Cleaning, Food Delivery and COVID-Testing  
Mr. Andoh referred to the ordinance on Page 6 and the extension of the state of emergency.

Mr. Andoh turned the discussion over to RATP Dev for an update.

Discussion items:

- Bus cleaning – 100 % of the buses daily
- Eight (8) cases of masks
- Hand sanitizers in stock
- Hand sanitizer issue with adhesive has been corrected.
- Continuing to detail and fogging is happening weekly.

Mr. Sanchez stated that service is going well. He added that they have seen a reduction in passengers' refusal of wearing the masks. He explained that fliers have been posted at COMET Central. He continued to say that riders are being more mindful of taking more masks than needed. Mr. Sanchez confirmed that we have had not had any more positive cases of the COVID-19. He stated that they have been in touch with the driver that tested positive and he is well. The driver is unable to return to work without a negative result of being infected. He added that they are still awaiting the temperature kiosk for the paratransit office.

Mr. DesChamps mentioned another COVID-19 temperature monitor on the second floor. Senior



Resources has been in contact and the food delivery will continue with expansion of the service. Mr. Andoh confirmed that this service will continue until we resume regular service. He stated that currently the food delivery is helping those drivers who are currently furloughed.

Mr. DesChamps continued to state that Lovelace Medical called to inquire about flu testing in the fall. Discussion ensued regarding the flu testing.

B. Houston Metro Barrier Information

Mr. Andoh stated that what he has learned from the CEO of Houston Metro, the barriers and cost are low because they are using shower curtains. He reminded the Committee that back in May it was decided to try this on one of the cutaway buses. He added that we are trying to determine where Transdev left off in this process. He did mention that one is being constructed currently in Savannah, Georgia and if it proves safe, these will be installed on all the cutaway vehicles.

Mr. Andoh explained that New Flyer will be coming to install assault barriers as a test. Once this is complete, the barriers will be installed on the transit bus fleet. Mr. Andoh reminded that APTA produced a manual that was presented a few meetings ago and they ultimately recommend some type of barrier. Discussion ensued regarding APTA's recommendations and the costs of the barriers.

5. COVID-19 Ridership Impacts

Ms. Feliciano reported that the ridership is continuing to rise. She added that we are up 5.05% in ridership compared to last month. She did confirm that we are 30% down from last year but compared to industry numbers this is good. Discussion ensued regarding the routes and ridership trends.

6. ADJOURN

Motion:

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

Approved: Huggins\*, Leaks\*, Mood\*

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

Prepared by:

  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:



Allison Terracio

Allison Terracio, Secretary