



*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, January 4, 2021 at 3:15 P.M.*

**Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority  
COVID - 19 Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, January 8, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.  
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Conference Room A**

**Members Present:**

Derrick Huggins, Chair\*  
Lil Mood\*

**Guests Present:**

Patrick Barber, Guardian Ad Litem, Richland County Government\*  
John Furgess, Board Member\*  
Christopher Lawson, Board Member\*  
Skip Jenkins, Board Member\*  
Rick Wade, Sr. Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Outreach, US Chamber of Commerce\*

**Members Absent:**

None

**The COMET Staff Present**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Mr. Huggins called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. after the determination of a quorum.

Mr. Huggins began the meeting by mentioning the participants on the call. He invited Mr. Furgess, Mr. Wade and Mr. Barber to be a resource to the Committee as he is prepared to go to the next phase of implementation of vaccination.



Mr. Huggins requested to amend the agenda to add the adoption of Phase II of the vaccination plan.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to the adoption of the agenda with the amendment of adding Phase II of the vaccination plan.

**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

3. **ADOPT MINUTES FROM December 11, 2020**

**Motion:**

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

**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

Mr. Huggins asked Mr. Wade to introduce himself.

Mr. Huggins stressed the importance of the education plan of the vaccinations and reaching out to the community leaders to ensure vaccinations are being given. Ms. Mood agreed and mentioned the importance of fixed route drivers and Transport Care Services who transport our vulnerable DART riders getting vaccinated.

Ms. Mood stressed the importance of identifying and developing a network of "trusted community voices", especially local doctors, nurses, pharmacists and elders to deliver the message of how vital it is to get COVID-19 vaccine and to be a source of accurate vaccine information, especially in minority communities and others where reluctance to receive the vaccine is known. These community advocates will need to have ready access to a DHEC partner to give them additional information to respond to questions adequately and to know they have professional back-up when they need it to respond promptly to citizen concerns.

She offered to send Leroy information on them because I have found that they make mask-wearing more comfortable, and mentioned that staff should evaluate and recommend their purchase.

Mr. Furgess stated that we have a great facility at the administrative offices on Lucius Road to use as a vaccination site. He added that the hospitals have an issue with people signing up in the 1A group which is creating more supply than demand. Discussion ensued regarding the vaccination supply.



Mr. Huggins introduced Mr. Barber. Mr. Barber stressed the importance of educating the community on the vaccination. Mr. Wade agreed.

Mr. Andoh explained the CARES Act funding and its allocation. He added that The COMET has a working relationship with DHEC, and they will be instrumental in rolling out this phase. He explained that the staff are working to see what routes are in line with hospitals and pharmacies. Mr. Andoh further explained that The COMET has multiple mobility options (Uber/Lyft) to assist in getting people to vaccination sites.

Mr. Huggins expressed the urgency of putting a team together to begin this process immediately. Mr. Andoh confirmed that staff will begin developing a marketing plan and move forward with the committee's requests.

Ms. Mood suggested using the word "information" as opposed to "education" when rolling the plan out as some may find the word "education" offensive.

Mr. Furgess suggested reaching out to medical providers/contractors. The committee agreed.

Mr. Jenkins suggested community zoom meetings would be a good way to get the word out.

#### **4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Update of Executive Order**

Mr. DesChamps stated that the Governor has extended the Executive Order. He reminded the committee of the mask mandate and the fine for not wearing a mask. He commented that the fine increased.

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

Mr. Sanchez updated the committee of the food delivery, vehicle cleaning & COVID-19 Policy. He confirmed that a temperature kiosk has been installed in the maintenance area.

December: Ninety (90) food deliveries.  
506 vehicles detailed.  
405 units were fogged.  
1443 exterior and interior cleanings.

##### **C. Update of Testing**

Mr. Sanchez informed the committee of the testing at COMET Central. Ms. Mood reminded the committee of the HIPPA laws and noted we will have to rely on the staff to self-reporting.



Total number of testing - 163 employees.

Mr. DesChamps updated the committee of the upcoming dates for onsite testing.

**D. Update of Driver Barriers**

Mr. Andoh referred to Page 8 of the packet. He stated that RATP Dev is modifying the fareboxes to eliminate the blockage of the coin slot on thirty-one (31) of the buses. so the installation can continue for the fleet. He added that a purchase order has been issued for the minivans. Mr. Andoh stated that he anticipates the entire fleet to be outfitted with barriers by the end of March 2021.

**E. Update on DART Office Space**

Ms. Gibbons updated the committee of the DART/Customer Service office space. She stated that we are still practicing social distancing and mask wearing. She added that the schedules are being staggered to limit interaction in the small space. Additionally, the office is still being disinfected and cleaned frequently.

Ms. Mood mentioned an apparatus that she has purchased to go under the face mask. She offered to send the information to Mr. DesChamps and Ms. Gibbons as she highly recommends it for the staff.

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

Discussion ensued regarding vaccination roll out.

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Huggins to authorize staff to implement the formation of a transportation plan to connect riders to vaccination locations.

**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

Mr. Andoh confirmed that staff will create a marketing plan and begin making community connections for plan roll out and be prepared to present at next committee meeting.

**G. Update of FAR-UV Technology On Buses and in Buildings**

Mr. Andoh stated that he has reached out to Santee Water and they have agreed to allow us to do a pilot using the FAR-UV technology on our buses. He added that we will update the committee as it progresses.



Mr. Huggins thanked the staff for the hard work regarding the COVID pandemic.

5. ADJOURN

**Motion:**

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

**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 A.M.


CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this January, 2021

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Allison Terracio, Secretary



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**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

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Mr. Huggins thanked the staff for the hard work regarding the COVID pandemic.

**5. ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

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**Approve:** Huggins\*, Mood\*

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed**

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 A.M.

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