



3613 LUCIUS ROAD. • COLUMBIA, SC • 29201

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Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
COVID -19 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, May 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC, 29201

Conference Room A (Large) – 2nd Floor

Prior to entering the meeting, please turn all electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) to a silent, vibrate or off position.

Lill Mood (Lexington County)

Derrick Huggins (City of Columbia)

John V. Furgess, Sr. (Richland County Legislative Delegation)

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 23, 2021 PAGES 2-6
 4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS PAGES 7-12
 - A. Update of Executive Orders-South Carolina (LeRoy DesChamps)
 - B. Update of The COMET Operations (Maurice Bell)
 - C. Update of Testing & Vaccination of Employees (LeRoy DesChamps)
 - D. Update of Vaccination and Impacts to Public Transit (Pamela Bynoe-Reed and LeRoy DesChamps)
 5. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (Derrick Huggins)
 6. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: *Friday, May 28, 2021 @ 10 a.m. at The COMET, 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201.*

All items on this agenda are subject to action being taken by the Committee. Agenda order is subject to change.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The COMET will make all reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to participate in this meeting. Upon request to the Public Information Specialist & Clerk of the Board, The COMET will provide agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Requests should be sent to The COMET by mail at 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201, by fax at (803) 255-7113, or by e-mail to info@catchthecomet.org. For language assistance, interpreter services, please contact (803) 255-7133, 711 through the Relay Service. Para información en Español, por favor llame al (803) 255-7133.

Take The COMET to the Meeting! Route 6 and DART serve the facility. Visit www.CatchTheCOMET.org or call (803) 255-7100 for more details.

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 Angela Jacobs at ajacobs@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, April 22, 2021.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
COVID-19 AD-HOC Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, April 23, 2021 - 10:00 AM
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Conference Room A

Members Present:

John Furgess*
Lill Mood

Guests Present:

Maurice Bell, RATP Dev
Dennis Franklin, TCS*
Joe McKelvey, RATP Dev*

Members Absent

Derrick Huggins

The COMET Staff Present:

Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Director of Marketing & Community Affairs/Public Information Officer
Leroy DesChamps, Director of Administration Operations/COO
Tanisha Gibbons, Interim Customer Experience & Contract Compliance Specialist
Eric Harris, Planning & Development Specialist
Angela Jacobs, Interim Public Information Specialist/Board Clerk
*Via Phone

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Ms. Mood called the meeting to Order at 10:02 a.m.
A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion to adopt the April 23rd agenda was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Furgess.

Ayes: Furgess, Mood

Nays: None.

Absent: Huggins

Motion passed.

3. **ADOPTION OF MARCH 26, 2021 MINUTES**

Motion: A motion to adopt the March 26, 2021 Minutes was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Furgess.

Ayes: Furgess, Mood

Nays: None

Absent: Huggins

Motion passed.

4. **DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Update of Executive Orders—South Carolina**

Mr. DesChamps informed the Committee that on April 7th and April 22nd the Governor issued Executive Orders extending COVID-19 related procedures for an additional 15 days. The COMET continues to follow the Executive Order.

B. **Update on The COMET Operations**

Mr. Bell reported that the COVID cleaning process is going well and to date 397 buses have been detailed during the month of March, with 282 foggings performed, 1509 interior and exterior cleanings. He said that one item changed in the process with the help of Dennis Franklin, Operations Manager at TCS, where he was successful in locating a new cleaning product, DZ-7 that is now being utilized on the buses and has been proven to fight against coronavirus. TCS staff is utilizing that solution for mopping the floors as well as cleaning the touch points on all vehicles during regular daily cleanings, which is an added effort to keep the vehicles clean and free of coronavirus. Mr. Bell also reported that 46 vaccination trips have been completed since the last meeting and 22 vaccination trips are scheduled within the next 14 days.

C. **Update of Testing & Vaccination of Employees**

Mr. DesChamps reported that The COMET in partnership with DHEC, continues to offer COVID testing at the Central Kiosk on Wednesday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 am - noon and 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. He referred the Committee to pages 9-11 of the packet which outlines the current COVID testing results which have been performed at COMET Central. He reported that testing with Lovelace Family Medical was scheduled for March 23rd but due to low employee response the testing was cancelled. He said it is being reinforced to employees about the different options for testing at other locations as well as COMET Central. He said low response is to be expected as we move forward into the vaccination phase. He said to date, nearly 80% of the administrative staff have been vaccinated and we continue to encourage others. Ms. Mood asked if the vaccination percentage of RATP Dev employees had been determined and Mr. Bell said he would research and provide those vaccination numbers at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Furgess asked if any thought had been given to making vaccination mandatory for drivers who interact with the public. Ms. Mood stated that the Committee had not considered it but it could be up for discussion. Mr. Furgess stated that if bus drivers are not being vaccinated, they are not protecting themselves and the passengers and that the vaccine should be made available and easily accessible to The COMET employees. Ms. Bynoe-Reed reported that pursuant to Mr. Furgess' recommendation that the vaccine be made available at COMET Central, she reached out to Prisma Health and they were unable to administer the vaccine at COMET Central. Ms. Bynoe-Reed then reached out to Health Force, LLC and they agreed to provide the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine at COMET Central on April 19th, but due to the government pausing the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine, vaccinations were canceled. While the vaccine is being reviewed, the anticipated date for rescheduling is May 5th. Ms. Bynoe-Reed reached out to Health Force to see if they could administer Moderna or Pfizer in addition to Johnson & Johnson. Mr. Furgess asked if vaccinations would be available at the Lucius Road administrative building for employees only. Mr. DesChamps said a deciding factor would depend on the number of people wanting to receive the vaccine and because most administrative employees have been vaccinated a discussion would need to be had with RATP Dev about vaccinations for their employees. Mr. DesChamps also stated that it should also be considered that if several employees are vaccinated on the same day, there could be possible side effects and may affect their ability to work and rider services. Mr. Bell said that RATP Dev is continuing to offer operators reimbursement for their time to get vaccinated but has had very limited participation. Some employees have discreetly, done it on their own, and because that information is voluntary, RATP Dev has not been pushing hard for it.

Mr. Furgess said he would like to discuss mandatory vaccination at the next Board meeting because it is detrimental to everyone coming into the Lucius Road facility if employees are not vaccinated. Ms. Mood agreed that we need to take seriously both our responsibility to protect our employees, the public and to set an example for the public in terms of what it will take for us not to live with the threat of the virus long-term. She said the solution is for enough people to get vaccinated so that no one is at risk. Ms. Mood said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would be more reasonable, feasible most readily available. She said storing and administering the vaccine can be a complicated process and may lead to a waste in vaccines if not enough employees agree to be vaccinated. She recommended employees go to a location that is already offering the vaccine, like the center at Columbia Place Mall which is open from 7am to 7pm, with no appointment necessary. Ms. Mood said she takes Mr. DesChamps' concerns

about side effects seriously but there are a lot more implications to service with of people are not being vaccinated. Ms. Mood said the committee could report their efforts to explore this to the Board. Ms. Mood asked Mr. Bell to provide the vaccination numbers of RATP Dev employees at the next Committee to determine how to move forward.

D. Update of Vaccination and Impacts to Public Transit

Ms. Bynoe-Reed updated the committee on The COMET's plans, marketing, and media regarding COVID-19 efforts. She reported that she has had conversations with Uber and Lyft to provide free transportation until September 30th to citizens in Richland and Lexington County who are going to receive their vaccination, at any location. She said riders do not necessarily need to show any type of proof, however, the code will only be active for two round trips which would cover them if they will receive the two-shot vaccination. The COMET's marketing will be responsible for letting people know what the code is. The COMET is working with Uber to launch around May 17th and are working out details with Lyft to launch simultaneously, so it will be one cohesive program. Ms. Bynoe-Reed said we are excited because Lyft's funding is being provided through the United Way. She also reported that a media event was held today with Chairman Huggins receiving his second shot at Prisma's Gamecock Park location. He rode the number 61 bus and the event was filmed and photographed, and he interacted with passengers and the driver and he went through the process just like our passengers do. Ms. Bynoe-Reed said she is packaging a story to the media in hopes that it makes the 5pm, 6pm and 11pm news today. The package will be sent to the Board prior to being sent to the media. Ms. Mood said she is happy about the Board being involved with this because people's decisions on whether to get the vaccine depends on who tells them it is a good idea, and some comes from medical experts and from people they trust in the community. Mr. Furgess said it was an excellent idea and said that if we could carry this one step further with a bus driver getting the shot, that would let the passengers know we are concerned about them too. Ms. Bynoe-Reed said she would work on an addendum to the story with Mr. Bell to include a bus driver.

5. ADJOURN

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Furgess.

Ayes: Furgess, Mood

Nays: None

Absent: Huggins

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this _____, 2021.

Prepared by:

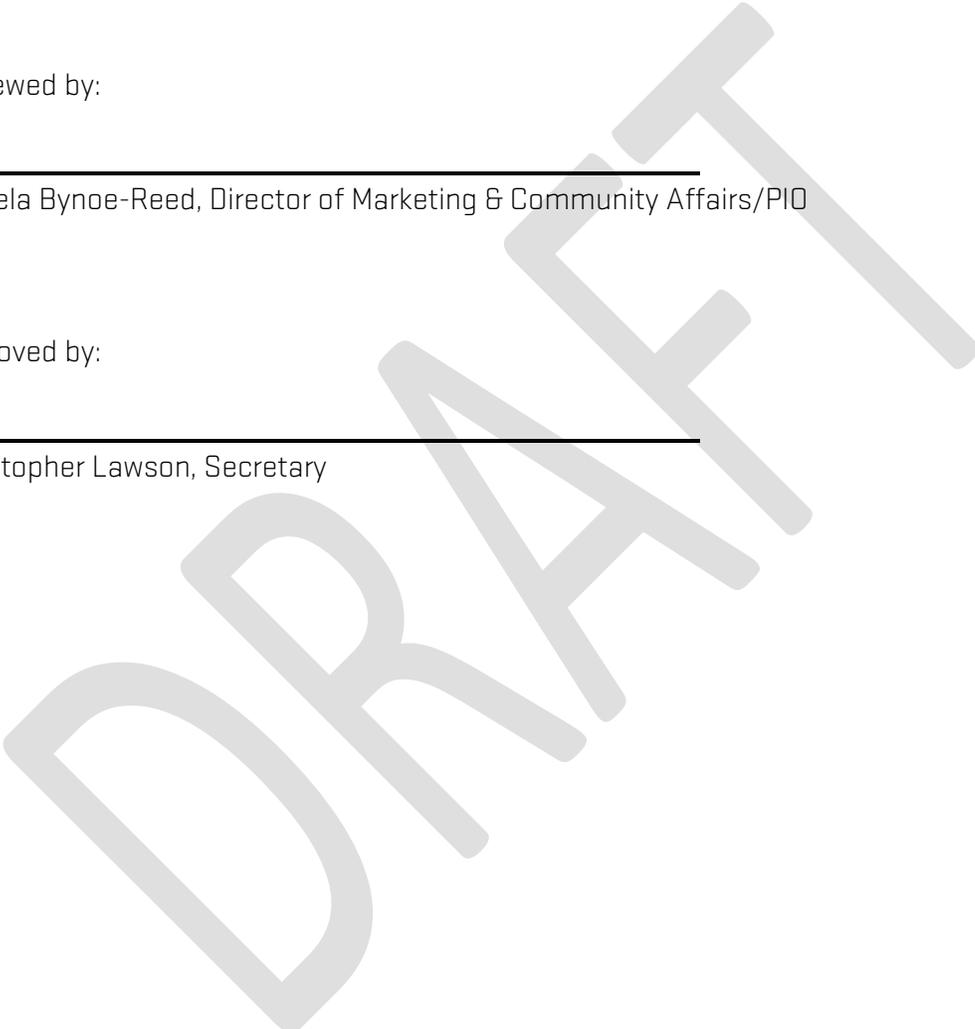
Angela Jacobs, Interim Public Information Specialist/Board Clerk

Reviewed by:

Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Director of Marketing & Community Affairs/PIO

Approved by:

Christopher Lawson, Secretary





Friday, May 7, 2021

Agenda Item # 4

To: Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee
From: LeRoy DesChamps, Interim Executive Director
Subject: COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee Staff Report

Requested Action: Staff recommends that the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee review the discussion and action items for consideration.

Background and Summary: A summary of today's COVID-19 items is shown below to update the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee regarding The COMET's Operations.

A. Update of Executive Order

Since the COVID-19 Committee last met, the Governor has issued another executive order extending the State of Emergency for another 15 days as of April 22, 2021 as 2021-20 which is available here: [2021-04-22 FILED Executive Order No. 2021-20 - State of Emergency.pdf \(sc.gov\)](#)

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has [extended the face mask requirement](#) for all transportation networks, including public transportation, through September 13, 2021. TSA's initial face mask requirement went into effect on February 1, 2021 with an expiration date of May 11, 2021.

While this announcement extends the date of enforcement, all other aspects of the requirement remain unchanged, including exemptions and civil penalties.

Learn more about FTA's guidance to the transit industry on the Federal mask requirement for public transit at the [FTA Transit Mask Up webpage](#).

Links:

[TSA extends face mask requirement at airports and throughout the transportation network \(press release\)](#)

[CDC Travel Information](#)

[TSA Face Mask Requirements Memorandum](#)

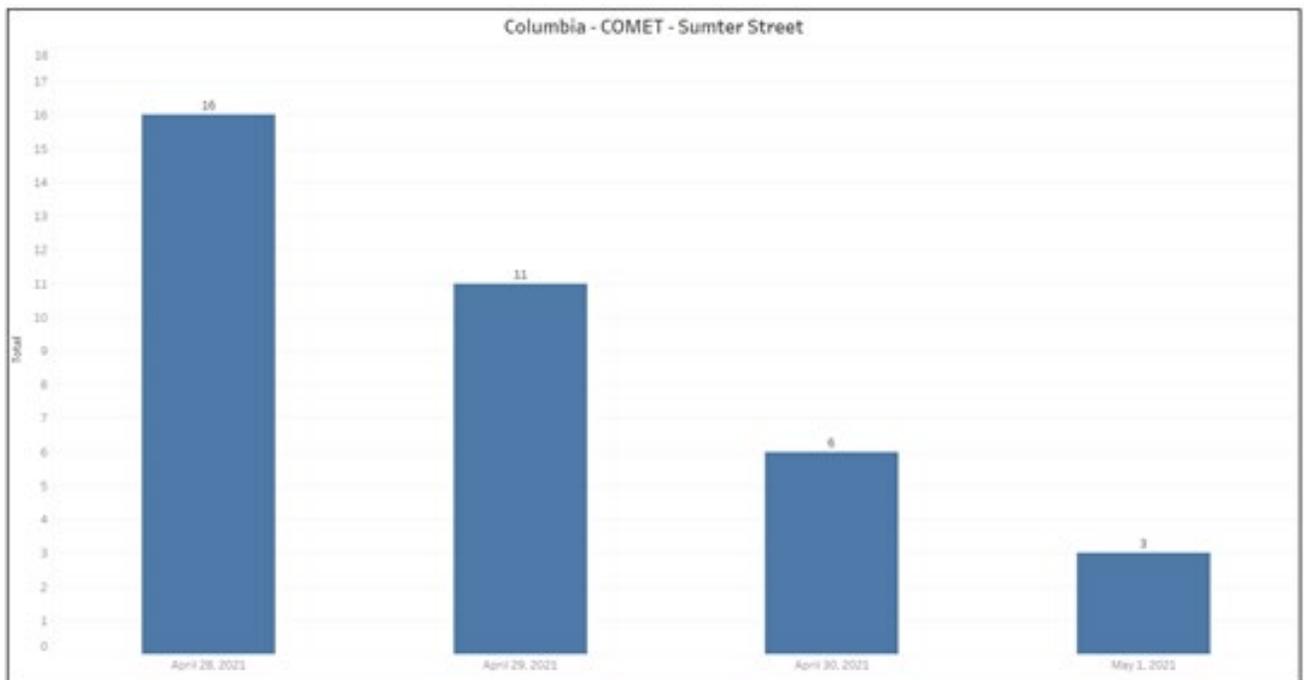
[FTA Transit Mask Up Webpage](#)

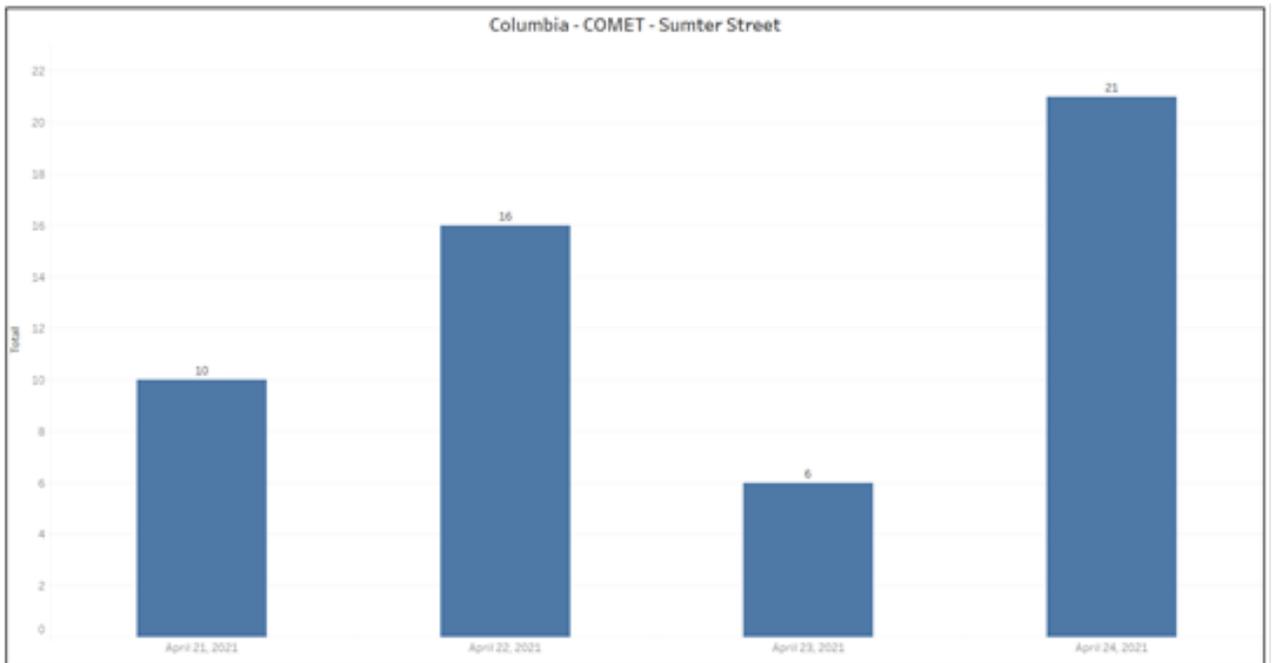
B. Update of The COMET Operations – including Food Delivery, Vehicle Cleaning & COVID-19 Policy

The COMET and RATP Dev staff will update the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee regarding food delivery, vehicle cleaning activities including compliance with the COVID-19 Policy.

C. Update of Testing

The COMET has been doing COVID-19 testing at COMET Central in a secure kiosk performed outdoors since December 2020 as a free service to The COMET riders Wednesday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The kiosk will be discontinued by DHEC as of Monday, May 10, 2021. For those needing testing, the vaccine vendor, Health Force, LLC has been providing them upon request. Current numbers of individuals taking advantage of COVID-19 testing at COMET Central are listed below. This number has decreased from an average of 35 per day to 9 per day since its inception.





The COMET staff will provide a verbal update regarding COVID-19 testing among the employees.

D. Update of Vaccination and Impacts to Public Transit

South Carolina is currently offering vaccinations to anyone over the age of 16 by appointments and some locations are accepting walk-ins. Pfizer and Moderna are now available in South Carolina. Johnson & Johnson/Janssen is reinstated for public health usage per review by CDC after being temporarily suspended.

People with increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease

- People aged 16-54 with one or more of the following high-risk medical conditions:
 - Cancer (current, not a history of cancer), chronic kidney disease (any stage), chronic lung disease, diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2), Down syndrome, heart disease (congestive heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary hypertension), HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI >30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease.
- People who have a developmental or other severe high-risk disability that makes developing severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection more likely.
- **Frontline workers with increased occupational risk**
- Frontline workers with increased occupational risk are people who:
 - Must be in-person at their place of work, and
 - Perform a job that puts them at increased risk of exposure due to their frequent, close (less than 6 feet) and ongoing (more than 15 minutes) contact with others in the work environment
 - Examples of frontline workers include but are not limited to school staff and daycare workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, law enforcement officers, etc.

- **Individuals at increased risk in settings where people are living and working in close contact**
 - Residents and workers in group home settings for the mentally or physically disabled or those with behavioral or substance abuse conditions
 - Workers and residents in homeless shelters
 - Workers and residents in community training homes
 - State and local correctional facility staff with direct inmate contact
 - Correctional and immigration detention facility inmates
 - Migrant farmworkers living in shared housing or reliant on shared transportation

Staff continues discussions with Uber and Lyft regarding implementation of their services in Richland and Lexington Counties.

Fiscal Impacts: TBD.

Legal Counsel Review: None.

Recommended Motion: TBD.

Attachments: NA

For information regarding this staff report, please contact LeRoy DesChamps at (803) 255-7085 or email ldeschamps@TheCOMETSC.gov.

Approved for Submission,



LeRoy DesChamps, Interim Executive Director

Friday, May 7, 2021

Agenda Item # 4D

To: Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee
From: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Director of Marketing & Community Affairs/Public Information Officer
Subject: COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee Staff Report

Requested Action: Staff recommends that the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee review the discussion and action items for consideration.

Background and Summary: A summary of today's COVID-19 items is shown below to update the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee regarding The COMET's Marketing of its COVID-19 initiatives.

A. Update of Don't Miss Your Shot Campaign

- On April 23, 2021, we captured video footage and photography of Chairman Huggins' experience receiving his COVID-19 vaccine at the Prisma Health location at Gamecock Park. The vendors used were Voice & Vision Media (Rick Taylor) and Michael Dantzler Photography. We received some media attention and will ensure more mileage from this documentation through our social media platforms this month and in the design of flyers, brochures, and marketing collaterals. The video footage will be part of the second wave of commercials planned for July-August on Spectrum and other broadcast networks.
[COMET BOARD CHAIR WON'T MISS HIS SHOT, ENCOURAGES THE COMMUNITY TO GET VACCINATED – Millennium Magazine Columbia SC News \(millmag.org\)](#)
- We have two more special newsletters that will go out through The COMET's list serve and that of Thomas Media Group. The next one is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12.**
- We have continued partnership discussions with **Uber and Lyft** regarding implementation of their vaccine transportation services in Richland and Lexington Counties.
 - **Uber** is ready to go with a May 17, 2021 start of providing trips to any vaccine destination in our service territory. All trips are capped per person at four. Per Mayor Geraldene Robinson's request to accommodate the Webber Elementary School vaccine clinic on **May 15**, Uber will implement a soft rollout on that date and targeted marketing materials will be produced and distributed in Lower Richland.

- Lyft is still working on coordination with United Way to ensure that they have a process in place for the funding. It is hoped that all is worked out by May 17.
- Both programs are funded through \$50k each from both Uber and Lyft, with a match from The COMET coming from either ARA (American Rescue Act) funding or Service Enhancements. The program is expected to go until September 2021 until renewed or depletion of the funding allocation.
- The Marketing team is busy updating the brochure and the website to reflect new locations and changes in how to access. As of Monday, May 3, 2021, Health Force LLC is providing both Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines at COMET Central. The hours of operation are Sundays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday from 8 a.m. - noon and 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The vendor is reporting an average of 25 people being vaccinated per day with testing being also provided upon request. We will have a Don't Miss Your Shot banner to accompany the Health Force banner at the gate. We received media coverage from WLTX-19 on opening day and numerous media hits with the announcement. Social media responses have been favorable.

B. Signage and Collateral Support

- Updated Mask signage was produced and installed on all vehicles pursuant to a conversation with our TSA representative regarding mask compliance. This is large and in the second window from the passenger side front entry.
- To aide in passenger mask compliance, we also produced “No eating/drinking” signs and requested that the service line install them on all vehicles except for paratransit/DART.

Fiscal Impacts: TBD.

Legal Counsel Review: None.

Recommended Motion: TBD.

Attachments: NA

For information regarding this staff report, please contact Pamela Bynoe-Reed (803) 255-7139 or email pbynoe-reed@TheCOMETSC.gov.

Approved for Submission,



Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Director of Marketing and Community Affairs/Public Information Officer