

If you are 65 years of age or older and/or you have a disability, our services are here for you.

### DART

Provided within 3/4 of a mile of either side of a The COMET shared, non-express, fixed route bus.



Call **803-255-7123** for reservations Monday – Friday, 9-5. Specify that you are going to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment. You may need to provide proof of your appointment to the driver.

### PUP

**Mobility Program:  
The COMET Pick Up Program**



The COMET Pick Up Program gives you a debit card to pay up to \$50 a month in taxi, Lyft or Uber rides.

#### Available if you:

1. Live outside The COMET service area.
2. Live inside Richland or Lexington County.
3. Live inside the Columbia Urbanized Area.

### V-TRIP

**Mobility Program:  
Volunteer Transportation Program**



V-TRIP lets riders get money back to pay the people in their life who drive them. If you have a friend from church, work, school, or the neighborhood, who gives you a ride this program may help cover gas. You can travel up to 100 miles a month and a list of trips made must be submitted monthly to be reimbursed.

#### Available if you:

1. Live outside The COMET service area.
2. Live inside Richland or Lexington County.
3. Live inside the Columbia Urbanized Area.

Registration is required for V-TRIP and PUP. Call Brittany Terry, Mobility Management Specialist to get started at **803-834-2382** (TTY/TDD: 711) or email: [mobility@thecometsc.gov](mailto:mobility@thecometsc.gov).

## COVID Rules of the Road to Remember



TSA requires proper wearing of face masks, per federal law. Face masks are to be worn at all times. Failure to comply will result in denial of boarding or removal, and may result in penalties.

- Neck Gaiters are allowed as long as they are double-ply (or folded over for extra protection).
- Face shields must be accompanied by a mask.
- Open chin bandanas are allowed IF they are also accompanied by a mask.



Travel on fixed route must be one-way to a specific location – no continuous riding without a destination.



Boarding some buses may require you to enter through the rear doors, unless you have a wheelchair or stroller or are disabled and needing assistance.



**DON'T  
MISS  
YOUR  
SHOT**

Newsletter 30  
April 2021

[COMETCovidHelp.org](https://www.cometsc.gov/COVIDHelp)  
803-255-7100





## John Andoh steps down as CEO and Executive Director of The COMET.

Today, as I embark onto my next journey, I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of The COMET, whether it is by way of riding our fixed route buses or paratransit service, or taking advantage of our mobility programs with Ly! and Uber, commuting via vanpool, riding a Blue Bike, getting your vaccination shot because of us or having a friend volunteer to take you where you need to go.

For the past three years, as your Executive Director, I worked hard to make sure you had ample transportation, ensure we were a part of your community through our active engagement with many partners and most importantly, be available to respond to your many comments, questions, concerns and suggestions. I leave The COMET in good hands with LeRoy DesChamps whom will continue the many things that we have going to ensure that The COMET is the premier transportation choice in the Central Midlands for you and future generations to come. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and happy trails!

**John Andoh, CCTM, CPM**

Outgoing Executive Director/CEO of The COMET

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### The COMET is offering Free Covid-19 Vaccinations at the COMET Central hub.

In partnership with Health Force, LLC, beginning in May 2021 The COMET will offer free COVID-19 vaccines — based on supply and availability — at the COMET Central hub located on the corner of Laurel and Sumter Streets in the back gated parking lot. The vaccine will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as follows:

#### Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Sundays

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Have you received your COVID-19 vaccination?

**Anyone who is 16+ is now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) took a phased approach to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure that high risk individuals were able to receive their vaccine first. We've officially entered Phase 2 of SCDHEC's COVID-19 vaccination plan, and anyone who is 16 or older is now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can also ride The COMET to the Community Vaccination Center at Columbia Place Mall (Routes 55, 75, 501) to receive your COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines will start on April 12, 2021 and the site will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Got a group that is 65+ or disabled? Call us at 803-255-7123 to make group arrangements.

Catch The COMET for a free ride to vaccination sites and learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine at SCDHEC's website.

No appointment is necessary, however if you want to reserve a spot contact:

**Health Force**  
at 1-844-579-1500 or  
HealthForceUs.com.

### Don't Miss Your Shot!

**Catch The COMET to Get Your Vaccine.** The COMET transit services are always available to get you to where you need to go. However, to receive the vaccine, you must first:

1. Check to see if it's your turn using the following link: <https://scdhec.gov/vaxfacts>
2. If it IS your turn, find a location and make an appointment. <https://scdhec.gov/vaxlocator>
3. You may also call DHEC at **1-866-365-8110** for help finding a vaccine provider.

Below are the major vaccination locations who corresponding with The COMET routes. You may need to show proof of your vaccine appointment to the bus operator.

