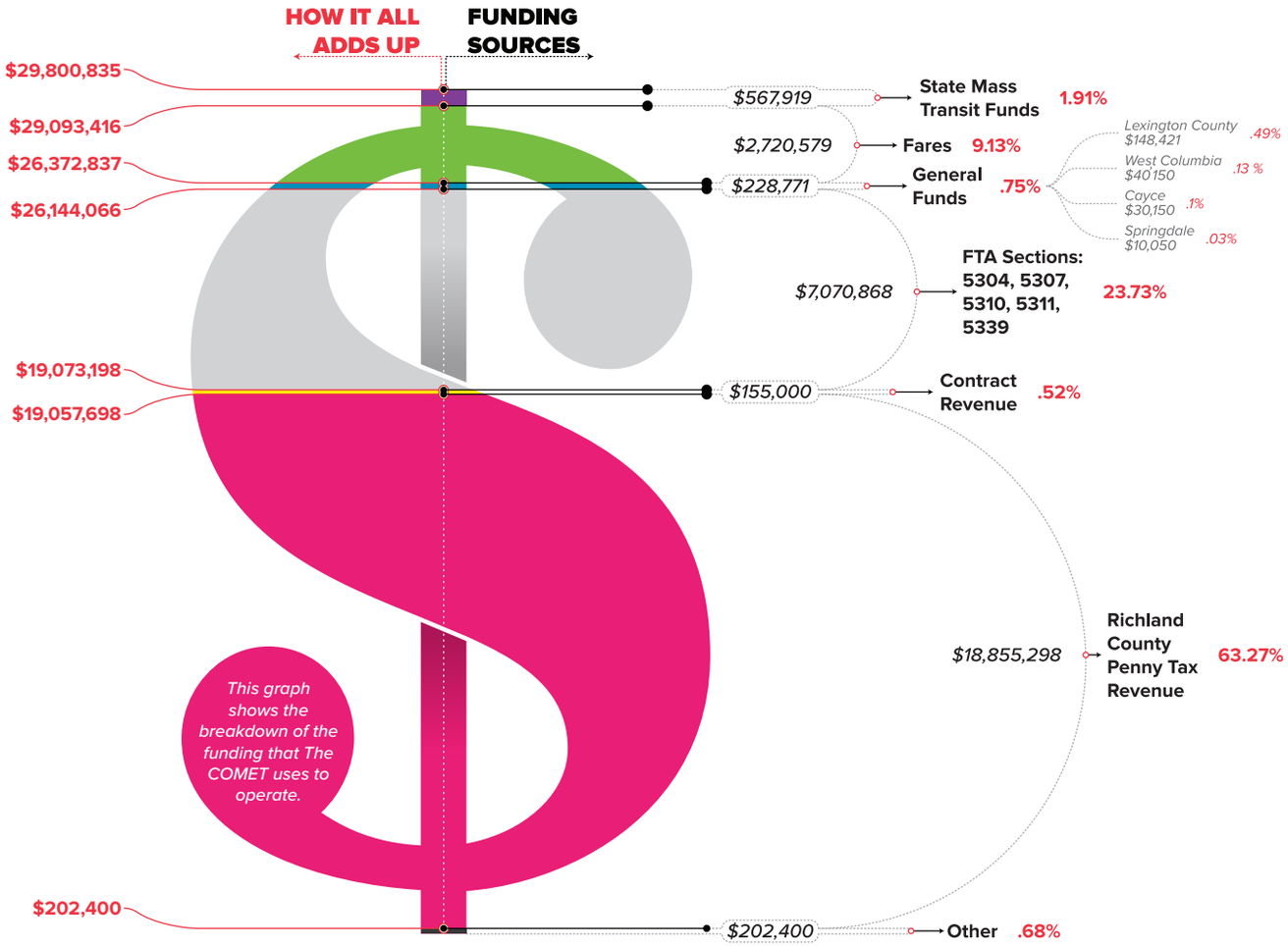
COST AND FUNDING
FY 2019-2020

This brochure provides information and facts about the operation of The COMET in Columbia, South Carolina. It aims to educate the Midlands about the opportunities and challenges for public transportation today and in the future.

www.CatchTheCOMETSC.gov
info@CatchTheCOMETSC.gov
(803)255-7133

THE COMET
CENTRAL MIDLANDS TRANSIT

COST AND FUNDING FACTS
FY 2019-2020



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO OPERATE THE COMET ANNUALLY?

The operation budget for FY 2019-2020 is $29,800,835. That amount includes the operating budget of $23,270,916 and the capital budget of $6,529,919.

WHERE DOES FUNDING COME FROM TO OPERATE THE COMET?

Using the FY 2019/2020 budget numbers, The COMET receives about 63.27% from Richland County Penny Tax, 23.73% from Federal Transit Administration Sections 5304, 5307, 5310, 5311, and 5339, 9.13% from fare revenue, .52% from contract revenues, .49% from the Lexington County General Fund, .13% from the West Columbia General Fund, .1% from the Cayce General Fund, .03% from the Springdale General Fund, 1.91% from State Mass Transit Funds allocated to Richland and Lexington County, and the remaining .68% comes from rental income, advertising, miscellaneous, CDBG, Older American Act, and Hospitality Tax funds.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RUN ONE ROUTE PER MONTH/PER YEAR?

Approxmately $350,000 per year based on 363 day operation at a rate of $75.00 per hour.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PURCHASE A BUS?

It costs approximately $450,000 for a diesel bus and $100,000 for a propane bus.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BUILD A SHELTER?

It costs approximately $14,460 - $25,785.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO INSTALL A BENCH?

It costs approximately $1,505 - $1,615.

PENNY TAX EXPENDITURES
SINCE JULY 1, 2013

NEW BUSES AND MORE

23 HEAVY DUTY 35' BUSES

8 HEAVY DUTY 40' BUSES

40 BUS BENCHES

65 BUS SHELTERS

41 PROPANE POWERED "CUTAWAY" SHUTTLES

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

CAMERAS

WIFI

PHONE CHARGERS

BUS TRACKING & PAYMENT

SERVICES

12 EMPLOYEES TO ADMINISTER THE COMET

MAINTENANCE SERVICE BY TRANSDEV & LOCAL DBES

OPERATIONS CONTRACT WITH TRANSDEV & LOCAL DBES

MARKETING & ADVERTISING THE COMET

- The 2013 Richland County Penny Tax allocates 29% of the revenue to fund transit over the next 25 years.
- The COMET's operating budget has grown by 190% since 2002; however, state funding has remained flat.
- Federal Funds make up approximately 24% of The COMET's operating budget; yet, like state funding, federal funds available for operations have remained flat despite rising costs.
- The COMET will receive Richland County penny tax funding until 2035 or $300,991,000, whichever comes first.