

SUSPENDABLE CONDUCT POLICY

The COMET will not provide transit services to passengers who have exhibited behavior that is violent, seriously disruptive, or illegal. Suspendible Conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following conduct:

- Threats of physical harm to other passengers, bus operators, or any other service personnel.
- Physical assault or battery on the bus operator or other passengers.
- Verbal abuse, including the use of profanity, intimidation, or altercation with the bus operator or other passengers.
- Failure to obey a bus operator's lawful direction.
- Harassment of bus operator or other passengers.
- Damage to vehicle equipment.
- Repeated violation of riding rules, including smoking in the vehicle, eating, or drinking on the vehicle.
- Failure to maintain reasonably acceptable personal hygiene standards, which could expose passengers and bus operators to health and safety risks.
- Any criminal conduct prohibited by the South Carolina Code of Laws and its Section 58-23-1810, The Public Transportation Passenger Rights Act.

Service will immediately be suspended to passengers who engage in Suspendible Conduct, and a notice of suspension will promptly be mailed to the passenger. The COMET shall conduct an investigation of the Suspendible Conduct that shall include interviewing the passenger and/or other passengers present and/or involved in the Suspendible Conduct and reviewing surveillance video footage. The COMET shall make a determination regarding the length of the suspension within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the incident resulting in the suspension.

In determining the length of the suspension and the conditions for the reinstatement of the suspended passenger's riding privileges, The COMET shall consider the cause of the Suspendible Conduct and The COMET's ability to resolve the matter in conjunction with the suspended passenger and/or the other parties involved to ensure that the Suspendible Conduct will cease. Past incidents of Suspendible Conduct will also be considered in determining the length of the suspension. Passengers may appeal the suspension of service by contacting The COMET.



3613 Lucius Rd, Columbia, SC 29201

Ph: 803 255 7100

Fax: 803 255 7113

CATCHTHECOMET.ORG

 |  |  |  |  |  | @CatchTheComet



RULES OF THE ROAD



CATCHTHECOMET.ORG

 |  |  |  |  |  | @CatchTheComet



Rules ensure safety and comfort for all passengers and the Bus Operator. Please observe the following rules when riding The COMET buses or using The COMET transit facilities (bus stops, maintenance yard, transit centers and administrative offices) as defined below:

- No smoking on buses, inside transit facilities or within 20 feet of the opening of a window or door at transit facilities.
- Eating and drinking is permitted provided that you properly dispose of the waste from eating or drinking. All drinks must have a hard top that is secured to the cup.
- Consuming or possessing unsealed alcoholic beverages is not permitted on public transit vehicles under Federal law.
- No standing in front of the yellow “standee” line, in doorways or stepwells while the bus is in motion.
- No unnecessary conversation or interference with Bus Operator for safety reasons.
- No large objects that cannot be held by the passenger, placed under seat or out of the aisle are allowed on board the bus. Bicycles are allowed inside buses at the discretion of the Bus Operator, if secured with straps in the wheelchair tie down area and as space permits.
- No signs or advertisements may be placed on board vehicles or facilities. Contact The COMET at (803) 255-7133 or email info@CatchTheCOMET.org to advertise on buses or at transit facilities.
- No vandalism, defacing, destroying, damaging or placing graffiti on buses or at transit facilities.
- No illegal activity of any kind as defined by local municipal ordinances, the South

Carolina Code of Laws and/or Federal law shall be tolerated on board buses or at transit facilities.

- All strollers, scooters and folding carts must be stowed away under the seat.
- Rollerblades and skates are not allowed to be worn on buses.
- Shoes and shirts are required to ride buses.
- No refuse (including recyclable items) on board buses.
- Not paying the established fare or misuse of transfers, passes, tickets with the intent to evade fare payment is illegal.
- Passengers may bring shopping bags, luggage or packages on buses provided that packages are carried in one trip, are not wet and leaking and does not constitute a hazard as determined by the Bus Operator. Bus Operators may assist in carrying packages less than 25 pounds at their discretion on DART and ReFlex services only. These items must be stowed under the seat, on the passenger’s lap and/or out of the aisle way. Shopping bags, luggage or packages that do not meet this requirement are prohibited.
- Have exact change ready as the Bus Operator cannot make change. No refunds are provided for bus passes purchased.
- Yield the seats in front of the bus for seniors & persons with disabilities as identified by a decal posted.
- Never extend your body from, throw any object outside the window or door or ride on any part of the exterior of a bus.
- Soliciting, holding of meetings or ceremonies is prohibited on buses or at transit facilities.
- Use of a transit facility or bus for loitering, sleeping, camping or general use in lieu of regular housing is illegal.

- Improper use of a transit shelter or waiting area as a cooking, washing or toilet facility is illegal.
- Children under the age of 10 may not ride The COMET buses or services unless accompanied by a fare paying passenger age 16 years old or older.
- Passengers must have a destination when riding The COMET buses. Passengers will be allowed two complete round trips on The COMET routes to allow for a passenger to access their appropriate destination. Passengers that do not have a destination or exceed the two round trips may be requested to leave the bus by the Bus Operator at the nearest transit center or major transfer point.

As defined in the South Carolina Code of Laws – Public Transportation Passenger Bill of Rights, Section 58-23-1830 - (a) It is unlawful for any passenger to commit any of the following acts in a public transportation vehicle or facility:

- (1) discard litter, except into receptacles designated for that purpose;
- (2) play any radio, cassette, cartridge, tape player, or similar device unless controlled by the operator, unless the device is connected to an earphone that limits the sound to the hearing of the individual user;
- (3) carry or possess any weapon, explosives, acids, other dangerous articles, or live animals, except for a seeing eye dog or a hearing ear dog properly harnessed and accompanied by its owner, small animals properly packaged, or weapons carried by or animals used by a law enforcement official;
- (4) obstruct, hinder, interfere with, or otherwise disrupt or disturb the operation or operator of a public transportation vehicle;

- (5) board a public transportation bus through the rear exit door, unless so directed by an employee or agent of the carrier;
- (6) use profane, indecent, or obscene language or actions on a public transportation vehicle, or conduct himself in a boisterous fashion while on a public transportation vehicle or at a facility.

- (b) Intoxicated persons may be excluded from riding in any public transportation vehicle by the vehicle’s driver or operator or enter a public transportation facility.
- (c) The driver of any public transportation vehicle may refuse to transport any person who insists on boarding the vehicle in a manner that will obviously violate any of the above provisions.
- (d) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction for a first offense must be imprisoned for not more than thirty days or fined not more than two hundred dollars, for a second offense, imprisoned for not more than sixty days or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both, and for a third or subsequent offense, imprisoned for not more than ninety days or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both.

The COMET or its transit operations contractor reserve the right to refuse service to passengers and/or suspend passengers who demonstrate disruptive and unsafe behavior or violates any of the rules and regulations presented above.