

NEWS & UPDATES



Derrick Huggins Named Interim CEO at The COMET

The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority (The COMET) announced that it has named Derrick Huggins as the Interim Chief Executive Officer after a unanimous vote from The COMET's Board of Directors.

Huggins, who has served on the Board of Directors of The COMET for more than ten years, brings more than 30 years of experience in transportation to the position. He spent the majority of that time at the University of South Carolina leading their successful logistics and transportation program as Vice President of Facilities and Transportation.

News from the Board of Directors

The COMET's Board of Directors is considering a fare-free option to COMET riders for a 2-month period. This will help offer another transportation option in response to the rising gas prices. The Board will discuss the matter again in their meeting on March 23.

DID YOU KNOW?

DON'T MISS YOUR SHOT

When the state and the country were suddenly struck with the COVID-19 pandemic and all the implications, The COMET went to work.

The COMET's "Don't Miss Your Shot" campaign has been providing the community with free rides to vaccination sites and, in partnership with Health Force, has set up a vaccine and testing site at The COMET Central Hub.

- There have been over **13,000 COVID-19 tests and vaccines** given at COMET Central.
- **1,334 people took rideshares** as part of the DMYS campaign to get their COVID-19 vaccine.
- **223 riders utilized DART services** to get their COVID-19 vaccine.



Sign up for The COMET's quarterly email newsletter

Want to stay up to date on The COMET's most recent news, information and updates? Sign up for our quarterly email newsletter by visiting our website at www.CatchTheCOMET.org.



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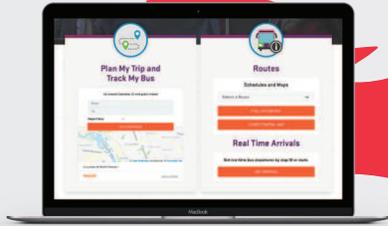
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COMET IN THE COMMUNITY



The COMET launches new website that helps plan trips

The COMET has launched a new and improved website with a number of great features including pass purchasing, real-time rider alerts and a trip planner.

The trip planning feature allows you to see real-time arrivals, a full system map and easily plug in where you're going so you know exactly which route to take.

First-time riders can also take advantage of a page dedicated to showing you how to Catch The COMET. From reading the schedules to finding your stop and learning to buy your bus pass, everything you need to know is housed in one place.

CatchtheCOMET.org



The COMET wins an International Association of Business Communicators award for 'Don't Miss Your Shot' campaign

The COMET launched the 'Don't Miss Your Shot' comprehensive campaign in early 2021 to ensure every Midlands community member has access to the COVID-19 vaccine. After the COVID-19 vaccinations were first made available in December in 2020, The COMET wanted to inform and educate Midlands residents about the life-saving vaccines as well as connect those who wanted the shot to vaccination sites.

The COMET has provided free transportation for those seeking the shot and continues to get the word out that lack of personal transportation must not be an impediment for receiving the vaccination against COVID-19. All riders have to do is show proof of their appointment to their bus operator and they can ride The COMET, for free, to major vaccination locations.



RIDING SAFELY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a federal mask requirement for transit systems. TSA originally planned to require masks on all transportation networks, including public transportation, until Sept. 13, 2021, but will now require those using transit systems to wear masks through April 18, 2022

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME TO THE COMET TEAM!



Jackie Bowers
Customer Experience &
Contract Compliance Manager



Juliet Sowell
Public Information Specialist
and Board Clerk



Mariana Paredes
Marketing Intern



Lenny Cooksey
General Manager
RATP Dev/The COMET

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Pamela Mayes

Mayes is a supervisor at RATP Dev who has been working in transportation for nearly 12 years. She was born and raised in Columbia, SC, and enjoys spending time with her kids, watching sports and learning new things every day.



Eddie Mitchell

Mitchell is a road supervisor and has worked in transportation for 42 years. He has one daughter and two grandchildren. A few of Mr. Eddie's favorite past time activities include bowling, playing video games and traveling.



Malcom Carter, Sr.

Carter began with The COMET in December of 2017. This year, Carter is the 2022 Employee of the Year for the S.C. Department of Transportation. Carter has been married for 49 years with 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.