803.255.7100 www.CatchTheCOMET.org

Gystem Map Rider's Guide



Effective Monday, February 8, 2021

Rules Of The Road

President's Executive Order 13998 requires all

covering nose and mouth No smoking on buses, inside transit facilities or within 20 feet of the opening of a window or

that you dispose of the waste from eating or

 Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on public transit buses under Federal law.

the bus is in motion.

seniors and persons with disabilities. No unnecessary conversation or interference with bus operator for safety reasons.

pushing, shouting, or any behavior that disturbs or endangers other customers.

headphones. Amplified music is not allowed on buses or at transit facilities. No flammable, hazardous materials or

(except oxygen).

allowed up to three shopping bags, luggage or packages. Bus operators may provide assistance up to 25 pounds at their discretion. Customers must have a destination when

bus by the bus operator at the nearest transit center or major transfer point.

Posting of flyers, pamphlets or brochures on

7100 or email info@CatchTheCOMET.org in regard to advertising on The COMET buses. A person who commits an assault or battery upon a transit operator with a deadly weapon

is subject to a felony. • The COMET, its security personnel, local police, Main Street District Ambassador,

or violate any of the rules and regulations presented above.

Section 58-23-1810 (Public Transportation Passenger Rights Act) is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction for a first offense must be imprisoned for not more than 30 days or fined not more than \$200, for a second offense, imprisoned for not more than 60 days or fined not more than \$500, or both, and for a third or subsequent offense, imprisoned for not more than 90 days or fined not more than \$1,000, or both.

for summer—light-colored clothing, and slow down, take your time.

 Have your fare ready, and remember to board the bus quickly as heat escapes inside the bus from the doors when they open.

 On very hot days, The COMET will provide free water to customers when temperatures exceed 105 degrees.

(803) 255-7133 or email: info@CatchTheCOMET. LIVODX can purchase Basic passes at Discount prices. Call

languages and/or accessible formats.

https://www.williamsburgcounty.sc.gov/327/

Williamburg County Transit: (843) 355-6975

• Santee Wateree RTA: (888) 748-4987

http://www.fairfieldsc.com/secondary.

Road at Marboro Street bus shelter,

MegaBus: (800) MEGA-BUS – www.

local information call (803) 569-6522.

Southeastern Stages: (877) 837.9709

(800) 531-5332. www.greyhound.com

Greyhound: (800) 231-2222, en Espanol

Amtrak Station, 850 Pulaski St, Columbia,

Trains and buses depart from the Columbia

Amtrak: 1-800-USA-RAIL – www.amtrak.com.

Contact the following providers listed below

Services to Other Services

for transportation options in the Central

megabus.com. Buses depart from Lucius

from 710-A Buckner Road, Columbia. For

www.southeasternstages.com Buses depart

Fairfield County Transit System:

Iransit-Authority

https://www.swrta.com/

aspx?page ID=268

8514-115 (778)

 Businesses and organizations that purchase in bulk and non-transferable. All passes are non-refundable, non-replaceable On the bus: Day, 7-Day or 10-Ride Passes (cash) card or money order)

Road, Columbia, SC (check, credit By mail: The COMET, 3613 Lucius COMET Central) (credit card or cash wallet payable at app from Google Play or App Store Transit, Moovit or Token Transit On our App: Catch The COMET, CatchTheCOMET.org (credit card) On our website: www.

YAG IE THINODA

**org** for more details.

Campus and COMET Central, 1745 Sumter Street Road, Columbia Visitors Center, MTC-Beltline Spires, Jr. Regional Transit Facility, 3613 Lucius Eastover and Springdale Town Halls, Lowell C. In person: All Piggly Wiggly Stores in Columbia, COMETCards, Day, 7-Day, and 31-Day Passes can be

Pass Purchase Locations

dip the pass into the farebox each time. using the 7-Day Pass or 10-Ride Pass for repeat rides, the pass using the magnetic stripe reader. When using the Day or 31-Day Pass for repeat rides, swipe the first time, dip the pass into the farebox. When eligibility of the pass. When activating the pass for stripe technology which can track the use and/or Day, 7-Day and 31-Day Passes utilize a magnetic date of pass activation and is the best value. 31-Day Pass is valid for 31 consecutive days from for periods with no expiration date.

three or more times, obtain a Day Pass as there are for unlimited rides for a 24-hour period. If you ride Day Pass can be purchased on the bus and is valid

• 7-Day Pass is valid for 7 consecutive days, 24-hour

Sasseq ((

COMET routes meet. locations where two or more The can also transfer between buses at Columbia Place Mall. Customers College-NE, Harden and Taylor and Square Center, Midlands Technical

Center, Colony Apartments, Dutch Sandhills, Alvin S. Glenn Detention Killian Road Walmart, Village at Ferry Walmart, Crowson Road, Club, Koon & Cody Drives, Garners Road Walmart, Forest Drive Sam's

is at COMET Central, located The COMET's main transfer points **Systems** Transfers

at SuperStops located at Harbison

In addition, transfers can be made

at Laurel and Sumter Streets in

Downtown Columbia.

minutes only)

License/State ID Card, Military ID Card or VA Veterans ID Card. The COMET Half Fare ID Card, Medicare Card, Senior Driver's \*Qualifying identification for Discount fare includes: transfers are accepted for no additional cost.

 Santee Wateree RTA and Fairfield County Transit System call (803) 255-7100 for details. selected employers. Visit www.CatchTheCOMET.org or high schools in Richland and Lexington Counties and youth 39 inches to 15 years old, students in middle and The COMET offers free programs for DART passengers,

Call (803) 255-7100 for more details. Half Fare ID Cards can be obtained at COMET Central. Veterans with a Military ID, Veterans ID or DD-214 form Youth ages 16-18 years old with The COMET Half Fare ID

 Medicare Card Holders with ID Persons with Disabilities with The COMET Half Fare ID Seniors ages 65 years old and older with ID \*Discount Fares are available to:

Free transfer requires COMETCard

FREE	FREE	FREE	Transfer (60				
FREE	FREE	FREE	Soda Cap Connector				
(JABin əəZ)	00°l\$+	00.2\$+	Express Route Upcharge				
<b>∀</b> /N	00°l\$ +	00.2\$+	Route Deviation on Flex Routes				
00.08\$	\$20.00	00.04\$	31-Day Pass				
00.04\$	A/N	A\N	10-Ride Pass				
00.82\$	00.7\$	00.41\$	Z-Day Pass				
00.9\$	\$5.00	00.4\$	Sas yeal-IIA				
00.4\$	00.1\$	00.2\$	One Way				
Basic Discount* Express							

Fares: Effective January 28, 2019

🚻 fransıt. Google Play or the App Plan your trip by downloading Transit app from days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call Center telephone hours are available 7 .m.q 2 ot .m.s 8 Service is available 7 days a week from a week from 5 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. Customer Sumter Street, Columbia. It is open 7 days Visit the COMET Central located at 1745

Scryice Service

week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

fares, find Blue Bikes, and

Store. You may also pay

DART reservations can be made 7 days a

order Lyft and Uber cars. Your one stop shop!

available on our website or by calling us. details, members, agendas and minutes are and 4th Wednesday of each month. Meeting COMET Board of Directors meet on the 2nd Attend our Board of Directors Meetings: The DART come to the facility).

holidays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Route 6 and SC 29201. Open Monday-Friday, excluding Transit Facility, 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, Write or visit us: Lowell C. Spires, Jr Regional email: john.andoh@CatchTheCOMET.org John Andoh at (803) 255-7087 or Contact our Executive Director/CEO: Fax us: (803) 255-7113

relay service Call us: (803) 255-7100 or 711 through the Email us: info@CatchTheCOMET.org Visit us online: www.CatchTheCOMET.org

suggestions. Tell us how we can be better for your comments, compliments, complaints or ride to be perfect every time. We welcome We hope to hear from you! We want your bus

The COMET Is Your Bus System

Please observe the following rules when riding The COMET buses or waiting at a The COMET transit stop, COMET Central or SuperStop:

persons riding buses must wear face coverings

door at transit facilities. Eating and drinking is permitted provided

 No standing in front of the white or yellow "standee" line, in doorways or stepwells while

 If you are sitting in one of the front seats, be prepared to give up your seat as a courtesy to

 No fighting, using vulgar or offensive language, All audio devices require the use of

weapons shall be allowed on board the bus

 No large object that cannot be held by the customer or placed under seat. Customers are

riding The COMET buses. After two round trips, customers may be requested to leave the

 All customers must pay a fare when boarding The COMET buses or they may be refused

The COMET buses or transit facilities are not allowed. Contact the The COMET at (803) 255-

or presents the ability to use a deadly weapon

authorized personnel or its transit operations contractor reserve the right to refuse service to customers and/or suspend customers who demonstrate disruptive and unsafe behavior

Any person violating the provisions of SC Law

## Weather - Stay Cool in the Heat

The COMET wants you to stay safe and keep your cool as you travel to your destination. Please take care as we reach extreme, humid temperatures in the summer months.

 Customers waiting at transit stops should prepare for the excessive temperatures, especially since many fixed routes generally operate every 60

Bring water, wear a hat or use an umbrella, dress

## >>> Innovative Mobility The COMET Vanpool

The COMET Vanpool is designed to assist employees to form vanpools for the hometo-work commute. A monthly subsidy of \$500 is available to help with the cost of the vanpool. Commute With Enterprise provides 7, 12 and 15 passenger vans. Vans must originate or end in Richland or Lexington Counties. A minimum of 5 people, including the primary driver is required for formation. Visit www.commutewithenterprise.com or call 1-800-VAN-4-WORK to sign up.

### The COMET On The Go!

The COMET will pay up to \$8.00 for ridesharing trips that start and end in The COMET fixed route service area on Lyft and Uber through: COMET @ Night: Seven days a week between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., apply the promo code which is posted inside the bus.

 COMET To The Market: Seven days a week between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., apply the promo code COMETMARKET20 on Lyft or obtain a voucher for Uber and your trip must start or end at a grocery store that sells fresh produce and meats. COMET To The Market can only be used twice a week per passenger. Contact The COMET as it changes monthly. Visit www. CatchTheCOMET.org for a list of approved

Anything over \$8.00 is the responsible of the passenger. The code must be entered to receive the discount. Trips outside the service area or to non-authorized grocery stores are not eligible for the discount. To get started,

download the Uber and Lyft app from App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android). If you do not have a smartphone or require mobility device access, call (803) 255-7124 for service. Blue Bike

Blue Bike provides on-demand access to bicycles for short distance trips in Downtown Columbia. The COMET riders with a 1-day, 5-day, 7-day, 31-day or 10-Ride pass can receive unlimited 45-minute Blue Bike ride sessions in a day, by asking the bus operator for a code to input in a kiosk or on the app, Blue Bike SC to unlock the bicycle at 18 stations in downtown Columbia. Stations are identified by a bicycle icon on the map. More details available by downloading the Blue Bike SC app from App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) or visiting www.bluebikesc.com. A credit card, pre-paid gift card or debit card with Visa or Mastercard logo is required to use Blue Bike and The COMET On The Go. For more information on these innovative mobility choices, please call (803) 255-7100 or email

#### Transportation for Seniors and Persons With Disabilities

info@CatchTheCOMET.org.

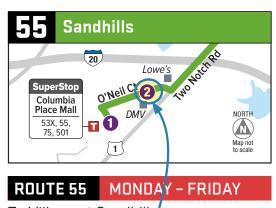
The COMET has volunteer and subsidized transportation programs called V-TRIP and Pick Up Program. They are available to you if you live outside the DART boundary, in the Columbia Urban Area within Richland and Lexington Counties and at least 65 years old or older or have a disability. For more information, call (803) 255-7130 or email mobility@ TheCOMETSC.gov

## >>> Planning Your Trip

This system map shows The COMET bus routes in colors. Locate your starting point, your destination and the bus route nearest them on the map. If the bus route nearest your starting point does not go to your destination, you may transfer to another local route.

The COMET provides individual route schedule brochures to further assist you in your travel plans. Each route brochure has its own map and corresponding schedule. When looking at the route schedule, you will see the major timepoints listed across the top of the schedule. Above each timepoint is a number which corresponds with a number on the route map to show you that timepoint's exact location. There are more stops than those listed on the schedule and map, but by finding the nearest stop listed on the schedule, you can estimate when the bus will reach your stop.

Call (803) 255-7100 and our customer representatives will help you plan your trip and mail schedules for your specific routes, or visit **www.CatchTheCOMET.org** and use the trip planner powered by Google, Apple and Bing Maps. You can also track a COMET bus by downloading the TransLoc Rider app on your smartphone to see in real time when the bus is due to arrive at your transit stop.



To Village at Sandhill 5 3 4 6:51 7:51 6:47 7:47 6:55 8:47 9:30 12:51 12:55 12:37 12:47

## >>> Special Services for Persons with Disabilities

## Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART)

DART is the complementary Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service for persons with disabilities unable to board The COMET buses or access a transit stop for any trip purpose. In order to use DART, customers must complete an ADA Certification Application. DART operates the same service hours as The COMET non-express fixed routes. Customers must board, travel and alight within 3/4 mile of an operating The COMET route. Please see the system map for DART service boundary. For more information about DART, including trip reservations, cancellations and certification, call (803) 255-7123, visit our website or see the DART Information Guide or Rider's Guide. Fare is \$4.00 one way with 10-Ride Pass available for sale.

## Accessibility

All The COMET vehicles are fully equipped with mobility aid ramp or a lift and a mobility aid securement area with space for two to four mobility aids. The bus operator will provide assistance with normal boarding or exiting, mobility device securement and operation of

the lift/ramp. Bus operators are required to secure

all mobility aids before the bus can leave the transit

Customers using a scooter may be asked to transfer to a seat on the bus. All mobility aids must be able to fit within the allocated space, have working brakes and cannot exceed the capacity of the lift/ramp (with the customer and mobility aid). If the mobility aid cannot fit the lift/ramp platform, the customer will not be able to ride. Mobility aids with leaking batteries or fluids will not be allowed to board.

All The COMET larger fixed route buses can kneel by lowering the front platform for easier boarding for customers with mobility limitations. Please let the bus operator know if you need to use the bus kneeling feature upon boarding or exiting. If necessary, Bus operators can provide assistance to help seniors and persons with disabilities board or alight buses.

#### **Alternative Transportation Policy:** If a The COMET bus has a non-functioning

ramp or lift upon arrival of pick up, another vehicle or supervisor vehicle will be dispatched to you within 30 minutes upon receipt of the call and take you to your destination for free. To check on alternative transportation or status, please call (803) 255-7100.

Most The COMET routes are radial routes which begin and end at COMET Central in downtown Columbia or at a SuperStop. Not all routes serve the COMET Central and, in most cases, a customer would have to ride at least two or more of The

which operate non-stop or with limited stops along the body of the route and do not have DART parallel service. Stops on these routes are generally available only at the beginning and end points of the route. The chart below shows the span of service (hours

of operation) according to the day of the week

and the frequency of each route (how many minutes apart trips are scheduled for each bus route). The minutes listed are approximate. Peak and offpeak service hours vary by route. Please refer to individual route schedules more specific details. All intervals shown in minutes. Times are first pick up to last drop off.

IV (N	ROUTE NAME  au Claire  WC Shuttle	COMET CENTRAL Departure Area • Time	SPAN • FREQUENCY		SPAN • FREQUENC	vV	SPAN • FREQUENC	
Ea   IV	WC Shuttle	Dehaltale Vica , Lillie	Operating hours • Minu		Operating hours • Mir		Operating hours • Min	
IV (N	WC Shuttle	Departure Area • Time  Laurel • :15	6:33 a.m. to 7:02 p.m.	60	6:33 a.m. to 7:02 p.m.	60	6:33 a.m. to 7:02 p.m.	6
F62 E62 E63 N N E53 Y G G G G	Varianhar 1 to April 1		5:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. &	15	5:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. &	15	5:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. &	1
2 E G	November 1 to April 1)	Laurel • :00, :15, :30, :45	6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.		6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.		6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.	
N Ex	airfield	Laurel • :45	6:45 a.m. to 9:01 p.m.	60	6:45 a.m. to 9:01 p.m.	60	6:45 a.m. to 9:01 p.m.	(
F Ex	dgewood	Laurel • :15	6:18 a.m. to 9:06 p.m.	60	6:18 a.m. to 9:06 p.m.	60	6:18 a.m. to 9:06 p.m.	
Y G	lorth Loop	N/A	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	20	No Service	N/A	No Service	1
G	xpress	N/A	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	15	No Service	N/A	No Service	<u> </u> 
	'ellow	N/A	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	20 15	No Service  No Service	N/A N/A	No Service	
	Greek Village Express Green	N/A N/A	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	15	No Service	N/A	No Service No Service	
	red	N/A	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	15	No Service	N/A	No Service	
	Blue	N/A	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	15	No Service	N/A	No Service	
					9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. &		9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. &	
ı W	Vest Campus	N/A	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	10	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	20	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	
1 R	losewood	Sumter • :15	7:15 a.m. to 8:12 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 8:12 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 8:12 p.m.	
	larden	N/A	9:40 a.m. to 3:37 p.m.	60	No Service	N/A	No Service	
-	Sateway/MTC Beltline Campus	N/A	Service Suspended	60	No Service	N/A	No Service	
	vening 1	N/A	6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.	30	No Service		No Service	
	vening 2	N/A	6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.	30	No Service	N/A	No Service	
	enny Terrace ReFlex	N/A	6:40 a.m. to 7:37 p.m.	60	6:40 a.m. to 7:37 p.m.	60	6:40 a.m. to 7:37 p.m.	
	lorth Main/							
H	lardscrabble	N/A	6:40 a.m. to 6:20 p.m.	60	8:40 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.	60	8:40 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.	
2 M	lillwood	Laurel • :15	6:15 a.m. to 7:10 p.m.	60	6:15 a.m. to 7:10 p.m.	60	6:15 a.m. to 7:10 p.m.	
X Lo	ower Richland Express	Laurel • Variable	6:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. & 5:15 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.	2 Trips	No Service	N/A	No Service	
5 Le	eesburg-Hazelwood	N/A	6:45 a.m. to 8:44 p.m.	60	6:45 a.m. to 8:44 p.m.	60	6:45 a.m. to 8:44 p.m.	
/	astover/Gadsden	N/A	5:36 a.m. to 7:26 p.m.	120	9:36 a.m. to 3:26 p.m.	120	No Service	
	eFlex andhills	N/A	6:55 a.m. to 9:48 p.m.	60	6:55 a.m. to 9:48 p.m.	60	6:55 a.m. to 9:48 p.m.	
			6:21 a.m. to 9:48 a.m. &				·	
L K	illian/Clemson Local	N/A	3:21 p.m. to 7:21 p.m.	60	9:21 a.m. to 5:21 p.m.	60	No Service	
1 SI	hop	Sumter • :15	7:15 a.m. to 8:41 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 8:41 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 8:41 p.m.	
5 D	ecker/Parklane	N/A	6:50 a.m. to 9:43 p.m.	60	6:50 a.m. to 9:43 p.m.	60	6:50 a.m. to 9:43 p.m.	
i Fo	ort Jackson	N/A	6:50 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.	120	6:50 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.	120	6:50 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.	
	olo	N/A	7:50 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	60	7:50 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	60	7:50 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	
	t. Andrews Local	N/A	8:07 a.m. to 8:52 p.m.	60	8:07 a.m. to 8:52 p.m.	60	8:07 a.m. to 7:52 p.m.	
4	Bush River/ t. Andrews	Sumter • :15	8:15 a.m. to 8:26 p.m.	60	8:15 a.m. to 8:26 p.m.	60	8:15 a.m. to 7:26 p.m.	
	Seltline Crosstown	N/A	9:25 a.m. to 5:25 p.m.	120	No Service	 N/A	No Service	
	pringdale/Cayce	Sumter • :15	6:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.	60	9:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.	60	No Service	
	2th Street Extension		5:30 a.m. to 7:02 a.m. &	One	5:30 a.m. to 7:02 a.m. &	One	5:30 a.m. to 7:02 a.m. &	
^ E:	xpress	Sumter or Laurel • Variable	5:30 p.m. to 7:02 p.m.	Trip	5:30 p.m. to 7:02 p.m.	Trip	5:30 p.m. to 7:02 p.m.	
X I-	26 Express	Sumter • Variable	5:35 a.m. to 8:19 a.m. & 4:55 p.m. to 7:38 p.m.	One Trip	No Service	N/A	No Service	
4 G	Gateway/MTC Airport	N/A	Service Suspended	60	No Service	N/A	No Service	
C	Campus		,					
	Vest Columbia/Cayce	N/A	5:55 a.m. to 7:12 p.m.	60	9:05 a.m. to 2:57 p.m.	60	No Service	
	latesburg/Leesville Pural ReFlex	N/A	7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Variable	No Service	N/A	No Service	
	lorth Main	Sumter • :15 & :45	5:45 a.m. to 9:38 p.m.	30/60	5:45 a.m. to 9:08 p.m.	30/60	5:45 a.m. to 9:08 p.m.	3
1 Fa	arrow	Sumter • :15 & :45	5:40 a.m. to 7:40 p.m.	30/60	6:24 a.m. to 7:50 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 7:50 p.m.	
1 D	)evine	Sumter • :15 & :45	6:15 a.m. to 9:10 p.m.	30/60	6:15 a.m. to 9:10 p.m.	60	6:15 a.m. to 9:10 p.m.	
1 T	wo Notch	Sumter • :15 & :45	5:45 a.m. to 10:11 p.m.	30/60	6:15 a.m. to 10:11 p.m.	60	6:15 a.m. to 10:11 p.m.	
1 F	orest	Sumter • :15 & :45	5:45 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	30/60	7:15 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	60	7:15 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	
1 B	road River	Sumter • :15 & :45	5:18 a.m. to 9:55 p.m.	30/60	6:15 a.m. to 9:55 p.m.	60	6:15 a.m. to 9:55 p.m.	
<b>D1</b> G	Samecock Express	N/A	Service Suspended	N/A	Service Suspended	N/A	Service Suspended	
S	oda Cap Connector 1	N/A	9:02 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	30	9:02 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	30	9:02 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	
S	oda Cap Connector 2	N/A	Service Suspended	N/A	Service Suspended	N/A	Service Suspended	
S	oda Cap Connector 3	N/A	1 hour before game starts to 1 hour after game ends	25-30	1 hour before game starts to 1 hour after game ends	25-30	1 hour before game starts to 1 hour after game ends	2
S	oda Cap 4 The Orbit	Sumter • :15 & :45	7:15 a.m. to 7:37 p.m.	30	No Service		No Service	
	OART	N/A	5:18 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	N/A	5:45 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	N/A	5:45 a.m. to 10:12 p.m.	

Welcome

**Aboard** 



COMET for your way to travel in Richland and Lexington Counties. What's new in this latest edition of the Rider's Guide is that The COMET now operates

this new service today as it is open to

feedback on how we can make The

for riding The COMET!

COMET better for you. As always, reach out

to me with your comments and thank you

John Andoh, *UofSC Transit. There are ten* Executive new daytime routes and two Director/CEO evening routes. We encourage you to take advantage of

everyone! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The COMET made adjustments to all routes across the system and match ridership to available demand. However, The COMET is engaging in a new effort, called "Reimagine" The COMET", in order to provide a faster, more frequent transit system for the future. I encourage you to visit our website at www.ReimagineTheCOMET.org to learn more about this project and give us your



## >> About The COMET

The COMET is a service of the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority and transit services are provided under contract to RATP Dev USA, Inc. of Fort Worth, TX. RATPDEV

### >>> Service Area The COMET provides fixed route, ReFlex flex

route and DART paratransit services throughout Richland and Lexington Counties. Connections are available to Megabus, Greyhound, Southeastern Stages, Fairfield County Transit System, Williamburg County Transit and Santee Wateree RTA bus services for intercounty travel. >>> Service Hours

### • Monday-Friday: 5:15 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. with Routes 24 & 25 continuing until 12:30 a.m.

when UofSC is open. • Saturday: 5:45 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. • Sunday and Holidays: 5:45 a.m. to 10:15 p.m.

See timetables for details on exact times. >> Holiday Schedule

Sunday service is provided on New Years Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. No service is provided on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. A Saturday schedule operates on the Day after Thanksgiving,

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

## How to Ride The COMET

Now that you know where you're going and which route is needed to get there, how do you ride the The COMET buses? Don't worry riding with the The COMET is easy – and just one of the many reasons that makes public transportation a quick and convenient option for getting around town.

• Transit Stops: The COMET **₹**CO|MET buses only stop at signed transit stops. Flag stops are permitted only on Route 47 Transit and 97. A complete transit stop list for each route is available on our website at www.CatchTheCOMET.org. 803) <mark>255-710</mark>0 Some transit stops have CatchTheComet.org benches, shelters, trash cans and cart corrals.

• Catching the Bus: Be at the transit stop, 5 minutes before the scheduled departure. Make sure the bus operator can see you. Check the headsign on the front, curbside and rear of the bus to ensure you board the correct route. When boarding at night, wear bright clothing and flash the bus operator with

a light.

or present your pass when you board. Bus operators cannot make change. Should you overpay, a change card will be issued for future use on The COMET. • Exiting the Bus: When you see your destination or transfer point, signal the bus operator, by pulling the cord near the window,

• Paying your Fare: Be ready to pay your fare

pushing the yellow strip or calling out "next stop". Please provide enough notice, so that the bus operator can stop safely. If you are not familiar with the area, ask the bus operator for assistance. Please do not cross in front of the bus when exiting and do not forget your bicycle if you have one!

## >>> Riding Tips

• Inclement Weather & Service Interruption: For The COMET inclement weather and service interruption information, please visit call (803) 255-7118 or check The COMET website, Facebook or Twitter (CatchTheCOMET) for updates.

• Track The COMET: This feature has been suspended and will resume in Summer 2021 using an interactive phone feature, real time tracking online and through the Transit app and SMS texting. Visit https://COMET.mapstrat.com/ for more details. • Reflex Routes 31, 47, 97 and OnDemand: On

these routes, you can request to be picked up or dropped off at locations between regularly schedule transit stops within the designated zone. For deviated drop off, if you board at a timepoint, just ask your Bus Operator. To be picked up, call DART at (803) 255-7123, to reserve a time slot for pickup at least 2 hours in advance. Please call ahead to cancel if the deviation is no longer needed to allow another person the opportunity

• **Night Owl:** At night, upon request, the bus operator can stop at a location that is closer to your final destination rather than the regular stop. The bus operator will determine where it is safe to pull over. • Lost and Found: If you leave an item on The

COMET bus, please call (803) 253-7100 to see if it has been retrieved. The COMET or its contractors are not responsible for lost or stolen items on board its vehicles. Items not retrieved within 30 days will be donated to local charity or • Animals on The COMET: Service animals are

welcome. Non-service animals may travel on the

bus if secured in a cage or muzzle. Animals that

animal having to alight the bus at the next transit

are disruptive may result in the customer and

stop or safe alighting area.

• Bicycles: Bicycle racks are located

on the front of all The COMET fixed route buses. Racks are available on a first come-first served basis. Customers are responsible for loading and unloading bicycles, and use the racks at their own risk. Bicycles may be

brought on board buses on a space available basis, however, customers may be bumped due to customer demands or use of the wheelchair space by a mobility device. Please let the bus operator know when you need to load or unload a bike. After you remove your bicycle, please lift the rack up and step away from the bus. The COMET or its contractors assumes no responsibility for damage or loss to the bicycle.

• Travel Training: New to transit? Learn how to ride The COMET and plan your trip. Upon completion of the training, you will receive a free 10-Ride Pass. Call (803) 255-7133 or e-mail info@CatchTheCOMET.org for more information. • Travel Assitance: Need assistance in

#### planning your trip? Visit www.CatchTheCOMET.org and use the

trip planner powered by Google, Apple and Bing Maps or call (803) 255-7100. • **Download the App:** You can also track The

COMET bus by downloading the Transit or Moovit app on your smartphone to see in real time when the bus is due to arrive at your transit stop, purchase fares, see the status of Blue Bike and reserve a Lyft and Uber trip. In addition, the Catch The COMET app powered by Passport and Token Transit allows you to purchase bus passes and plan your trip.



### Soda Cap Connector This fun and festive service connects many

popular downtown Columbia destinations, including West Columbia, Cayce, the Main Street District, The Vista, Five Points as well as Segra Park, Allen and Benedict Colleges and the University of South Carolina. Service operates every 30 minutes seven days

a week. Best of all, the route is FREE! Look for a Soda Cap type sign to board this service.



#### Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 The COMET is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the

benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or

national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. For more information, or to file a complaint, contact The COMET Compliance and Civil Rights Officer as shown on the cover, FTA Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building — 5th Floor TCR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 or SCDOT, Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator at (803) 737-5095, or in writing to the Office of Business Development & Special Programs, 955 Park Street, Suite 117, Columbia SC 29202.



One personal care attendant (PCA) rides free.

40 students @ \$1.00 per ride). Purchase in Class Pass - \$45.00 (Up to 5 adults and have a fare paying customer age 16 or older. unattended. Children under 10 years old must Children age 10 years or older can ride have a The COMET Half Fare ID to ride free. taller than 39 inches through 15 years old must Children through 15 years old ride free. Children County Transit System at joint stops only. one free transfer on SWRA and Fairfield

UofSC athletes only can ride UofSC Transit free.

All other companions pay fare for their category.

customers with a DayPass or Transfer receive free transfer on The COMET. The COMET customers with a transfer receive one SWRTA and Fairfield County Transit System Transit Operations Contractor employees ride

 The COMET employees, Board Members and free, lost card fee is \$5.00. The COMET Half Fare ID Card – first card is to load 1-Day, \-Day and 31-Day passes. lost card. Use for transfers between buses and The COMETCard - \$2.00 for first card, \$5.00 for

Interlined routes do not require an additional

accepted on The COMET fareboxes. for future use on The COMET. Pennies are not a change card will be issued from the farebox not make change. If you pay too much in fare, Exact change is required. Bus Operators do

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# >>> The COMET Frequency Chart COMET routes to get to your final destination.

