



The COMET Proposed Service Modifications Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Effective Sunday, December 6, 2020

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by The COMET Board of Directors at Lowell J. Spires Regional Transit Facility, 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29021 on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. to consider the modifications to The COMET, DART and ReFlex services. Due to COVID19 pandemic, the public hearing is available by calling +1 803-462- 5021 and enter Conference ID: 906 352 699# at 12:00 noon. If you want to attend in person, meeting location is accessible via The COMET Route 6 or DART (for eligible riders) by making a reservation to 803.255.7123 and a face covering is required, as well as social distancing.

The COMET invites the public to comment on the proposed Service Modifications. For further information or to comment, please contact John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO, The COMET, 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201, email john.andoh@catchthecomet.org, call 803.255.7087 or fax to 803.255.7113. **Please submit any comments by Friday, October 23, 2020 by 12:00 p.m.**

Extend Pilot Routes

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
44X	Lower Richland Express	COMET Central to James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center	Resume service once demand exists.	No change. Pilot route through June 30, 2021. Route remains suspended until State of South Carolina government reopens.
97	Batesburg-Leesville Rural	West Columbia SuperStop to Batesburg-Leesville (Columbia & Pine Streets)	N/A	No change. Pilot route through June 30, 2021.

Increase Service

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
45	Leesburg-Hazelwood	Crowson & Devine SuperStop to Leesburg & Fairmont	N/A	Operate every 30 minutes as part of the enhanced Saturday schedule on weekdays only between 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
47	Eastover/Gadsden ReFlex	Garners Ferry Walmart SuperStop to Eastover	N/A	Resume normal weekday schedule.
The COMET On The Go!	Lyft and Uber with DART wheelchair accessible service	N/A	N/A	Start service at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. and continue service until 6 a.m. the following morning.

Required Adjustments

DART	Within 3/4 mile of The COMET routes	N/A	Volunteer Transportation Program and Taxi Program	Adjust to match route change boundaries within 3/4 mile radius.
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Restructure Service For Efficiency

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
46	Lower Richland ReFlex	Garners Ferry Walmart SuperStop to Lower Richland Blvd.	Increased service as bus would operate when a call is made	Retain as an on-demand service and discontinue as a ReFlex deviated flex route service from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Last reservations at 6 p.m. on weekdays.
53X	Killian Express	COMET Central to Killian Road Walmart SuperStop	Routes 55, 57L and 75	Discontinue service due to low ridership and combine with Route 57L.
57L	Killian/Clemson Local	Killian Road Walmart SuperStop to Village at Sandhills SuperStop (On Saturdays, extended to Powell Road & Midlands Technical College - NE)	Routes 55, 57L and 75	Extend to Village of Sandhill and operate peak period only between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. Discontinue Saturday service. Reduce route between Midlands Tech College - NE Campus and Village of Sandhills. Time transfer to Route 75 to access Columbia Place Mall with connections to The 501 to access Downtown Columbia.
62	Hopkins ReFlex	Crowson & Devine SuperStop to Hopkins	Increased service as bus would operate when a call is made during a longer span of service.	Retain as an on-demand service and discontinue as a ReFlex deviated flex route service from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Last reservations at 6 p.m. on weekdays.
74	Harrison/Trenholm	COMET Central to Trenholm Road & Forest Drive	Increased service as bus would operate when a call is made during a longer span of service.	Retain as an on-demand service and discontinue as a fixed route service from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Last reservations at 6 p.m. on weekdays.
On Demand	Harrison/Trenholm Lower Richland Hopkins	COMET Central or Forest Drive Patterson GF Walmart Patterson & GF Walmart or Alan S. Glenn	Increased service as bus would operate when a call is made during a longer span of service.	New service operating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Friday. Last reservation at 6 p.m. on weekdays. Open to the general public.

Schedule Changes

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
6	Eau Claire	COMET Central to Club & Monticello	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a weekend level of service all days, 6:33 a.m. to 7:02 p.m.
11	Fairfield	COMET Central to Saddletrail & Saddlefield	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday level of service all days., 6:45 a.m. to 9:01 p.m.
12	Edgewood	COMET Central to Colony Apartments SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Eliminate the 9:15 p.m. weekday and Saturday trip and start service at 5:40 a.m., every day.
21	Rosewood	COMET Central to Shoppes at Woodhill	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a weekend level of service all days from 7:15 a.m. to 8:12 p.m.
22	Harden	Colony Apartments to Superior & Rosewood	Routes 11, 12, 21 or The 301.	Reduce to a weekend level of service Monday-Friday only from 9:40 a.m. to 3:37 p.m.
31	Denny Terrace ReFlex	Koon & Cody SuperStop to Monticello & Heyward Brockington and S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation	Route 31 to Route 6 to get to Eau Claire Medicine.	Reduce to a Sunday level of service on Saturday and Sunday from 6:40 a.m. to 6:37 p.m. and discontinue on request trips to Monticello Road. Include Vocational Rehab on three trips on weekdays only. Weekday service starts at 6:40 a.m. instead of 5:40 a.m.
32	North Main/ Hardscrabble	Koon and Cody SuperStop to Highland Center Drive	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce service to end at 6:40 p.m. on weekdays and operate from 8:40 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. on weekends.

42	Millwood	COMET Central to Plowden & Beltline	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a weekend level of service all days from 6:15 a.m. to 7:10 p.m.
55	Sandhills	Columbia Place Mall SuperStop to Hardscrabble & Clemson	Route 57L	Operate weekend schedule, every day.
61	Shop	COMET Central to Alan S. Glenn Detention Center	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday level of service all days and include McEntire Produce trips Monday-Saturday. Service span is from 7:15 a.m. to 8:41 p.m.
75	Decker/ Parklane	Forest Drive Sam's Club SuperStop to Powell Road & Midlands Technical College - NE & W.J. Keenan High School	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a weekend level of service all days between 7:50 a.m. and 9:43 p.m., every 60 minutes.
77	Polo Road	Forest Drive Sam's Club SuperStop to Two Notch & Polo Roads	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Once Fort Jackson authorizes entry of Route 76, revert to every 2 hours on a Saturday level of service. Until then, remain hourly on a Saturday level of service between 6:50 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.
84	Bush River/St. Andrews	COMET Central to Dutch Square Center SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday level of service, Monday-Saturday, 8:15 a.m. to 8:26 p.m.
88	Beltline Crosstown	Zimalcrest & Scaleybark to Garners Ferry Walmart SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Discontinue weekend service due to extreme low ridership and operate current Saturday level of service on weekdays.
101	North Main	COMET Central to Koon & Cody SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday enhanced level of service on weekdays. End weekend service at 9:15 p.m. due to low ridership.

301	Farrow Road	COMET Central to Greenview Park	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday enhanced level of service on weekdays. End service at 7:50 p.m. on all days.
401	Devine	COMET Central to Crowson Drive SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday enhanced level of service on weekdays. End service at 9:10 p.m. on all days.
501	Two Notch	COMET Central to Columbia Place Mall SuperStop	None	Reduce to a Saturday enhanced level of service on weekdays. Revert to hourly on weekends due to low ridership.
701	Forest	COMET Central to Forest Drive Sam's Club SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday enhanced level of service on weekdays.
801	Broad River	COMET Central to Harbison Walmart SuperStop	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Operate on enhanced Saturday schedule on weekdays and end service at 9:55 p.m. on all days.

Schedule Change Due to Funding Reductions

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
83L	St. Andrews Local	Dutch Square Center SuperStop to Harbison Road Walmart SuperStop via Midlands Technical College - Harbison & Prisma Health Baptist Parkridge	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to a Saturday level of service, Monday-Saturday., 8:07 a.m. to 8:52 p.m. due to route deficit costs.

91	Springdale/ Cayce	COMET Central to Columbia Metropolitan Airport	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	UofSC discontinued funding on 3 trips on Route 91 effective August 31, 2020. As a result, Cayce, West Columbia and Springdale will be responsible for covering these costs. Reduce Saturday service to operate between 9:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and eliminate the 5:15 p.m. trip.
96L	West Columbia/ Cayce	West Columbia SuperStop to Lexington Medical Center	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Extend to COMET Central for the first trip and last trip on weekdays and Saturdays to allow for direct access to House of Raeford. Reduce Saturday service operate between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Soda Cap Connector 1	West Columbia/ Cayce to Main Street Columbia	West Columbia/Cayce to Main Street Columbia	The COMET On The Go! would start at 8 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the following morning and the first \$5.00 would be covered by The COMET.	Reduce to operate between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. due to loss of dedicated funding from West Columbia and no evening demand for service in Vista and Main Street at this time. Revisit evening service in 2021.

Suspended Routes

Route	Name	Destination	Alternative Service	Proposal
76	Fort Jackson	Forest Drive Sam's Club SuperStop to Fort Jackson	None	Route remains suspended until authorized by Fort Jackson to resume service.
93X	I-26 Express	COMET Central to Newberry	Resume service once demand exists.	No change. Pilot route through June 30, 2021. Route remains suspended until State of South Carolina government reopens.
Soda Cap Connector 2	Main Street Columbia to Five Points & UofSC	Main Street Columbia to Five Points	Routes 21, 42, The 401	Continue to suspend and revisit service demands in Five Points in 2021.
Soda Cap Connector 3	Segra Park to Hampton & Main	Segra Park to Main Street Columbia	Route 11, 12, 22 and The 301	Seasonal only. Resume in 2021.