



The COMET Proposed Fare and Service Enhancements in 2018-2019

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, September 26, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. to consider the modifications to The COMET fares, including DART and ReFlex services and implementation of new service enhancements in Autumn 2018, Winter 2019 and Spring 2019. The public hearing meeting location is accessible via The COMET Route 6 or DART (for eligible customers) by making a reservation to 803.255.7123.

Public meetings will be scheduled at The COMET Transit Center at the corner of Laurel and Sumter Streets, Richland County Library, Cayce/West Columbia Library, North Main Library, Blythewood Library, Eastover Library, St. Andrews Library, Forest Acres Library, Clybourne Transportation Center (Sumter), Springdale Town Hall and Sandhills Library in early September prior to the Public Hearing. Details will be available The COMET offices, online at www.CatchTheCOMET.org, on the buses or by contacting The COMET.

The COMET invites the public to comment on the proposed fare modifications and implementation of new service enhancements. 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, September 21, 2018 by 12:00 p.m.**

Route #	Date of Implementation	Description of Service Change
Soda Cap Connector 1	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign route to serve State Street, Vista and Main Street, every 25 minutes with one vehicle. Sun-Wed service is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (except on Fireflies game days) Thurs, Fri and Sat service is from 11 a.m. to 12 midnight. <i>Extend pilot to July 2019.</i>
Soda Cap Connector 2	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign route to serve Main Street, Allen/Benedict Colleges and Five Points every 25 minutes with one vehicle. Sun-Wed service is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (except on Fireflies game days) Thurs, Fri and Sat service is from 11 a.m. to 12 midnight. <i>Extend pilot to July 2019.</i>
Soda Cap Connector 3	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend pilot to August 2019 and operate service to Fireflies games in the 2019 season during game days only (<i>1 hour before to 1 hour after game.</i>)
6	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate midday gap on weekends (<i>12:42 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. 2 hours of service for 108 weekend days</i>) Extend to Ridgedale Street.
11	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue service to Greyhound due to Route 31 becoming a ReFlex Interline with The 601 Shift departure from Transit Center to :45 past the hour.
12	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interline with Routes 26 and 28.
13	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This route is discontinued due to low ridership.
17	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to Route 74 Extend to Forest Drive to connect to The 701 via Atascadero Drive, Forest Drive to Trenholm Road Add 6:10 p.m. trip from Transit Center back to Transit Center.
22	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
26	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-hour service from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mon-Fri) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sat) Interline with Route 12.
26	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign route to only operate in West Columbia and Cayce in a one way loop every 60 minutes and connect at Walmart, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mon-Fri) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sat) Change route name to Route 96.

28	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-hour service from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Mon-Fri) & 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sat) • Interline with Route 12 • Add service to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.
28	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise route to have timed connections to route 26 and operate hourly • Change route name to Route 901.
31	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert to ReFlex service with 60-minute service between 5:46 a.m. and 7:46 p.m., Mon-Sat and 6:46 a.m. to 6:46 p.m., Sunday with timed connections to Route 101 at Koon & Cody operated by DART. • On demand service based off reservation will operate between 9:46 a.m. and 3:46 p.m., seven days a week within the zone. • Only ADA deviations are allowed.
31	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department will be added to Route 31 instead of The 301 for trips departing Koon & Cody at 7:50 a.m., 8:50 a.m., 11:50 a.m., 1:50 p.m. and 3:50 p.m. • General public deviations will be allowed.
32	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel via Main Street to serve Piggy Wiggly inbound instead of Alida Street.
42	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes.
44X	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New route connecting Sumter to Shaw AFB, Eastover/Gadsden/Hopkins, Walmart, Crowson Protection Zone and Assembly Street with 2 trips a.m., 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
45	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with The 401.
46	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure to a flex route to better serve Hopkins and Lower Richland Road between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday • Operated by DART.
47	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure to a flex route to better serve Gadsden and Eastover between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday • Operated by DART.
52X	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate 1 underperforming trip. Reduce to 2 trips in a.m. • Evaluate route in January 2019 since route started in September 2017 and determine future by March 2019.
53X	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to Columbia Place Mall for better connections to Routes 53X, 55 and 75 • Add 2:59 p.m. trip from Downtown and 4:30 p.m. trip from Killian Road Walmart.
55	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with The 501 • Move to Columbia Place Mall for better connections to Routes 53X, 55 and 75.
57L	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill in midday gap on weekdays – 10:27 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:27 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (4 hours of service)
62	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift to operate by DART • Operate hourly between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. • Extend more on Bluff Road, to just south of the DMV and relocate the transfer point between Routes 601 and 62 to John Mark Dial Drive.
63	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible tripper service 1 a.m. and 1 p.m. to serve Olympia Learning Center during school days only.
75	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with The 701 • Extend the 7:10 a.m., 11:40 a.m. and 3:40 p.m. trip to W.J. Keenan High School to meet bell times.
75	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to Columbia Place Mall for better connections to Routes 53X, 55 and 75.
77	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend to Two Notch Road and Polo Road to connect with Route 55.
82X	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible elimination of 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. trips based off ridership.

83L	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill in gap, midday and weekends.
84	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On demand stop to Riverbanks Zoo, 7 days a week in both directions • Shift to :15 past the hour, seven days a week • Use Greystone Blvd. and Gracern Rd. instead of I-126 – outbound.
88	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore weekend service every 2 hours from 9:39 a.m. to 5:39 p.m.
92X	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New route connecting Columbia and Nephron with one a.m. and one p.m. trip, Monday through Sunday. <i>(Pending funding from Lexington County and Nephron)</i>
93X	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New route connecting Columbia and Newberry via Chapin, Little Mountain, Ballentine with one a.m. and one p.m. trip, Monday through Friday.
97	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One day a week rural route connecting Lexington, Batesburg-Leesville and West Columbia/Cayce with two round trips.
The 101	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-minute frequency, weekdays – 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. • 30-minute frequency, weekends, (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) • Add 5:46 a.m. from Koon & Cody, 6:15 a.m. from Transit Center and 10:15 p.m. round trip on weekends.
The 201	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate trips the depart on the :00 by January, 2019, if ridership is low, discontinue and revert to 60-minute frequency all day.
The 301	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise turn-around loop to travel via Koon to North Main, to Wilkes Road to better serve Piggly Wiggly and connect to The 101, Routes 31 and 32 • Discontinue service to South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (Use Route 31) • Shorten Orbit routing to Gervais Street.
The 401	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with Route 45.
The 501	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with Route 55 • Move to Columbia Place Mall for better connections to Routes 53X, 55 and 75.
The 601	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase to 60 minutes to better connect with other routes • Interline with Route 11 on weekdays and Route 801 on weekends and extend to Alvin S. Glen Detention Center.
The 601	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reevaluate service in the Starlight area and have conversations with neighborhood associations and customers. Should service be low and with neighborhood support, discontinue and add a new stop with shelter on Bluff Road.
The 701	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interline with Route 75.
The 801	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 30-minute service during peak period, Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Gamecock Express	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with USC to operate during basketball, baseball games and Colonial Life Arena events.
DART	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips originating in Lexington County would be billed to Lexington County regardless of destination • Discontinue DART service in the ReFlex zones of Routes 31 and 62 • Trips originating in Richland County would be billed to Richland County regardless of destination.
DART	May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue DART service in ReFlex zones of Routes 46 and 47.
The COMET Vanpool	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year pilot to subsidize 20 vans at \$500 per month not to exceed \$120,000 per year as long as van originates or ends in Richland or Lexington Counties.

The COMET Bikeshare	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 bikeshare stations would be installed near The COMET bus stops in the downtown Columbia area and those riding The COMET with a day pass, 7-day or 31-day pass would have 45-minute free ride on Columbia Bikeshare. Locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit Communications Park (Soda Cap 3 and Route 22) • Providence Health (Route 701) • Bull and Hampton (Routes 12, 501, 701) • Sumter and Devine (Routes 28, 63, 601) • Devine and Pulaski (Route 28) • Pendleton and Pickens (Route 201) • Gervais and River (Route 26, Soda Cap 1, 2) • Harden and Senate (Routes 1, 22, 401) • Guignard Park (Route 28, Soda Cap 1) • West Columbia Riverwalk Park and Amphitheater (Route 26, Soda Cap 1)
The COMET On The Go!	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COMET would subsidize up to \$5.00 off an UBER and Lyft ride anywhere within the DART Service Area. This service would be available from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., 7-days a week. Must have to ride The COMET earlier in the day. Code would be established. • The COMET would subsidize up to \$5.00 off an UBER and Lyft ride to any passengers living anywhere within the DART service area to a grocery store that sells fresh food. The passenger boarding would be allowed to go to the nearest grocery store within a five-mile radius as identified by The COMET. This service would be available 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7-days a week. Code would be established. • Pilot for six months.
Holiday Schedule	Starting November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday service on Dr. MLK Day, Presidents Day and Veterans Day (No service on Routes 17, 26, 28, 46, 47, 52X, 53X, 57L, 62) and Saturday schedule operates on the Day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve due to lower ridership (No service on Routes 17, 46, 47, 52X, 53X, 62).



PROPOSED FARE POLICY - Effective: January 1, 2019

The COMET Fixed Route Fares

Description	Basic	Discount*	Commuter Express (44X, 52X, 92X, 93X)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any passenger not eligible for discount fare with qualifying ID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors age 65 & older Persons with Disabilities Veterans Medicare Card Holders Youth 16 to 18 years old with The COMET Half Fare ID Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All customers riding peak-period Express routes only.
One Way	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$4.00
All Access DayPass	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$6.00
7-All Access DayPass	\$14.00 (\$2.00 per day)	\$7.00 (\$1.00 per day)	\$28.00 (\$4.00 per day)
31-Day All Access DayPass	\$40.00 (\$2.00 per day)	\$20.00 (\$1.00 per day)	\$80.00 (\$4.00 per day)
Route Deviation Fare on Flex Routes	+\$2.00	+\$1.00	N/A
Transfer (60 minutes only)	FREE	FREE	FREE

- DART eligible customers ride free with DART ADA ID Card.
- Interlined routes do not require an additional fare.
- The COMET employees, Board Members and Transit Operations Contractor employees ride free.
- Children through 15 years old ride free. Children taller than 39 inches through 15 years old must have a The COMET Half Fare ID Card to ride free.
- SWRTA customers with a transfer receive one free transfer on The COMET. The COMET customers with a DayPass or Transfer receive on free transfer on SWRTA at joint stops only.
- Children age 10 years old or older can ride unattended. Children under 10 years old must have a fare paying passenger age 16 years old or older.
- Class Pass - \$45.00 (Up to 5 adults and 40 students @ \$1.00 per ride). Purchase in advance.
- The COMET Half Fare ID Card – first card is free, lost card fee is \$5.00.
- Pennies are not accepted on The COMET fareboxes. *(This will be phased in a one-year period)*

**Qualifying identification for Discount fare includes: The COMET Half Fare ID Card, Medicare Card, Senior Drivers License/State ID Card, Military ID Card or VA Veterans ID Card.*

DART Fares

Description	Within the ADA fixed route zone of ¼ mile on either side of The COMET route
One Way	\$4.00
10-RidePass	\$40.00 (\$4.00 per ride)
Buddy Fare (5 or more fare paying passengers traveling from/to same location)	\$2.00 per person

- Passengers must be ADA certified or a companion to ride DART.
- DART ADA ID Card - First card free, lost card fee - \$5.00.
- One Personal Care Attendant (PCA) rides free. All other companions pay same fare as eligible passenger.