Board of Directors Meeting of the
Central Midlands Council of Governments
Thursday, March 28, 2019  ♦  12:00 p.m.  ♦  CMCOG Conference Room

OVERALL AGENDA

A. Call to Order and Introductions  Joyce Dickerson, Chairperson
   1. Determination of Quorum
   2. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda
   3. Introduction of Guests  Guillermo Espinosa
   4. Invocation
   5. Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – Norman Jackson, Richland County  Joyce Dickerson & Ben Mauldin
   6. Introductions of New Board Member – Scott Cain, Newberry County  Ben Mauldin

B. Consent Agenda
   1. Approval of the February 28, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes (Enclosure 1)
   2. 2016–2022 TIP Amendment – South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (Enclosure 2)
   3. 2018 & 2019 UPWP Amendment – Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study (Enclosure 3)
   4. COATS Public Participation Amendment (Enclosure 4)

C. Regular Agenda  John Andoh
   1. 2040 LRTP Amendment – Bus Shelter Implementation Plan (Enclosure 5)

D. Announcements / Committee or Staff Reports / Correspondences  Ben Mauldin
   1. Executive Director’s Report (Enclosure 6)
   2. The Opioid Epidemic in South Carolina (Enclosure 7)  Kim Myers
   3. The Comet (Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority) Overview and Initiatives  John Andoh
   4. Midlands River Coalition Update (Enclosure 8)  Gregory Sprouse

E. Old/New Business

F. Other Business

G. Adjourn

REMINDER: The next CMCOG Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 in the COG Conference Room

Note: Full Agenda packets can be found on the CMCOG website at www.cmcog.org.
Board of Directors Meeting of the
Central Midlands Council of Governments
Thursday, February 28, 2019  ♦ 12:00 p.m. ♦ CMCOG Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Vina Abrams, Newberry County
John Andoh, The Comet
Charles Appleby, Richland County
Jimmy Bales, Richland Co. Legislative Delegate
John Baxter, Richland County
Larry Brigham, Lexington County
David Brown, Fairfield County
Wanda Carnes, Fairfield County
Ben Connell, Kershaw County
Todd Cullum, Lexington County Council
Ted Creech,
Sam David, city of Columbia Council
Smokey Davis, Lexington County
Joyce Dickerson, Richland County Council
Julie Ann Dixon, Richland County
Douglas Fabel, Richland County
Roger Gaddy, Town of Winnsboro Mayor
Malcolm Gordge, Blythewood Town Council
Zebbie Goudelock, Newberry County
Norman Jackson, Richland County Council
Tameika Isaac-Devine, City of Columbia
William Leidinger, Richland County
Paul Livingston, Richland County Council
Yvonne McBride, Richland County Council
Steve MacDougall, Lexington County
Walt McLeod, Newberry Co. Legislative Delegation
Joe Mergo, Lexington County Administrator
Chakisse Newton, Richland County Council
Elise Partin, City of Cayce Mayor
Neil Robinson, Fairfield County Council
Jeffery Salters, Lexington County
Charles Simpkins, Lexington County
Debbie Summers, Lexington County Council
Scott Whetstone, Lexington County Council

GUESTS PRESENT:
Tevia Brown, SCDOT
Kenny Larimore, SCDOT
Darren Ledbetter, SCDOT
Holland Leger, Lexington County Planning
Joey McEntire, SCDOT
Steve Miller, SCDOT
Michelle Ransom, The Comet
Bill Jordan, AECOM
Morgan Harold, Dominion Energy
Tara Greenwood, City of West Columbia
Dana Strock, Santee-Lynches COG
Donna Peeler, Joint Municipal Water & Sewer

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
Roland Bart, Chief Transportation Planner
Jennifer Brewton, AAA Director
Guillermo Espinosa, Senior Planner
Jessica Foster, Operations Coordinator
Myra Hamilton, Accountant
Jason Kent, GIS Manager
Ben Mauldin, Executive Director
Reginald Simmons, Deputy Executive Director/Transportation Director
Joe Perry, I,R & A
Gregory Sprouse, Research, Planning and Development Director
A. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Norman Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. on February 28, 2019.

1. **Determination of Quorum**

Chairman Jackson acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

2. **Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda**

3. **Introduction of Guests**

Guillermo Espinosa introduced the guests at today’s meeting. They are listed on the first page.

4. **Introduction of New Board Members**

   - Representative Chris Wooten, Lexington County Legislative Delegate
   - Neil Robinson, Fairfield County Council
   - Chakisse Newton, Richland County Council
   - Gwendolyn Kennedy, Richland County Council

5. **Invocation**

Vina Abrams gave the Invocation.

B. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of the December 13, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, *approved*
2. Quarterly Financial Statement, *approved*
3. 2016-2022 TIP Amendment-South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism

**MOTION, approved**

Julie Ann Dixon moved, seconded by Smokey Davis, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. **Regular Agenda**

C1. **2040 LRTP Amendment-SCDOT Safety Performance Measures**

Kenny Larimore of SCDOT requested the adoption of the SCDOT 2015 – 2019 Safety Performance Measures. Per the federal guidelines, each year SCDOT has to establish safety performance measures that are submitted to FHWA. Once established, MPOs have 180 days to either accept SCDOT’s target or establish their own targets. The COATS MPO has requested to accept the target that have been established by SCDOT. These targets include the following:
There was a brief discussion.

MOTION, approved

Todd Cullum moved, seconded Smokey Davis, to approve the 2040 LRTP Amendment-SCDOT Safety Performance Measures. The motion was approved unanimously.

C2. 2018 & 2019 UPWP Amendment-Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study

Reginald Simmons request the approval to amend the 2018 & 2019 UPWP to add the Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study.

The proposed Lower Saluda Greenway will consist of constructing a 10.5-mile multi-use, paved pathway that will extend along the north side of the Saluda River from the Lake Murray Dam to the Three Rivers Greenway at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden. The project will greatly improve public access to recreational opportunities by connecting the Lexington and Irmo areas with downtown Columbia, West Columbia, and Cayce. The trail itself, which will be owned, operated and maintained by the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC), will fit seamlessly with the Three Rivers Greenway by incorporating lighted ADA compliant paths, timber boardwalks and bridges, bathroom stations, and parking areas. The project will also make use of existing amenities such as the trails, parking, and bathroom facilities at Saluda Shoals Park, the parking and river access at the SCE&G Gardendale Boat Ramp, and the parking and bathroom facilities at the new ICRC Park located on the former BC Components site off Old Bush River and St. Andrews roads.

MOTION, approved

Debbie Summers moved, seconded Julie Ann Dixon, to approve the 2018 & 2019 UPWP Amendment-Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study. The motion was approved unanimously.

C3. COATS Public Participation Amendment

Reginald Simmons requests approval to amend the COATS MPO Public Participation Plan public notice period from 15 days to 21 days.

The Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) policy is to support and encourage public participation and to adhere to the principles of Environmental Justice in the
metropolitan planning process. The MPO’s public participation policy is designed to ensure opportunities for the public to express its views on transportation issues and to become active participants in the decision making process. In accordance with the CMCOG Public Participation Plan, amendments to the LRTP, UPWP and TIP require a 15-day public notice. SCDOT has recently amended their public participation plan to require a 21-day public notice. Staff will request to change our public notice period in order to match SCDOT.

**MOTION, approved**

Julie Ann Dixon moved, seconded Smokey Davis, to amend the COATS Public Participation. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. **Announcements/Committee or Staff Reports/Correspondences**

D1. **Executive Directors Report**

Ben Mauldin gave the following report

- CMCOG’s 50th anniversary is coming up in July. We are in the process of coming up with ideas on how to celebrate. If anyone has any ideas please contact myself or Jessica Foster
- SCDEW recently performed a financial and programmatic monitoring. The monitoring provided positive results.
- During our budget process this year CMCOG will be contacting local governments to remind them of the COG’s capabilities to provide technical assistance.

D2. **COATS/CMCOG Transportation Projects Update**

Joey McIntyre with SCDOT gave an update on the projects for the COATS/CMCOG area.

D3. **2018 Senior Services Assessment Survey Result**

Jennifer Brewton gave the results to the 2018 Senior Services Assessment Survey. 908 people were surveyed with a 36% return rate. The results will help in determine what needs of seniors in our region.

E. **OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

No old/new business was brought forth.

F. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was brought forth.
G. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:55 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the Central Midlands Council of Governments approved these minutes at its March 28, 2019 meeting.

__________________________________  ___________________________________
Benjamin J. Mauldin, Secretary-Treasurer  Joyce Dickerson, Chairperson
November 5, 2018

Mr. Brent Rewis  
South Carolina Department of Transportation  
Office of Planning  
P. O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191  

RE:  2018/2019 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Projects  

Dear Mr. Rewis:  

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism (SCPRT) have approved and awarded twenty Recreational Trails Program projects for funding under fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Projects were awarded in fourteen counties across the state.  

Enclosed you will find the RTP financial summaries for 2018 and 2019. The projects listed on our financial sheets need to be incorporated into the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). In addition, copies of our 2018/2019 RTP financial summaries will be mailed to the South Carolina Councils of Governments.  

The 2018 and 2019 RTP project agreements are fully executed with the exception of the Ross Mountain Passage of the Palmetto Trail project (pending NEPA review approval).  

If there are any questions concerning these projects, feel free to give me a call at (803) 734-0735.  

Sincerely,  

Neal Hamilton  
State Trails Coordinator  

Enclosure  

cc: Justin Hancock, SCPRT  
Shane Belcher, FHWA  
SC Councils of Governments
# South Carolina Recreational Trails Program
## FY 2018 Summary
### Grant Number 2018000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Sponsor</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>Federal Amount</th>
<th>Cong. District</th>
<th>MPO Area</th>
<th>Public Meeting Held</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P28051800718</td>
<td>Generations Park Walking Trail</td>
<td>City of Aiken</td>
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<td>Ross Mountain Passage of the Palmetto Trail</td>
<td>Palmetto Conservation Foundation</td>
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<td>Long Cane OHV 2018/2019</td>
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<td>Enoree OHV Trail 2018/2019</td>
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**Note:** Rows highlighted in blue will utilize partial funding from FY' 2018 and the remaining funding from FY' 2019 to complete amount awarded. Rows highlighted in gray are awaiting NEPA review approval before any construction can begin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Sponsor</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>Federal Amount</th>
<th>Cong. District</th>
<th>MPO Area</th>
<th>Public Meeting Held</th>
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<td>Pinckney/Kit Hall Trail Segment</td>
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<td>Roy Warner Walking Trail</td>
<td>Aiken County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism</td>
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<td>1; 6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Rows highlighted in blue will utilize partial funding from FY' 2018 and the remaining funding from FY' 2019 to complete amount awarded.
Memorandum

TO: All Members of the CMCOG Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald Simmons, Deputy Executive Director/Transportation Director
DATE: February 28, 2019
SUBJECT: UPWP Amendment

REQUESTED ACTION
The Central Midlands Council of Governments staff requests approval to amend the 2018 & 2019 UPWP to add the Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The proposed Lower Saluda Greenway will consist of constructing a 10.5-mile multi-use, paved pathway that will extend along the north side of the Saluda River from the Johnny W. Jeffcoat Walkway at the Lake Murray Dam to the Three Rivers Greenway at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden. The project will greatly improve public access to recreational opportunities by connecting the Lexington and Irmo areas with downtown Columbia, West Columbia, and Cayce. The trail itself, which will be owned, operated and maintained by the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC), will fit seamlessly with the Three Rivers Greenway by incorporating lighted ADA compliant paths, timber boardwalks and bridges, bathroom stations, and parking areas. The project will also make use of existing amenities such as the trails, parking, and bathroom facilities at Saluda Shoals Park, the parking and river access at the SCE&G Gardendale Boat Ramp, and the parking and bathroom facilities at the new ICRC Park located on the former BC Components site off Old Bush River and St. Andrews roads.

CMCOG in partnership with Irmo Chapin Recreation Center will develop a feasibility study of the Saluda Greenway that emphasizes and identifies the following:

- Project Scope
- Project Goals and Objectives
- Purpose and Need
- Potential Environmental, Cultural, and Social Impacts
- Estimated Cost & Schedule
- Benefit Cost Analysis
- Risk Analysis

This study is intended to be in concert with the proposed feasibility study requirement that is to be conducted by SCDOT.

ATTACHMENT
Draft UPWP Page
PROJECT NO: 3Q

PROJECT TITLE: Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study

OBJECTIVE:
To update the project cost, scheduled, scope, and purpose and need.

METHODOLOGY:

The proposed Lower Saluda Greenway will consist of constructing a 10.5-mile multi-use, paved pathway that will extend along the north side of the Saluda River from the Johnny W. Jeffcoat Walkway at the Lake Murray Dam to the Three Rivers Greenway at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden. The project will greatly improve public access to recreational opportunities by connecting the Lexington and Irmo areas with downtown Columbia, West Columbia, and Cayce. The trail itself, which will be owned, operated and maintained by the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC), will fit seamlessly with the Three Rivers Greenway by incorporating lighted ADA compliant paths, timber boardwalks and bridges, bathroom stations, and parking areas. The project will also make use of existing amenities such as the trails, parking, and bathroom facilities at Saluda Shoals Park, the parking and river access at the SCE&G Gardendale Boat Ramp, and the parking and bathroom facilities at the new ICRC Park located on the former BC Components site off Old Bush River and St. Andrews roads.

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- Risk Analysis

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END PRODUCT:

Published Saluda Greenway Feasibility Study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Sponsor/Participating Agencies:</th>
<th>Funding Sources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor: COATS</td>
<td>FY 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating Agencies: COATS, CMCOG Member Governments, Other agencies as appropriate</td>
<td>FHWA/FTA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FTA (Section 5307) $0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOCAL $0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL $0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Lower Saluda Greenway Project Description

The proposed Lower Saluda Greenway will consist of constructing a 10.5-mile multi-use, paved pathway that will extend along the north side of the Saluda River from the Johnny W. Jeffcoat Walkway at the Lake Murray Dam to the Three Rivers Greenway at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden. The project will greatly improve public access to recreational opportunities by connecting the Lexington and Irmo areas with downtown Columbia, West Columbia, and Cayce. The trail itself, which will be owned, operated and maintained by the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC), will fit seamlessly with the Three Rivers Greenway by incorporating lighted ADA compliant paths, timber boardwalks and bridges, bathroom stations, and parking areas. The project will also make use of existing amenities such as the trails, parking, and bathroom facilities at Saluda Shoals Park, the parking and river access at the SCE&G Gardendale Boat Ramp, and the parking and bathroom facilities at the new ICRC Park located on the former BC Components site off Old Bush River and St. Andrews roads. Construction of the project is estimated to include the following:

- Construction of approximately 8 miles of 8-foot-wide paved path
- Construction of 6 pedestrian bridges
- Construction of 3 bathroom facilities
- Construction of 1 gravel parking lot (30 car capacity)
- Installation of lighting, call boxes, park furniture, and signage
- Purchase of approximately 4 acres of right-of-way easements

Once implemented the project will provide maximum accessibility for the surrounding communities in the Lexington and Irmo areas by directly connecting with existing recreational facilities. Existing neighborhoods on the Irmo side of the river that will be in close proximity and/or have direct access to the project includes Coldstream, The Rapids, Woodwinds, Hallmark, Gardendale, Woodland Hills, Whitehall, Harbison, and Friarsgate. Many smaller neighborhoods, condominiums, and apartment complexes are also in close proximity to the project. Numerous residential areas on the Town of Lexington and West Columbia side of the river will also have access to the project via the Johnny W. Jeffcoat Walkway and the Three Rivers Greenway connection at the Lexington Medical Center. In total it is estimated that approximately 56,305 people live within 2.5 miles of an access point to the greenway. Because this project is considered to be a recreational facility of regional significance it will also serve a much larger number of users beyond this immediate distance threshold as evidenced by the 500,000 annual users of Saluda Shoals Park and 1,000,000 annual users of the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens, all of which will have direct access to the Lower Saluda Greenway.
Memorandum

TO: All Members of the CMCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Reginald Simmons, Deputy Executive Director/Transportation Director

DATE: February 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Public Participation Plan Amendment

REQUESTED ACTION
The Central Midlands Council of Governments staff requests approval to amend the COATS MPO Public Participation Plan public notice period from 15 days to 21 days.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) policy is to support and encourage public participation and to adhere to the principles of Environmental Justice in the metropolitan planning process. The MPO’s public participation policy is designed to ensure opportunities for the public to express its views on transportation issues and to become active participants in the decision-making process.

In accordance with the CMCOG Public Participation Plan, amendments to the LRTP, UPWP and TIP require a 15-day public notice. SCDOT has recently amended their public participation plan to require a 21-day public notice. Staff will request to change our public notice period in order to match SCDOT.

ATTACHMENT
Summary Table of Public Participation Policies
### V. Summary Table of Public Participation Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Adoption</th>
<th>Public Meetings</th>
<th>Comment Period</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</td>
<td>2 meetings prior to CMCOG Board approval</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>A summary of all oral or written comments will be provided to the CMCOG Board and made available for public review.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</td>
<td>2 meetings prior to CMCOG Board approval</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30 days</td>
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<td>Public Participation Plan (PPP)</td>
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#### Amendments

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<tr>
<th>Program Adoption</th>
<th>Public Meetings</th>
<th>Comment Period</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</td>
<td>1 meeting if requested prior to CMCOG Board approval. A public meeting will be held on major amendments</td>
<td>15 days, 21 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>15 days, 21 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Participation Plan (PPP)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15 days, 21 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Open Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMCOG Board</td>
<td>Regular meetings held the Fourth Thursday of every month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Subcommittee</td>
<td>Monthly Meeting are scheduled for the Second Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Committee</td>
<td>Monthly Meeting are scheduled for the Fourth Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February 20, 2019

Agenda Item # 6.D.I.

To: Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors Service Committee Members
From: John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
Subject: Bus Shelter Implementation Plan For Next Three to Five Years

Requested Action: Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the Bus Shelter Implementation Plan for the next three to five years.

Background and Summary: At the January 2019 Service Committee and Board of Directors meeting, the Board of Directors directed staff to be more creative and aggressive in implementing more bus shelters throughout the service area. As of November 5, 2018, The COMET has 1,430 bus stops, of which 55 have bus shelters which were installed by either The COMET, City of Columbia, USC, State of South Carolina or private businesses. In addition, there are 58 locations that have advertising bus benches placed through a contract with Creative Outdoor Advertising.

Since July 2018, six bus shelters have been installed and staff has identified a list of 44 potential locations that shelters and/or benches and the engineering contracting firm has been tasked to permit these locations based on guidelines established by our local jurisdictions. Since 2014, 34 benches, 6 8-foot shelters and 26 16-foot shelters have been installed. Staff is also working to construct larger SuperStop facilities at Killian Road Walmart and Columbia Place Mall and investigating a SuperStop at Dutch Square Center through a lease with the current landlord.

Elements of the Bus Shelter Implementation Plan is shown below:

Bus Shelters
Presently, The COMET has three different vendors that provide bus shelters (Daytech, Brasco and Tolar). The Daytech shelters were installed by the City of Columbia in the 1990s. The Brasco shelters was installed between 2013 and 2018 and Tolar is the proposed vendor for bus shelters. The shelter sizes are generally 8 foot or 16 foot. The 16-foot shelters include advertising panels, bench with vagrant bars and solar lighting. Due to ADA accessibility concerns, the 8-foot shelters do not have benches. Simme Seats will be installed inside the 8-foot shelters to address the lack of seating in these shelters. Going forward, bus shelters will be implemented with the following goals for each fiscal year:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Shelters Constructed</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$570,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>$6,650,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under a proposed amendment with Creative Outdoor Advertising, they intend to provide five (5) advertising bus shelters for installation at their cost which will support this bus shelter plan. In addition, they would install 100 advertising bus benches.

**Implementation Strategy**

The COMET will need to follow the following steps towards implementation of the proposed bus shelter delivery plan.

- The COMET has an existing encroachment permit for new bus stop placement in the City of Columbia from 2005, a 2009 ordinance from Richland County for bus bench and bus shelter installation and SCDOT has developed a blanket encroachment permit for bus stop signs with a permit process for bus shelters and benches.

- All bus shelters will be constructed based off the ADA Standards issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as shown in Chapter 8, Section 810 – Transportation Facilities.

- RTA Law, Chapter 25, Section 58-25-50 (d) allows RTAs to exercise the power of eminent domain limited to right-of-way and contiguous facility acquisition. Staff will work with Legal Counsel to understand how this can be implemented. Other options can also include purchasing the easement from property owners for those whom do not want to grant over an easement, prior to exercising eminent domain. Staff will engage in a real estate agent that can assist with this process, as well coordinate with the engineering firm to negotiate with property firms, as long as the price remains under $1 million. A real estate agent would prove valuable in the acquisition process and can negotiate on behalf of The COMET in locations of difficulty, especially since The COMET will not require large pieces of property. This will also require the land purchase to be filled with the County of record. Any leases that are entered into would require FTA approval to determine if it is cost effective to lease vs. purchase with an analysis to be provided to the FTA. 34 locations have been rejected by property owners for various reasons since 2014.

- Planning & Development staff is recommending conducting a comprehensive feasibility analysis for all of our bus stops in The COMET transit system. The analysis will evaluate all bus stops along the same corridor and may identify opportunities where a simple relocation could avoid providing compensation for an easement. This can allow for a reduction of bus stops to comply with the bus stop sitting policy adopted by the Board of Directors in 2014, since many routes have bus stops that are less than the current sitting policy.
Bus stops are the locations where bus passengers access The COMET transit system. Bus stops must therefore be convenient to the places where passengers wish to go. Convenience and speed must be balanced in determining appropriate bus stop placement, as too many bus stops can slow down travel times. The COMET generally seeks to have bus stops 1,000 feet apart. For perspective, a lap around a track is one-quarter mile, or 1,320 feet. In downtown Columbia two blocks—the distance between Assembly and Sumter Streets—is 1,000 feet. Because a passenger need only choose the nearest stop, the walking distance would be typically no greater than 500 feet (the distance between Main and Assembly) if exactly between stops, but often fewer. The chart below shows the time it takes to walk different distances at a moderate walking speed (3 mph). A typical walking distance along a road with service to the nearest stop (500 feet) should be no longer than 2 minutes. With the exception of roads going under interstate interchanges, over bridges, or other extenuating circumstances, the maximum distance between stops will not exceed 1/2 of a mile.

**Bus stops with additional infrastructure.** To improve the comfort of The COMET passengers’ shelters, benches, leaning rails, and other related infrastructure may be placed at bus stops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of amenity</th>
<th>Minimum Daily Boardings</th>
<th>Special attractor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter w/bench</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Regional mall, large discount retailer, urban core (The COMET Orbit), medical, college/university</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the identification of future bus shelters, the siting policy will be taken into consideration.

The Service Committee approved this plan with the recommendation that this subject be a standing update to the Service Committee on a monthly basis to report on the progress of the implementation of this plan.

**Fiscal Impacts:** At the January 2019 Board of Directors meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a new FTA grants funding plan. As a result, The COMET is now estimating $38,000 to build a shelter location. The plan is below that demonstrates committed FTA funding and local match funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year Appropriation</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Total Amount 80% Federal, 20% Local</th>
<th>Remaining 80% Federal, 20% Local</th>
<th>Projected Shelter Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFY 2016</td>
<td>5339</td>
<td>$478,373</td>
<td>$478,373</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFY 2017</td>
<td>5339</td>
<td>$532,066</td>
<td>$532,066</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFY 2018</td>
<td>5339</td>
<td>$204,560</td>
<td>$204,560</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FFY 2019 (Estimated)</strong></td>
<td>5339</td>
<td><strong>$500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,714,999</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,714,999</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The pricing for the new bus shelters with Tolar Mfg. is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Signature Sunset</th>
<th>Signature Empire</th>
<th>Euro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit Cost</td>
<td>Delivery Days</td>
<td>Unit Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter, 30-foot Class</td>
<td>$25,786.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td>$27,455.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter, 16-foot Class</td>
<td>$14,460.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td>$14,840.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter, small footprint</td>
<td>$10,305.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td>$12,320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter part: panel</td>
<td>$635.00 (1)</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td>$845.00 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter part: column</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bench</td>
<td>$1,615.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bench with ad back</td>
<td>$1,505.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign mount seats</td>
<td>$620.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign mount trash can</td>
<td>$205.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike rack</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Ad Box panel</td>
<td>$1,435.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter map box</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message center</td>
<td>$3,910.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping cart corral</td>
<td>$1,290.00</td>
<td>90 Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The unfunded amount is $4,935,001 (2019 dollars) to install 175 bus shelters throughout the service area. Staff will investigate the following ways to fund this deficit to stay consistent to the plan:

- Community Development Block Grants (City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County).
- Local funds from member agencies of The COMET through requests during the budget process.
- Discussion with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Lions Club and other service organizations to build shelters.
- Request the cities, towns and Counties to provide condition new developments to build bus shelters.
- Bond funds to support an accelerated bus shelter development, per RTA Law Section 58-25-50, “(o) Borrow money and make and issue negotiable bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness;”
- Work with General Assembly to provide additional funding to public transit to support passenger amenities.
- Create a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation to fund bus shelters through donations.
- Request special funds from SCDOT Office of Public Transit.
- Additional FTA Funds from FFY 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.
- Request community donations from hospitals, Dominion Energy, BB&T, Walmart and large corporations for the purpose of funding bus shelters.

Legal Counsel Review: None.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Bus Shelter Implementation Plan For Next Three to Five Years.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
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P 803 255 7133  F 803 255 7113
CATCHTHECOMETSC.GOV
Gleaton
info@TheCOMETSC.gov

John Andoh, CCTM, CPM Executive Director/CEO
Ron Anderson, Chair, John V. Furgess, Sr, Vice Chair
Andy Smith, Secretary, Dr. Robert Morris, Treasurer

Board Members: Jacqueline Boulware, Lill Mood, Carolyn Leon Howard, Derrick Huggins, Colonel (R) Roger Leaks, Jr.
Joyce Dickerson, Skip Jenkins, Debbie Summers, Bobby Horton, Kevin Reeley, Geraldine Robinson
Attachments: Passenger Amenities Map.

For information regarding this staff report, please contact John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO at (803) 255-7087 or email john.andoh@catchthecomet.org.

Approved for Submission,

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO
DATE: March 21, 2019  
TO: CMCOG Board of Directors  
FROM: Benjamin J. Mauldin, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Executive Director’s Report

1. **National Healthcare Decisions Day**

   National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16th. This day exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance health care planning.

   Shelia Bell-Ford, CMCOG SHIP Coordinator has been the Advance Directives Coordinator for a number of years now. We are planning a Healthcare Decisions Day Training on April 16th in the CMCOG conference room at 11 am. Ms. Bell-Ford will be providing an overview on Advance Directives for South Carolina and providing copies. You are welcome to attend. If you would like to have a packet so you can review the information or share with family and friends, please contact Shelia Bell Ford at sbellford@cmcog.org or (803) 744-5127.

2. **CMCOG Ombudsman Update: April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!**

   April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and as always the Volunteer Ombudsman Program is planning an Appreciation Luncheon on April 17th (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at CMCOG) to honor our volunteers for their dedication to residents in long-term care facilities. If you know someone who would be interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Fretoria Addison, Ombudsman Program Coordinator for additional information. We would love the opportunity to invite that potential volunteer to the luncheon. Ms. Addison may be reached at faddison@cmcog.org or (803) 376-5389.

3. **Long Term Ombudsman Conflict of Interest Screening**

   One of the core functions of the Central Midlands Council of Governments is providing advocacy to our most vulnerable seniors in the Central Midlands Region through the Ombudsman Program. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Final Rule provides duties of both paid and volunteer persons providing support to the program. In accordance with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Final Rule, there is a Conflict of Interest screening and statement that we need
you to complete to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any conflicts that are identified need to be reported to the SC Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

To ensure that our policies regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest are fully understood and accepted by you, we will be asking all board members to complete the a Conflict of Interest Screening form. Please contact Anna Harmon or myself, if you have any questions.

4. **Staffing Spotlight**

Chanell Jackson has been hired as our Finance Director. Please join me in welcoming her to the Central Midlands COG family. Channel brings many years of governmental accounting and grant management experience, having worked at the United Way Association of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina most recently.

Many of you will also remember Andy Simmons who was Information Services Manager that tracked demographic / population trends for the region. Andy relocated with his family to Atlanta, Ga. last fall. Andy’s passion for trivia paid off as he recently was selected and appeared on Jeopardy. The episode will air tomorrow, March 29th on CBS.

5. **Grants Training in Columbia, SC - June 17-18, 2019**

Central Midlands Council of Governments and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop at CMCOG offices on June 17-18, 2019. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Attendees will learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Tuition is $455 and includes everything: two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

The Opioid Epidemic in South Carolina

Hidden Dangers of Prescription Drug Misuse

June 29, 2018

“It starts in the medicine cabinet,” says Shauna Cooper, LRADAC Director of Prevention. Cooper is referring to prescription drug misuse and the development of substance use disorders due to that misuse.

Most people who are prescribed a prescription medication are able to use it as prescribed under the supervision of a medical provider. However, there are some cases where routine prescription drug use can turn into a substance misuse problem and in time, a substance use disorder can develop and be life-threatening.

Prescription Drug Misuse Statistics

A reported 18.7 million people reported misusing prescription drugs in the past year (2016). According to SAMHSA’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health, prescription drugs are the third most widely used drug in the nation. Alarmingly, among South Carolina youth, 17.1% reported that they believed there was no risk or only a slight risk of harm from misusing prescription drugs (Communities That Care Survey, 2016).

So what does this mean? It means that there is a perception that using prescription medication is not harmful and many people feel more safe misusing prescription medication that other drugs. Additionally, prescription drugs are addictive so even those who are using medication as prescribed can be at risk of developing a substance use disorder.

Physical Affects of Prescription Drug Misuse

Using prescription medication in a way other than prescribed or simply for the feeling it gives the user is dangerous. Prescription drug misuse can cause:

- Addiction, as many prescription drugs are highly addictive,
- Slowed breathing, including accidental overdose,
- Seizures,
- Withdrawal symptoms,
- High body temperatures,
- Increased or decreased heart rate,
- Irregular heartbeat,
- When mixed with alcohol, can cause nausea, vomiting, headaches, drowsiness, fainting or loss of coordination.
Prescription Drug Misuse Resources

Learn more about the dangers of prescription drug misuse at https://www.ncadd.org/about-addiction/drugs/prescription-drugs. LRADAC offers free training in Lexington and Richland Counties. If you would like us to come speak to your group about the dangers and trends of prescription drug use, please click here to book a speaker.

Addiction to any drug can be treated. If you or a loved one is struggling with prescription drug misuse, please contact us at (803) 726-9300 or fill out this form (https://lradac.org/contact/) and we will contact you.

LRADAC is the designated alcohol abuse and drug abuse authority for Lexington and Richland Counties of South Carolina. The public, not-for-profit agency offers a wide array of prevention, intervention and treatment programs in locations convenient to residents of both counties. The agency has a budget of approximately $10 million and serves more than 5,000 clients per year.

For additional information: Kim Myers at 803-726-9334.
DATE: March 21, 2019
TO: CMCOG Board of Directors
FROM: Gregory Sprouse, Director of Planning, Research and Development
SUBJECT: Midlands River Coalition Update

Staff will provide an update on the Midlands River Coalition 2019 Monitoring Season.

The Midlands Rivers Coalition, formerly known as the Lower Saluda River Coalition, will begin its third year of water quality monitoring of the major rivers in the Columbia area in May 2019. The testing will be done weekly and run from May through September. Weekly data will be posted each Thursday on howsmyscriver.org.

Created in 2016, the Midlands Rivers Coalition is made up of river related businesses, environmental organizations, academia, local and state government, recreation providers, property owners, industry and other users of the rivers. One of the main purposes of the coalition is to educate river users on water quality issues related to our rivers.

The Lower Saluda, Broad and Congaree Rivers are recreational destinations for public fishing, canoeing, kayaking, tubing, swimming and wading; and these activities involve contact with natural waters. As with most natural bodies of water, these rivers can be negatively impacted periodically by short-term events such as runoff from heavy rains, sewer overflows and other events. The program aims to enhance public awareness on these issues.

The first objective is to make water quality information more frequently and readily available to river users so they can make informed decisions on when to recreate in the river. This is the first program of its type for inland waters in South Carolina.

For more information on the program and the coalition visit howsmyscriver.org.