



### **GCS recognizes The COMET as its “Organization of the Month”**

Government and Community Services (GCS) is a proactive outreach arm of the County. GCS focuses on facilitating improved community outreach, administration of government services, and the resolution of community issues. GCS recognizes an “Organization of the Month” that exemplifies the importance of supporting the community and assisting in getting resources to those most in need.

*This month*, GCS recognizes The Central Midlands Transit Authority and its core mission to connect all residents of the Midlands to all the amenities and needs residents require in order to live productive lives while remaining affordable. From customized services ranging from Dial-a-Ride Transit (DART), offering free rides to COVID vaccination sites, and advocating for newer improved transit infrastructure, The COMET has been a valuable asset for residents in the County. The COMET was initiated on October 16, 2002 by the Central Midlands Council of Governments. The COMET transports more than 2.8 million passengers annually on a fleet of more than 80 buses, vans, and trolleys. With the passage of the Penny Tax in 2012, The COMET has been able to expand services while offering improved customer service and increased accessibility for residents.

Connecting residents and being a responsible steward for the Midlands is critical for The COMET. The Organization has received a FTA grant of \$2,935,190 for upgrades to its buses and vans. Reducing congestion on the roads as well as emissions is a win-win for residents and will ensure increased ridership and cost effectiveness. For more information on this recent grant, please visit <https://catchthecometsc.gov/whats-new/the-comet-awarded-2-9m-grant-from-federal-transit-administration/>.

The DART Service assists seniors and people with disabilities with transportation to and from destinations with convenience and ease. Some of the benefits include: wheelchair accessibility, more leg room and space for comfort, and advance reservations for next day service. For more information on the DART Service, please visit <https://catchthecometsc.gov/dart-service/>.

The COMET holds frequent meetings every month where residents can participate in and listen to meetings ranging from service delivery, accessibility, COVID information, and its financial investment activities. Please visit The COMET’s website at <https://catchthecometsc.gov/whats-new/> for a list of upcoming events and important information! Archived meetings are also posted on the Organization’s YouTube page.

To sign up for the Newsletter, please enter your email address at the bottom right of the home page: <https://catchthecometsc.gov/>.

Residents can also contact The COMET and submit comments, questions, or concerns directly for improved service by visiting <https://catchthecometsc.gov/contact/>.

Riders can also reach The COMET by calling their main telephone line: 803-255-7100. Office hours are: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM-9:00 PM and Saturday-Sunday from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM