



**News Release**  
**Lexington County Administrator**  
212 South Lake Drive, Suite 602  
Lexington, SC 29072  
[www.lex-co.sc.gov](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov)  
(803) 785-8100 Fax (803) 785-8101

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*Administrator's Office & 24-hour messages*  
*Phone: (803) 785-8100*  
*E-mail: [jmergo@lex-co.com](mailto:jmergo@lex-co.com)*

**Friday, September 20, 2013**  
**3:00 p.m. (For immediate release)**

### **LEXINGTON COUNTY PILOT BUS ROUTE ENDS SEPTEMBER 30**

A pilot bus route providing roundtrip service in Lexington County on Mondays will cease operations after September 30.

Launched this summer to test the demand for ridership in Lexington County, the test route included stops in Cayce, West Columbia, and the Town of Lexington. For several months, the House of Praise in West Columbia covered the cost of the fare for all residents who used the service. A key stop was at the County of Lexington's Red Bank Crossing where the Health Department, Department of Social Services and Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC) are located.

While making the test route permanent is not feasible at this time, The COMET and local officials in the County of Lexington are looking at other ways to expand service in the county.

"We're committed to bringing new, innovative transit services to the Midlands, and test routes such as this are an important way to explore new routes and serve new riders," said Robert Schneider, The COMET Executive Director. "We look forward to continuing to work with local leaders to create new services and solutions."

"This pilot bus program is reflective of the creative and collaborative spirit of the County of Lexington, its municipalities and its generous community partners when it comes to addressing the needs of transit dependent residents. Though the demonstration period has ended, the County will continue to evaluate the transit needs in our community that are determined to be efficient and cost effective," said Lexington County Administrator Joe Mergo.

#### **About The COMET:**

Established in October 2002, Central Midlands Transit (The COMET) is committed to providing safe, dependable and accessible public transit service to the heart of the Midlands. For more information about The COMET, visit [www.catchthecomet.org](http://www.catchthecomet.org).