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CMRTA Expands to Provide New Route Service to the Village at Sandhill and Alpine Road

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 26, 2007) – The CMRTA Board of Directors voted today to expand its current bus service to include the Village at Sandhill Shopping Center. New service will also be provided along Faraway Drive and Alpine Road.

The new test routes will be available Monday – Saturday from approximately 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and are slated to begin by June 2007. Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART) will also expand its service to three-fourths of a mile around the new fixed route service area.

The extension of route service to the Village at Sandhill, Faraway Drive and Alpine Road areas is due to the CMRTA's continuous evaluation of routes. After reviewing the current route system, the CMRTA staff found service hours that could be moved from two existing routes, allowing the transit system to provide expanded service to current and potential passengers in the Northeast area without the need to incur additional costs.

"We are very excited to be able to continue growing the transit system by simply shifting around the schedules of existing routes and avoiding the need to incur additional costs," said Mitzi Javers, executive director of the CMRTA.

In addition to providing service to the Village at Sandhill, employees at Blue Cross Blue Shield and Companion – as well as residents at nearby apartment complexes and other residential communities -- will have access to the CMRTA's expanded service.

Pat Smith, chairman of the board for the CMRTA said, "We have had many requests for service to this area due to new job opportunities and continued growth in the Northeast and look forward to meeting the public transit needs of current and potential riders in the area.

Mike Sutton, an employment consultant for the Commission for the Blind and a visually-impaired CMRTA bus rider and said, "I am thrilled that the CMRTA is constantly evaluating routes and helping to provide access to new job opportunities for everyone. Without this public transportation system, there would be many individuals unable to make a living for themselves."

About the CMRTA
Established in October 2002, the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority (CMRTA) is committed to providing safe, dependable and accessible public transit service to the heart of the Midlands, serving Columbia, Cayce, West Columbia, Forest Acres, Arcadia Lakes, Springdale, St. Andrews and Harbison. For more information about the CMRTA, visit www.goCMRTA.com.

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