

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION | AFL-CIO/CLC

INTRANSIT

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

We can't and won't let up our fight

From mask mandates to vaccine priority to strong contracts to federal relief, the ATU is fighting for you.



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New Tips on Masks to Protect Yourself from COVID-19

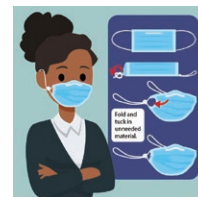
Wearing a mask, coupled with vaccinations, is the best way to protect our families, communities, and coworkers from spreading and contracting COVID-19 and the new, more contagious variants of the virus. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released new research that double-masking offers more protection against the coronavirus. It is important that we all continue to wear masks and follow updated public health guidance for the use of different kinds of masks and their fit. Below we have provided more guidance on double masking, mask material, and mask fit to reflect new information about the level of protection that masks can provide.

Double-masking offers more protection against COVID-19

CDC lab tests found exposure to potentially infectious aerosols decreased by about **95%** when wearing tightly fitted masks:



Double-mask with cloth mask over medical procedure mask



Medical procedure mask with knotted ear loops and tucked-in sides

Other effective options to improve fit:



Use a mask fitter or brace over a disposable mask/cloth mask to prevent air from leaking around the edges of the mask



Wear a Gaiter or Nylon covering over mask

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS EMERITUS

International President Jim La Sala, ret.
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International Executive Vice President Ellis Franklin, ret.



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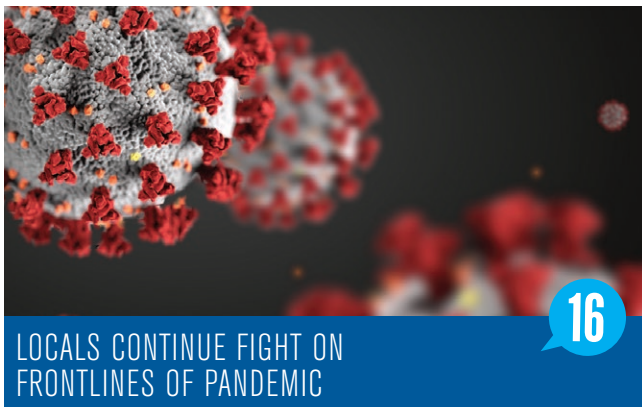
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Edmonton Local Mobilizes Members

While preparing for bargaining and other fights, Local 569-Edmonton, AB, decided to take their practice of member-driven unionism to the next level: achieving majority participation in union actions.

It's called the Organizing Model, and it's not new to Local 569 or ATU. For more than a decade, ATU International has been encouraging Local Unions to adopt the Organizing Model, which puts member participation at the center of how a union campaigns, wins grievances, and exercises power in political affairs.

The Organizing Model is as old as the labor movement itself. It always starts with a small committee of activist members whose first job is to recruit others into volunteering their time to build union power. They do this through structured one-on-one conversations, which they keep track of on a wall chart or spreadsheet, to ensure the union is in tune with what rank-and-file members think and what types of action they are ready to take.

At Local 569, the committee is called the CORE Team. In their first attempt to mobilize members, they recruited a third of the unit to sign on to a petition in their fight against the privatization of Edmonton's transit systems. It was a strong effort, but majority participation is their goal. So they mapped out their strategy, realizing they needed to do more to hit the night shift and maintenance. They went back out to talk to members.

68% of the members mobilized to action

Thanks to their efforts, they garnered 1,576 signatures and 68% of the bargaining unit involved. How did they get the signatures? The CORE Team did all of the work the old-fashioned way, in person. They set up tables at dispatch offices and went from workstation to workstation having conversations and getting the word out, a testament to deep and intentional union organizing.

The Local had some help along the way, with committee members attending an online Strike School facilitated by legendary labor organizer Jane McAlevey. In Strike School, CORE Team members were joined by thousands of unionists from around the world to learn how to organize for power.



The fight against privatization goes public

When they were confident they'd reached a majority, the Local took their campaign to the press. They held a protest outside City Hall to deliver the more than 1,500 petitions against the plan to privatize public transit to the Edmonton Regional Transit Commission's Co-Chairs.

"Privatization of transit is bad for our riders, bad for our community, and bad for workers. Our petition shows we are united and angry about the current regional transit plan," Local President Steve Bradshaw told the crowd as local press listened in.

The Local also demanded a worker representative at the decision-maker table on issues related to transit. "It's about transparency and incorporation of transit workers in decisions about transit that affect our community. Regional transit needs investment in frontline services, not another new level of bureaucracy," added Bradshaw.

Next steps

What's next for the CORE Team? They're launching another petition drive, this time putting a face to all of those signatures. The Local hopes a photo petition will humanize the workers affected by privatization and force the bosses to confront those they'd hurt. This time, they want to get at least 1,600 members to support their bargaining demands, including an end to the contracting out proposals in maintenance and paratransit. ❖



JOHN A. COSTA, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

We can't and won't let up our fight

It's been over a year since COVID-19 first hit us, and it's been one of the most difficult challenges we've undertaken as a union. Nevertheless, our determination to protect our members is stronger than ever. While it's been a few months into the new year, we've already seen promising victories and hope.

Elections have consequences

We started this year off strong, making history in Georgia by mobilizing our members, riders, and the public to elect Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock, flipping the U.S. Senate to the pro-worker majority needed to pass meaningful COVID relief. We're so proud of the work the ATU and Locals **732**-Atlanta, GA, and **1324**-Savannah, GA, contributed to these significant victories.



Then we witnessed President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' historic inauguration. The Administration hit the ground running with the CDC mandating masks on public transportation. This directive, which the ATU has been advocating for since day one, will save lives.

While the mask mandate is great and the right thing to do, we have to continue to fight to protect our frontline heroes.

Our members are not mask enforcers, nor should they be. We must demand our transit agencies keep our members and passengers safe from anyone not following the directive.

In addition to the mask mandate, President Biden further signaled he's a friend of labor by appointing worker advocates to his cabinet. Pete Buttigieg, who supported ATU bus drivers in Martha's Vineyard, was tapped for Secretary of Transportation. Former Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, an ally to our members of Boston Carmen's Union Local **589**, is the new Secretary of Labor. Our good friend, Nuria Fernandez, was picked to lead the Federal Transportation Administration as Administrator. The ATU couldn't be more hopeful about these appointments and what they mean for the future of transit in America when working people have a seat at the table.

Locals fight on the frontlines of the pandemic

Sadly, our hero brothers and sisters continue to die from this deadly virus. The ATU and our Locals continue to fight on the frontlines of the pandemic.

In Halifax, NS, Local **508** rallied thousands online to petition legislators to demand passengers wear masks on public transit. Local **1622**-Danbury, CT, and Locals **1493**-Raleigh, NC, have fought for safe service, including mandatory masks, smaller passenger limits, rear door entry, and more. Locals continue to push back against proposed layoffs and cuts to service, including Bay Area Locals **192**-Oakland, **265**-San Jose, **1555**-Oakland, **1574**-San Mateo, **1575**-San Rafael, and **1605**-Concord, as well as Local **1001**-Denver, CO.

— continued on page 6

In Calgary, AB, Local **583** has successfully mobilized members for a political campaign to elect politicians who support transit to ensure affordable and safe service and jobs for our members in civic elections next fall.



Vaccinations Have Arrived

With the vaccines offering hope to end this pandemic, the ATU continues to advocate to have our members prioritized for vaccines in all states and provinces. Right now, transit workers are receiving vaccines in New Jersey, Illinois, Missouri, New York, California, Massachusetts, and other states.

Now, we must work to ensure mass participation in vaccination programs to protect ourselves, our coworkers, our families, our communities, and the transit industry. To ensure our members are informed, we created a COVID-19 Vaccine Website page. I also hosted a vaccine webinar with Dr. Bob Harrison, an occupational health and safety doctor, to provide expert information and guidance about the vaccines, which can be viewed on our COVID-19 website.

Advocating at the Federal Level

Our advocacy continued at the Federal level. So far this year, I've had the honor of being invited to testify twice on behalf of transit workers.

First, our friend, Nuria Fernandez, invited me to speak at a round table hosted by the Federal Transit Administration on the federal mask requirement. I shared our members' concerns regarding mask enforcement and the risks drivers take every single day when they go to work.

I then testified in front of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs about how critical



transit is, the urgent need for additional federal transit funding, and the importance of keeping our members and riders safe.

Thanks to our efforts, Congress passed, and President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, providing \$30 billion in federal relief for transit agencies.

In Canada, ATU Canada and our Locals continue to push for critical federal operational transit funding needed to help continue to recover from the pandemic.

Edmonton Local Mobilizes Members to Fight

With a contract battle and privatization fight on the horizon, Local **569**-Edmonton, AB, has mobilized their members to take action. The Local set up a CORE team to recruit rank-and-file members. Almost 70 percent of the bargaining unit got involved, signing a petition against privatization that was delivered at a protest outside Edmonton City Hall.

Looking ahead with apprenticeships

While all of this has been happening, the ATU continues to lead the way with apprenticeship programs in the transit industry, including our Zero Emission Bus (ZEB's) programs.

I'm so proud of the work our great union has done through these unprecedented times. With spring upon us and vaccine distribution getting underway, I'm hopeful that the worst is behind us, but we can't and won't let up our fight. Because...

Together, we fight. Together, we win. ❖



JAVIER M. PEREZ, JR., INTERNATIONAL EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT

Act Boldly, Answer the Call

Many of our members can tell you where they were and what they were doing when they learned of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, or when Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.

How many can remember where you were and what you were doing on March 11, 2020, the date the World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 had become a worldwide pandemic?

Many of us heard this pandemic started in China, but saw maps on our screens showing the infection rate in various countries. Maps of the United States were posted showing the number of confirmed infections in our home states.

Everything was normal, until it wasn't. In the days, weeks, months, and year that followed, our "new normal" became just that – masks, social distancing, zoom meeting, small businesses closing, and declining ridership.

Over a half million in the United States have died. The California Governor announced that, 55,000 people have died in the state - enough to fill Dodger Stadium. In Canada, over 22,000 have died.

On March 27, 2020, our ATU family suffered our first loss to the pandemic. "The tragic reality of this devastating and deadly pandemic has now taken the life of one of our own. I hope the entire continent will join us in a moment of silence tonight at 7:10 p.m. ET to remember Local **1576**-Lynnwood, WA shop steward Scott Ryan, who was just 41 years old," said ATU International President John Costa.

On February 26, 2021, Local **788**-St. Louis, MO learned of the death of Pat Gantt. Pat was a 47-year ATU member and served as a Steward most of those years for 788's school bus group in Granite City, Il. She never let one of her school bus members fall behind in dues. Rather she paid them out of her own pocket never seeking reimbursement. Pat had been leading the charge at her garage, pushing the employer to provide her school bus members with proper

protection and access to the vaccine. I had the privilege of attending her wake and Local 788's school bus memorial.

To date we have lost 151 of our brothers and sisters. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. I've received both my vaccine shots with no side effects. I encourage you to do the same. Your life is precious to the well-being of your families.

The story of our 151 heroes doesn't end with their passing. Their legacy and our mission demand that we mourn each loss and fight like hell for the living.

While we are headed on the right path to recover from this devastating pandemic, we must continue to fight to ensure the safety of our members and protect their jobs.

Imagine if you will, that, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announces as part of preparation for the development of the new infrastructure plan there will be a two-month moratorium on the purchase of new buses and related vehicles. During this hiatus, Buttigieg calls manufacturers, employers and Unions to regional zoom conferences with the goal of coming to a consensus on the bus and related vehicles that are to be the future of transit. Operator and passenger safety are mandated to be an integral part of the design. Transit systems are not allowed to stock up with new purchases to avoid improvements. Additionally, apprenticeship programs and job site training are mandated as they now become part of the federal grant process.

We will not return to the old normal and have a choice as to what the new norm will look like. We must act even bolder. Our Locals should learn the process of bus procurement at the Local level, the age of their respective fleet, and any plans to use alternative fuels.

Let us seize this special opportunity that is ours to act boldly and decisively at a time when the eyes of our fellow citizens, both present and future, are upon us.

Together we can make it happen, join the fight and honor the legacy of our heroes. ❖



KENNETH RAY KIRK,
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

WHY IT MATTERS

The Presidential and General Election of 2020 changed the political landscape in the United States. While it may not be everything working and poor people had hoped to achieve, it is a change for the better.

The ATU, labor, and the working poor made a real difference this election cycle. Young voters, poor voters, and voters of color were critical to the historic turnout at the ballot box.

But now the anti-union and conservative forces, the wealthy elite, and their allies across this country at the state level want to ensure that our voices are not heard during future elections.

Their goal is to make voting more difficult by purging voting files, limiting voting hours, attacking vote by mail, requiring stricter identification documents, and hindering voter registration. Already, Republican state lawmakers in 43 states have proposed more than 250 laws making it more difficult to cast a vote. These anti-democratic policies would disproportionately affect communities of color and working people.

They will do everything within their power and at any expense to achieve this goal.

What can we do?

We must push for voting reforms to make the process simple, convenient, and fair for everyone.

By supporting automatic voter registration, mail balloting, early voting, and requiring states to have more voting machines and poll workers, we can make this happen.

We must stop their attempts at voter suppression. Every American citizen deserves the right to have their vote counted. This is the foundation that our nation was founded on.

We should deplore states that attempt to enact voter ID laws, cut voting times, restrict voter registration, and purge voter rolls. These tactics are un-American and are an attack on our democracy, which is a shame.

As transit workers, I would like to issue a challenge to our Locals and our members in the U.S. and Canada.

We as a Union need to create programs to help those in our communities targeted by these attacks. We can run voter registration drives in the U.S. and Canada. We can encourage our riders to vote. We can even help by taking people to polling places to vote. I know many of us may already participate in programs that are doing it now, but there is so much more we can do!

This year I was honored to speak on the panel for Transit Equity Day. On this day, we strive to energize transit workers, riders, environmental activists, and allies to ensure that affordable, accessible, renewable, and equitable public transit is available to all as a civil right. The day commemorates Rosa Park's birthday and her act of defiance.

Many people don't know that before she refused to give up her seat, Rosa Parks had a long history as a voting rights activist. In fact, she was denied three times before being able to register to vote in 1945. Parks credited her attempts to register to vote as one of the milestones that led to that faithful day a decade later on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.

In 2020, expanded mail and early voting led to the largest U.S. voter turnout in more than a century. When more people have access to voting outside of election day, working people and people of color win. That's what they're afraid of, so let's all do our part to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to exercise one of our most hard-fought and sacred rights to vote. ❖

COVID-19 VACCINES PROVIDE HOPE



Since the beginning of this pandemic, the ATU has been fighting to protect our members' safety and health and the communities we serve. We have issued demands for safety barriers, social distancing, rear-door loading, and other measures meant to hinder the spread of the virus. Our efforts have been designed to buy time until safe and effective vaccines become available. That time has arrived. This critical step forward hopefully signals the beginning of the end of this deadly virus.

Vaccines have now been approved through a rigorous, open, and transparent review process by independent scientific and public health experts after numerous multi-phase clinical trials of tens of thousands of people. These vaccines are a vital tool to help defeat COVID-19.

ATU leads the way in fight for transit worker priority access

Before vaccines became available, the ATU led the way by pushing for frontline, hero transit workers to be prioritized for vaccine access. ATU International President John Costa wrote a letter to every governor to inform them of the request and offer logistical support in vaccine distribution.

"The recent promising news of multiple quality vaccines for the coronavirus has lifted the spirits of all Americans,



With hundreds of transit workers dead and thousands infected, ATU calls on governors to prioritize transit workers as essential in vaccine distribution

Union offers to play critical role in transportation logistics for administration of the vaccine

Silver Spring, MD – With hundreds of transit workers killed, including 94 ATU members, from COVID-19, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) has called on governors across the United States to prioritize frontline transit workers in the first rounds of COVID-19 vaccine distributions.

ATU International President John Costa wrote [a letter to every governor](#) to inform them of the request and offer logistical support in vaccine distribution.

"The recent promising news of multiple quality vaccines for the coronavirus has lifted the spirits of all Americans, including the hundreds of thousands of transportation workers who have been on the front lines working through this very dark period in our nation's history," Costa wrote in the letter to governors. "On behalf of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), the labor organization representing the majority of these brave workers, we urge you to provide early vaccine access and availability for our members in the transit and school bus industries."

including the hundreds of thousands of transportation workers who have been on the front lines working through this very dark period in our nation's history," Costa wrote in the letter to governors.

Costa also told governors that the ATU and its members could play a critical role in logistics for distributing the vaccine. The ATU could work with local governments and transit systems to transport masses of people to medical facilities or other staging areas for vaccinations or transport medical personnel, equipment, and the vaccines to the population.

In Canada, ATU also called on the federal and provincial governments to prioritize vaccine access to transit workers as the first batches of the COVID-19 vaccines were doled out. "Giving transit workers safe

working conditions during a global pandemic includes priority vaccine access,” said ATU Canada President John Di Nino. “This measure is a necessary and essential step that cannot be overlooked, and we are prepared to assist all levels of government to ensure the delivery of the vaccine to all transit professionals.”

Thanks to the ATU’s efforts, every state is vaccinating transit workers. However, in Canada, the ATU and our Locals are continuing the push for priority vaccine access as members continue to work on the frontlines of the pandemic.



ATU Launches COVID-19 Vaccine website

In an effort to protect ourselves, our coworkers, our families, our communities, and the transit industry, the ATU is working to ensure mass participation in vaccination programs by transit workers. The ATU has launched a COVID-19 Vaccine Information website (<http://bit.ly/ATU-COVID-Vaccine>) to educate and inform members about the vaccine. Included on the site is COVID-19 vaccine information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Canada, frequently asked questions about the vaccine, and other important information.

International President Costa hosts informational vaccine zoom webinar with occupational health and safety doctor

On January 28, International President John Costa hosted a COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar featuring Dr. Bob Harrison, Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University

of California-San Francisco, to provide expert information and guidance about the COVID-19 vaccines.



Dr. Harrison, who has counseled numerous unions during the pandemic, gave a detailed presentation covering the many reasons to take the vaccine, the numerous studies showing the vaccines are both safe and the deadly impact of COVID-19 on frontline transit workers. He encouraged ATU members to get vaccinated while also acknowledging the hesitancy some communities have toward vaccination. Dr. Harrison went on to share his personal experience of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, including the mild side effects he felt. He also discussed the vaccines’ effectiveness against new COVID-19 variants and stressed the importance of continuing to wear masks and use other PPE.

After the presentation, International President Costa and Dr. Harrison had a lengthy conversation, covering many common questions about the vaccines. They also took questions from Business Agents.

Information regarding workplace vaccination programs and the right and importance of Locals to bargain over and develop these programs was also presented. You can watch the entire ATU vaccine webinar at: <https://youtu.be/fEmSUah1mX4>. ❖



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CDC directive to make masks mandatory on public transportation will save lives

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) directive to make masks mandatory on public transportation starting February 1, 2021, was applauded by the ATU as a critical step in the fight against the pandemic.

“Since this pandemic began, our members have been frontline heroes keeping our communities moving, often with little or no protection,” said International President John Costa. “This CDC mask directive will save lives. It comes after the deadliest month of the pandemic so far and with new, more contagious variants of the virus showing up. It is well established that masks, coupled with vaccinations, are the best way to protect against COVID.”

Enforcement is key

The ATU called on transit agencies to immediately begin working with workers and their unions to develop practical and effective protocols for dealing with passengers who refuse to wear masks as mandated by the directive.

Transit workers have faced resistance ever since the CDC recommended wearing masks last year to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. An MTA bus driver was sucker-punched, and a California bus driver was hit with a baseball bat in a mask altercation.

“If drivers are stressed and getting punched while driving and then get in a crash, people could be hurt,” said Costa. He points out the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated

the need for a major redesign of American buses like buses in Europe that have a glass panel enclosing the driver and that have access to a driver side door to exit in case of an emergency.

The ATU is also calling on transit agencies to have multilingual signs to inform riders about the federal mask mandate on buses, at bus stops, and transit centers.

Wearing a mask that fits tightly to your face can help limit spread of the virus that causes COVID-19

In lab tests with dummies, exposure to potentially infectious aerosols decreased by **about 95%** when they both wore tightly fitted masks

Other effective options to improve fit include:

- Cloth mask over medical procedure mask
- Medical procedure mask with knotted ear loops and tucked-in sides
- Mask fitter
- Nylon covering over mask

CDC.GOV bit.ly/MMWR21021 MMWR

“The ATU commends the Biden Administration’s CDC for this mask directive. We look forward to continuing to work with the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, and the Biden Administration to prioritize the safety and health of frontline transit workers and all Americans to get this pandemic under control and help the nation recover,” concluded Costa. ❖

A Big Week for ATU Members in Washington

Transit workers and the future of organized labor both got a big boost the week of March 8, when President Biden and Congressional Democrats delivered on a historic relief package and moved forward with key legislation to empower unions.

Critical Transit Operating Funding

The *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, the new President's massive bill to recover from the coronavirus epidemic, which includes many provisions important to ATU members, was signed into law on March 11. The bill provides **\$30 billion** for public transportation nationwide, a much-needed lifeline for ATU members and riders. Like the previous two rescue bills, this funding is available for the operating expenses of transit agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus public health emergency, including reimbursement for payroll, the purchase of personal protective equipment, and administrative leave.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee in February, International President John Costa called for at least \$30 billion for transit. "Even if the vaccine rollout improves drastically in the first half of this year and our economy comes back to life, transit will still be in need of emergency operating aid for the foreseeable future. Dedicated sales taxes from bars and restaurants have dried up, leaving transit agencies with no local source of operating assistance," he testified.

If used as intended by transit systems, the funds from this bill should prevent service cuts and provide job security for most of 2021. "We have lost more than 140 brothers and sisters, with thousands more becoming infected with this deadly virus," said Costa upon passage of the bill. "This much-needed funding for transit agencies, frontline workers, and riders will help save lives."

The bill also includes \$350 billion in state and local funding which may be used for transit services. In addition, it provides \$1,400 in direct payments to individuals making less than \$75,000 and married couples making under \$150,000, and for dependents. It extends pandemic-

related unemployment assistance that was set to expire on March 14, including the current \$300 supplement to unemployment benefits for another six months.

Transformational Pro-Labor Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives also passed the *Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act*, which would modernize federal labor law by making it easier for workers to join a union. It would also establish a process to reach an agreement on a first contract, making the freedom to negotiate a reality for countless workers who form unions but never get to enjoy the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement. The bill would dramatically enhance the power of workers to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Never before has an American President so strongly come out publicly for key labor legislation. "The middle class built this country, and unions built the middle class. Unions give workers a stronger voice to increase wages, improve the quality of jobs and protect job security, protect against racial and all other forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, and protect workers' health, safety, and benefits in the workplace," said President Biden. "I urge Congress to send the PRO Act to my desk so we can seize the opportunity to build a future that reflects working people's courage and ambition, and offers not only good jobs with a real choice to join a union — but the dignity, equity, shared prosperity and common purpose the hardworking people who built this country and make it run deserve."

The fact that the Democratic-controlled House placed the PRO Act in the first series of bills in the new session speaks to Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) commitment to U.S. workers and labor unions. Next, the bill moves to the U.S. Senate. Although Democrats now control the chamber, passage of the bill is difficult due to Senate rules which require more than a majority vote. Your help will be needed to push the bill over the finish line and get it on Biden's desk. Stay tuned. ❖

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Canadian Locals



Historic Government Announcement on Public Transit Falls Short

At a virtual press conference at the beginning of February, Canada's Infrastructure Minister, Catherine McKenna, alongside Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, announced a historic amount of funding for public transit. The announcement included \$14.9 billion over the next eight years into public transit projects across Canada. However, none of it is dedicated operational funding. In addition to that, they also announced the start of an annual \$3 billion fund for transit - but only for capital funding.



“While we are encouraged by the recent announcement for stable capital funding, the case remains clear - we need dedicated operational funding for the continued survival of a safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible public transit system, and we need it now,” said ATU Canada President John Di Nino.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, ATU Canada, along with transit experts and community groups, have been calling for an investment of \$400 million per month into emergency operational funding to cover losses at the farebox. A recent poll done by EKOS Research and commissioned by the David Suzuki Foundation found

that there is overwhelming support for this. 73% of Canadians support the ask for stable, long-term funding for public transit in the form of operational dollars.

Although the federal government provided over \$2 billion in operational funding through the Safe Restart Agreement with provinces in July, it only addresses the current shortfall and does not tackle the ongoing concern. Further, it was made clear that this was only one-time funding, causing concern for the future of public transit.

“Operational funding is what the transit industry needs to survive right now during this critical recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with the massive loss in farebox revenue,” said ATU's International President John Costa. “The government knows this, and this is what transit workers and transit allies have been demanding for many years and what we expect.”

Prioritizing Transit Workers for the COVID-19 Vaccine

Since December, ATU Canada has been calling for transit workers to receive priority access to the vaccine alongside other essential workers. A letter was sent to all Premiers and provincial and federal ministers responsible for health and transportation advocating to put transit workers closer to the front of the line for vaccine access. Since then, however, we have seen several governments neglecting to prioritize transit professionals.

In Saskatchewan, the government announced its rollout but failed to include transit operators and other frontline workers. Local **615**- Saskatoon, SK, joined other workers in demanding that the government get its act together and noted the devastating effects leaving out transit workers in the earlier stages of the vaccine would have.

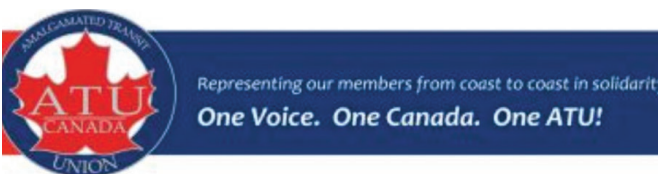
Added to that, the vaccine rollout in Canada has been



particularly slow compared to other countries and is expected to drag on. In March, Canada had administered roughly five vaccine doses per 100 people, compared to 31 in the United Kingdom, 23 in the United States, and seven in Germany, according to Bloomberg News figures. Despite this, ATU Canada has and will continue to put pressure on the federal government and governments across the country to make sure that our transit operators get the safety and protection they need to be able to do their work.

Recognizing Aerosol Transmission as a Health Risk

Another important risk to transit workers has been the ongoing threat of aerosol transmission of the COVID-19 virus. As frontline workers, operators are exposed daily to the risk of infection due to the potential of badly ventilated buses and the sheer volume of passengers that they can see on any given day.



Representing our members from coast to coast in solidarity
One Voice. One Canada. One ATU!

Monday, February 22nd, 2021

Dear Premier:

I am writing on behalf of all members of the Amalgamated Transit Union to express our urgent concern about the failure to date to recognize the reality and risk posed by aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and prevention of such transmission.

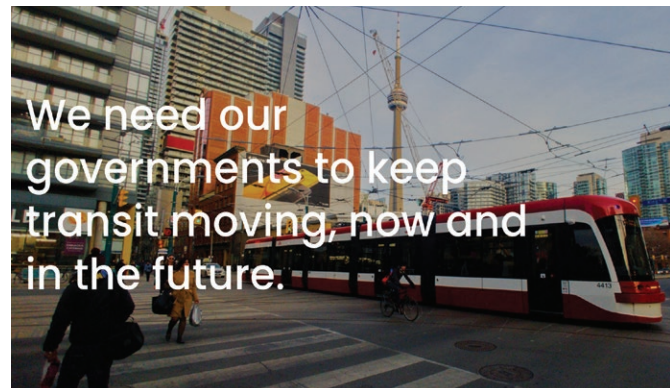
ATU Canada represents 35,000 public transit workers from coast to coast. Some of our locals have already written to their provincial representatives to express our concerns regarding the lack of recognition of aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

In the U.S., the ATU joined with 44 other organizations to send a petition signed by 10,000 concerned citizens to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

demanding the agency update its official guidance on how COVID-19 is spread. In Canada, ATU sent a letter to all Premiers on the need to implement stricter and clearer guidelines and messaging around aerosol transmission as well as re-issuing more PPE so that frontline workers can be adequately protected. The letter also calls on governments and government ministers to bring transit workers to the table and include them in these important conversations.

Canadian Coalition of Transit Riders and Workers Continue to Push for More Operating Funding

In Canada, the Keep Transit Moving Coalition, which is a coalition of transit rider groups and transit workers, including the ATU, has continued its important work advocating for more transit funding.



Members of the coalition have now started meeting with government and opposition Members of Parliament across the country ahead of the 2021-2022 federal budget. The group has been stressing the critical need for operational dollars and a national transit strategy to ensure public transit's survival from now until the end of the pandemic and beyond.

Meetings have been quite positive despite recent government announcements neglecting to include operational funding. In the next budget, the coalition will be pushing for similar funding to Canada's government's Safe Restart Agreement it negotiated with provinces earlier on in the pandemic. ❖

A M E R I C A N J O B S P L A N

With \$85 Billion For Transportation, President Biden's American Jobs Plan Will Help To Build Back Better ATU Urges Congress To Pass Critical Infrastructure Bill

With \$85 billion for transportation, the ATU applauded President Biden's comprehensive \$2 trillion infrastructure and jobs proposal, the American Jobs Plan, unveiled in Pittsburgh, PA.

For years, the ATU has been pushing for robust investment at a federal and state level in American transit systems and crumbling infrastructure. The pandemic has heightened that need, and with President Biden in office and Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of Transportation, now is the time to make it happen.

"Working people, including our frontline hero members, continue to bear the brunt of this unprecedented pandemic economically and emotionally. Our union has lost more than 150 brothers and sisters to this deadly virus. As our nation continues to recover, safe, affordable, and accessible public transit for all will play a critical role in keeping our communities and economies moving as it has throughout this crisis," said International President John Costa.

"While the American Rescue Plan provided a boost for struggling transit systems, this much-needed funding to modernize and improve our nation's transportation systems and infrastructure is long overdue. We applaud President Biden for taking bold action early on in his administration to keep his promise to the American people to create good, union jobs and build back better."

Vehicle electrification

The infrastructure bill is expected to create approximately

2.3 million jobs by 2024 and help refuel the economy after being devastated by the pandemic. The bill also includes a massive \$174 billion investment in vehicle electrification with the intention of swapping out 50,000 diesel-powered transit vehicles and electrifying at least 20 percent of school buses.

"As we head into the future, our members' voices and jobs will need to be at the forefront as advances in battery-powered electric buses become a reality to create a cleaner, greener planet," said Costa. "We must ensure adequate training so our ATU members are ready to take on this new challenge of helping to electrify our transit systems."

To help pay for the bill President Biden, who campaigned on a platform of aggressive tax hikes for big business and the ultra-wealthy, will in part raise the corporate tax rate and encourage domestic manufacturing by making it expensive for American companies to take their businesses overseas.

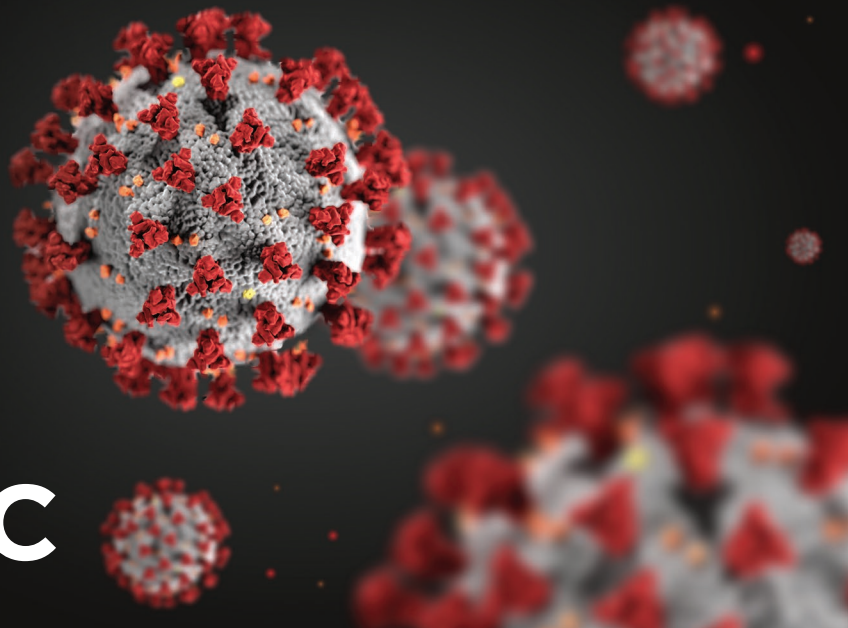
Costa called on Congress to take immediate action on this critical legislation. "The American Jobs Plan recognizes the needed investment in our cities and workers and the critical role public transit plays as we continue on the road of recovery and beyond," Costa continued. "We urge Congress to take immediate action to pass this bill for a stronger, more just economy for all." ❖



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LOCALS CONTINUE FIGHT ON FRONTLINES OF PANDEMIC



Halifax Local demands COVID-19 testing of workers as cases increase

As COVID-19 cases are increasing in Halifax, NS, members of Local **508** questioned why a testing site for workers is not being set up after bus operators have been exposed on many routes. Local President Ken Wilson says workers have resorted to getting tested on their own time, and if they leave work, they won't be paid. "There seems to be a different set of rules for different players," said Wilson, referring to the fact that there is a pop-up testing site for workers at the Halifax Shipyard but not for transit drivers. The agency claims bus operators are not required to be tested because they have a low risk of exposure. The Local is pushing back after the city said only employees deemed high risk would get paid time off to get tested.

Danbury Local keeps community moving while risking their lives during pandemic

Recognizing the critical role Danbury bus drivers play in the community by getting people from place to place throughout the pandemic, Local **1622**-Danbury, CT, President Oswaldo Chin, a bus driver for 20 years, is hopeful now that more COVID relief is on the way. "This new aid is welcome and will be critical to stave off layoffs and restore service for riders," said ATU International President John Costa. The funding to continue these essential services is critical to keeping communities and economies moving. "It will keep the buses running and will keep us working so we can get people to their jobs at the hospital and at the grocery store," said Chin, who is also thankful he hasn't gotten sick

on the job. "A lot of people are hurting right now, but we can't lose faith. We have to keep doing our part. That is the only way forward."

With eight worker infections, Roanoke Transit workers demand safe service

After eight members contracted COVID-19, Local **1493**-Raleigh, NC, is calling on Valley Metro to implement critical Safe Service policies to protect frontline transit workers and riders. "The fear for our safety and our riders' safety has finally reached a tipping point," said Local President Percival Patterson. "We have riders who refuse to keep their masks on. We need better safety and smaller passenger limits. We are asking Valley Metro to please help keep our transit system safe. We have families to go home to." The Local is demanding Valley Metro move quickly to deliver needed policy changes. Demands include rear-door entry, passenger limits on vehicles to support social distancing, and rider mask enforcement.

Denver Local staves off proposed layoffs as RTD receives \$203 million in aid from COVID Relief package

When the Regional Transit District (RTD) proposed to lay off about 200 workers and slashed critical transit service amidst the pandemic, Local **1001**-Denver, CO, questioned the move as the agency was set to receive \$203 million in federal emergency transit funding. After pressure from the Local, RTD officials called off the layoffs and were looking

to restore service routes and times cut with the much-needed stimulus money. “It made no sense that RTD would proceed with layoffs while our members are coming to work every day to provide transit service for the region’s critical workers – nurses, grocery store workers and others - on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community,” said Local President Lance Longenbohn.

Hamilton Local gets members reinstated after city fires immunocompromised workers

After two of long time Local **107**-Hamilton, ON, members – both organ transplant patients – were fired because of their risk associated with contracting COVID-19, Local President Eric Tuck blasted the city for their callous termination. “It is unconscionable that the city is purporting to rely on frustration of contract as grounds for termination on the basis of COVID-19 complications after a successful transplant surgery left one union member immunocompromised and delayed another’s ability to get a timely transplant,” said Tuck. Due to their hard work and advocacy, the Local was able to get both members reinstated to their positions.

Bay Area Locals fight for protections for workers as the pandemic rages on

California Bay Area Locals **192**-Oakland, **265**-San Jose, **1555**-Oakland, **1574**-San Mateo, **1575**-San Rafael, and **1605**-Concord are demanding transit agencies enforce stricter safety measures after COVID-19 infections have risen among their ranks. Local 265 President John Courtney said that he has multiple members recovering from hospitalization, with one member, Audrey Lopez, passing away in October. “Our members are genuinely scared,” Courtney said. With continuous exposure of essential frontline workers to the virus and with a limited supply of the vaccine available, more must be done in the interim to protect workers.

Despite \$2.5 million in federal transit funding, CARTA is shortchanging hero transit workers

With the Chattanooga Area Transit Authority (CARTA) receiving \$2.5 million in federal emergency transit funding from the latest COVID stimulus package, Local **1212**-Chattanooga, TN, is questioning why the agency won’t

reinstate hazard pay for its frontline workers. “Our members have been frontline heroes providing critical transportation services since the COVID-19 pandemic began,” said Local President Lakecha Strickland. “It’s not right that now they’re taking away hazard pay when the hazard is still out there.” The Local plans to investigate the company’s claims they no longer have funds to provide hazard pay for its frontline workforce as well as get the community and media involved in their fight through a letter campaign and press conference.

Ottawa Local and Transit Riders Oppose On-Demand Transit, Potential Service Cuts

Last year, Ottawa City Councilor Carol Anne Meehan proposed a \$10 million cut to transit operating funding. Even though she withdrew her motion due to pressure from the ATU and residents, she’s at it again, and Local **279**-Ottawa, ON, and riders groups are fighting back. Local President Clint Crabtree and Stuart MacKay from the Ottawa Transit Riders have teamed up to call out Meehan’s proposal to move toward on-demand transit or “micro-transit” for what it is: a massive service cut. ATU Canada has been aggressively advocating for long-term operational funding since the beginning of the pandemic.

Portland Local ratifies strong tentative agreement with wage increases while preserving apprenticeship programs

After a year and a half of tense negotiations, legal battles, a deadly pandemic, fires, and an aggressive member driven campaign, Local **757**-Portland, OR, ratified a strong tentative agreement with TriMet. The deal includes wage increases, better benefits, and other improvements, including retaining TriMet’s apprentice and training programs. “I am proud of the ATU 757 negotiating team and membership for persevering through this process. A very special thank you to ATU International and all of the folks they sent to help us make this final push,” said Local President Shirley Block. “This is a great victory for the members of Local 757,” said ATU International John Costa. “By preserving TriMet’s apprenticeship and training programs, our members can continue to gain critical knowledge, experience and skills to further their careers and keep up with changing technology in our industry.” ❖



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COVID-19 pandemic highlights the critical role of public transit this Transit Equity Day

To celebrate Rosa Parks on her birthday, the ATU once again joined labor unions, transit riders, community organizations, and environmental groups to commemorate her bold act of courage and activism through Transit Equity Day.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event looked different as International Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kirk kicked off a two-day virtual event. Kirk discussed the need for reliable, affordable, safe, and green public transportation as a civil right. He also talked about the critical role transit

has played during the pandemic and the need to protect workers and riders from the virus.

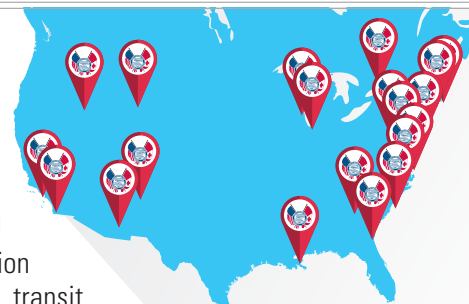
"Since day one of the pandemic, the ATU has been fighting for basic necessities like personal protective equipment and mandatory mask enforcement to give our members the provisions they need to continue moving the public. We are essential workers, and not just now. We always have been," said Kirk.

ATU Locals did safely take part in actions on the ground in Hartford, CT, Washington, DC, Eau Claire, WI, and other cities, including leafleting riders and reserving bus seats with a rose for civil rights and public transit activist Rosa Parks. In addition, as part of Transit Equity Day the Eau Claire City Council proclaimed Feb 4 Transit Equity Day.

"This year's Transit Equity Day during the pandemic, our struggle towards freedom and equality in honor of Rosa Parks is even more pressing," said International President John Costa. "We must continue to courageously demand access to equitable public transportation as a civil right for all." ❖

ATU Welcomes Newest Groups to **Vote Yes** for the ATU family

The ATU rolled into 2021 with new organizing wins despite the pandemic. The ATU has been aggressive in organizing because transit workers need union representation now more than ever. Regardless of the challenges of organizing during a pandemic, transit workers across North America continue to mobilize for a better life through their union. From hazard pay to safety measures to fighting layoffs, these workers know the strength that a union contract has to protect them on the job. The ATU welcomes all the new members that have joined our ATU family in 2021.



ATU Local **1027** - Selma, CA
40 workers in unit

ATU Local **697** - Toledo, OH
2 workers in unit

ATU Local **714** - Biddeford, ME
32 workers in unit

ATU Local **1743** - Washington, PA
6 workers in unit

ATU Local **1300** - Hanover, MD
33 workers in unit

ATU Local **741** - Stratford, ON
33 workers in unit

ATU Local **1743** - Washington, PA
15 workers in unit

ATU Releases Report: Growth of the Zero Emission Bus Industry in North America

Over the last several months, the New Technologies, Apprenticeships, and Jobs Committee has worked on a white paper examining North America's growing Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) industry. The purpose of the paper is to provide a brief overview of the current state of the ZEB industry, identify its likely trends and their impacts on our membership, and to lay out what steps the International will be taking soon to assist our Locals as this technology becomes more widespread, including an ATU ZEB conference.

ZEB industry is growing

The report begins with “What Are ZEBs” and the “State of the ZEB Industry,” to provide an overview of this new technology and the current state of the ZEB industry in general and in North America specifically, and the major ZEB manufacturers in the US and Canada. The report also analyzes the growing adoption of ZEBs by transit agencies in the US and Canada and the important role that government mandates and funding at both the federal and state/provincial level have played in driving this growth.

The Canada Infrastructure Bank's funding of public transit draws special attention to the fact that rather than giving grants for infrastructure projects, it instead offers financing for Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), locking in P3s as the norm in the large-scale transition to ZEBs among Canadian transit agencies.



Health and safety issues with ZEBs

There are environmental benefits of transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet, including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality in urban environments. However, the transition to an all ZEB fleet, has challenges including the need for new charging infrastructure, difficulties with battery life in extremely hot and cold environments, and safety concerns if the battery suffers a catastrophic failure.

The impact of ZEBs on bargaining



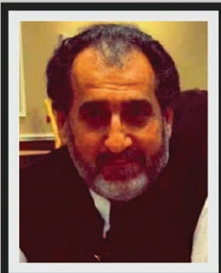

With some agencies already using ZEBs, this new technology has already had an impact on our Locals and their bargaining. We must ensure our mechanics' retraining to guarantee their work remains secure as ZEBs become more prevalent. There is also the importance of 13(c) protections in safeguarding our work, as the FTA remains a major source of funding for the transition to ZEBs.

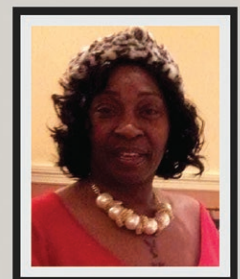
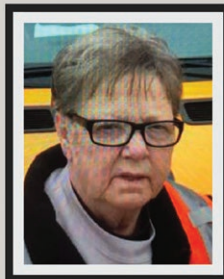
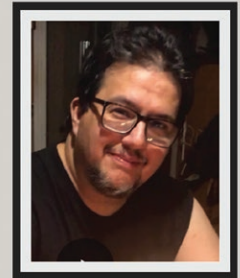
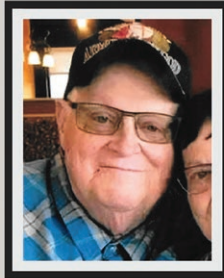
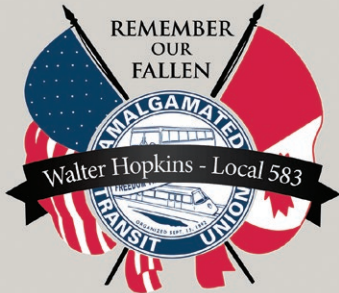
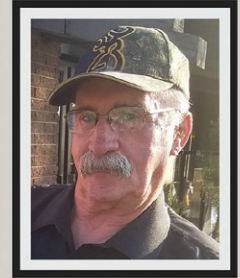
International protecting Locals and members

The International is already taking action and developing strategies to assist our Locals to ensure that the transition to ZEBs does not come at the expense of our membership. These include partnerships with the Transportation Learning Center to develop skills training programs for our members in the U.S. and efforts to build similar training and apprenticeship programs for our Canadian Locals. We are already working with our Locals that have ZEBs deployed at their transit agencies. This has helped us to develop new materials related to 13(c) protections and bargaining language related to new technologies and apprenticeship programs. ❖



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, ATU mourns the deaths of those members who put their lives on the line as essential frontline workers during this global crisis. We send our deepest sympathies and condolences to their families, extended families, friends, their locals, and all who knew them. Below we honor our members lost to this deadly virus since the last *In Transit* was published.



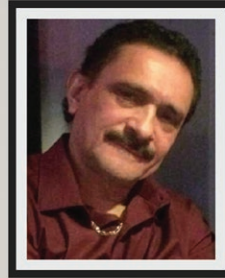




Anthony Runfola - Local 824



Carlos Martinez - Local 824



Cynthia Johnson - Local 824



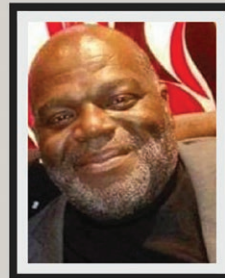
John Turner - Local 1001



Dennis Robinson - Local 1056



Joseph A. Williams, Local 1056



Elizabeth Duff - Local 1235



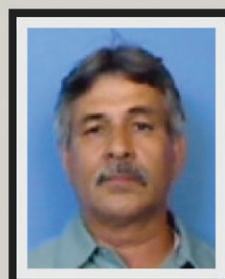
Jose Suarez - Local 1277

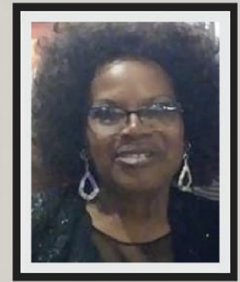
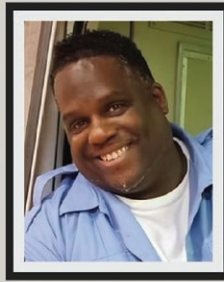
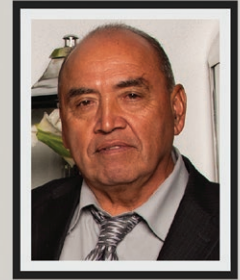
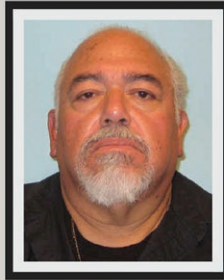


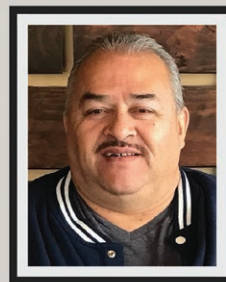
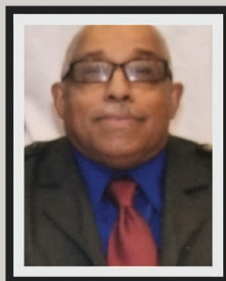
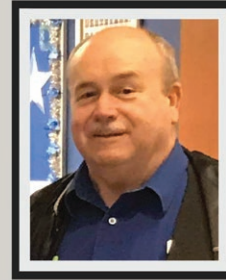
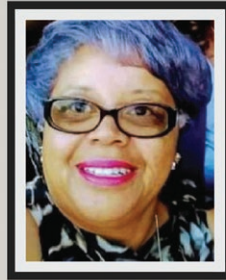
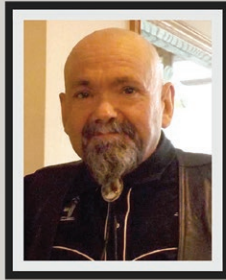
Kevin Smith - Local 1277



Francisco Rendon - Local 1277







ATU awards Lawrence J. Hanley Scholarships

The following students, beginning post-secondary education in the 2020-2021 academic year, won scholarships in memory of our former International President Lawrence J. Hanley. Excerpts from their essays appear after their bios below:

Emma R. Curley - Emma R. Curley, granddaughter of Harold L. Harris, Boston Carmen's Union Local **589**-Boston, MA, is attending Boston College, planning to major in Arts and Sciences. Curley is a member of the National Honor Society and played varsity hockey and lacrosse.

"Throughout American history, organized labor has improved the welfare of the working class and ultimately continues to support and protect the rights of the working class today. These unions, along with many others, have worked to engender the recognition of working-class rights and ultimately paved the way for fair treatment, protected rights, and continued advocacy for workers across the nation."

Sasha Felthman - Sasha Felthman, daughter of Zeno Felthman, Local **113**-Toronto, ON, is attending Queens University, planning to major in Concurrent Education. Felthman is an honors student and has volunteered for various organizations and causes including Relay for Life and 30 Hour Famine.

"Organized labour union workers contribute a lot to society and the people of Canada. Unions strengthen the democracy of Canada by giving a voice to all workers. Union workers fought and bargained for many things that impact society, such as health and safety laws, unemployment insurance, compensation for those hurt on the job, mandated 40 hour work weeks, antidiscrimination laws, and more."

Mauricio Hernandez - Mauricio Hernandez, son of Antonio E. Hernandez, Local **1277**-Los Angeles, CA, is attending the University of Pennsylvania, planning to major in Nursing. Hernandez who has been named student of the month multiple times, volunteers for various organizations and ran cross country track.

"Throughout history, organized labor such as unions and assemblies enabled workers to have a voice, one that major organizations attempted to quiet down for their own benefit. Organized labor's triumphs resonate even today, with the quality of life increasing throughout American industries. It remains a necessary aspect of employment, one that places the individual's interest before the company's."

Marissa E. Jason - Marissa E. Jason, daughter of Paul J. Jason, Local **164**-Wilkes-Barre, PA, is attending King's College, planning to major in Political Science on a pre-law track. Jason is a National Honor Society member and was Commissioner of the Student Leadership Council.

"Organized labor has been a force for good in this country, not only for workers, but for the American people as a whole. Without the brave men and women who started the revolution of unions in the Gilded Age, the United States would not have any of the benefits, security, and peace of mind that workers now have in modern times."

Samantha L. King - Samantha L. King, daughter of Todd King, Local **583**-Calgary, AB, is attending Mount Royal University, planning to major in Social Work. King, who volunteers at various organizations including the Calgary Police Foundation, played on her school's volleyball team and was a member of her school's choir and band.

"Unions' efforts to increase economic equality in the workplace along with improving health and safety conditions has been significant in supporting the welfare of Canadian citizens. Unions not only fight for the rights of their own workers, but for the rights of all citizens, and have set important standards for all employers to follow. Without organized labour groups, the welfare of Canada would be nowhere near where it is today."

Marian A. Prather - Marian A. Prather, daughter of John William Prather III, Local **1001**-Denver, CO, is attending University of Colorado Boulder, planning to major in Architecture. Prather is a National Honor Society member and volunteers with various organizations including attending mission trips to Anahuac, Mexico and Cap Haitien, Haiti.

"Organized labor played an integral part in establishing the modern workplace. The AFL-CIO championed several noble causes: civil rights, gender equality, workplace safety, and access to a living wage. These campaigns modified major corporations and passed essential laws that protect employees. Today, our workplaces are more diverse and safer than ever."

FTA Roundtable on the Federal Mask Requirement for Public Transportation

International President John Costa joined with Acting FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez, TWU International President John Samuelson, APTA, the TSA, and heads of transit agencies for a zoom roundtable on the new CDC mask mandate. IP Costa discussed the challenges and solutions for transit workers, including enforcement of the mask mandate, creating a safe environment on public transit for workers and riders, and other issues.



Welcome to the FTA Roundtable on the Federal Mask Requirement for Public Transportation.



The presentation, recording, and transcript will be posted on FTA's website.



“After nearly a year of advocating for and urging a mask mandate under the previous administration that was rebuffed time and time again, we are very thankful for President Biden’s quick and decisive action to require masks on public transportation,” said Costa. “The urgent need and importance of a mask mandate hits very close to home for transit workers.”

President Costa went on to tell the story of Local 26-Detroit, MI, Brother Jason Hargrove who went onto Facebook Live in March 2020 after a passenger openly coughed without covering her mouth. He died eleven days later. Since then, the ATU has lost more than 150 members, with more than 4,600 becoming infected.

A baseball bat assault on a bus driver over mask enforcement

Costa also talked about the problems of mask enforcement by transit workers, bringing stories of violent attacks by riders over wearing masks. “We had a baseball bat assault on a bus driver in California, a two-by-four attack in Texas, and a bone-breaking sucker punch in New York,” recalled Costa. “Last May, a St. Louis man boarded a bus without a mask. After the female driver informed him that he could only ride the bus with a face covering on, the man fired a 9 mm pistol at the driver.” ❖



Biden Appoints Labor Champions to Key Positions

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst economic times since the Great Depression, President Biden has chosen Labor champions to help working people out of this crisis and into the future.

Pete Buttigieg



One of the most consequential cabinet appointments for the ATU and our members is who leads the Department of Transportation. The ATU applauds President Biden's pick of former South Bend, IN, Mayor and Presidential nominee Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of Transportation, whose job is to "ensure that America has the safest, most efficient, and modern transportation system in the world."

"In the summer of 2019, while on the campaign trail, Pete met with our striking members working for the VTA on Martha's Vineyard," said International President John Costa. "We look forward to working with Pete to tackle the transportation challenges facing our nation, including protecting transit workers on the job, the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, and most importantly, building back our public transit systems that have been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Marty Walsh



At the important Department of Labor, President Joe Biden chose Boston Mayor and former union leader Marty Walsh to be the next Secretary of Labor to strengthen Biden's commitment to the inclusion of Labor in the White House.

"In choosing the union card-carrying Walsh to head a department tasked with administering and strengthening the nation's labor and employment laws and protecting

our workers, President-elect Biden has shown his strong support for labor unions," said Costa.

In Boston, Mayor Walsh has been an ally to our members of Boston Carmen's Union Local **589**-Boston, MA. He has fought and stopped efforts to privatize the bus system. Mayor Walsh also stood with our Local and members, holding a press conference, to stop proposed service cuts to the T, which saved our members' jobs. We knew we had a friend in Marty Walsh.

The ATU looks forward to working with Walsh to develop COVID-19 safety and health (OSHA) standards to help our frontline transit workers, bolster the DOL's program to enforce labor protections for transit workers and crack down on companies that interfere with workers' organizing efforts.

Nuria Fernandez



A friend of the ATU, Nuria Fernandez, General Manager and CEO of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, was nominated as Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This was another big victory for the ATU.

"Nuria understands firsthand the challenges facing transit workers and the transportation industry, which have been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Costa. "She knows what it will take to safely revive and expand public transit and create good and safe union jobs."

Before leading the VTA, Fernandez served in leadership positions at some of the busiest transit agencies in America, including the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. ❖



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No podemos y no vamos a abandonar nuestra lucha

Ha pasado más de un año desde que el COVID-19 nos golpeó por primera vez, y ha sido uno de los desafíos más difíciles que hemos enfrentado como sindicato. Sin embargo, nuestra determinación de proteger a nuestros miembros es más fuerte que nunca. Si bien ya han pasado algunos meses del nuevo año, ya hemos visto victorias prometedoras y esperanza.

Las elecciones tienen consecuencias

Comenzamos este año con fuerza, haciendo historia en Georgia al movilizar a nuestros miembros, pasajeros y al público para elegir a Jon Ossoff y al reverendo Rafael Warnock, ganando el Senado de los EE.UU. con la mayoría pro-trabajadores necesaria para aprobar una ayuda por COVID significativa. Estamos muy orgullosos del trabajo que ATU y los locales 732-Atlanta, GA y 1324-Savannah, GA contribuyeron a estas importantes victorias.

Luego fuimos testigos de la inauguración histórica del presidente Joe Biden y la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris. La Administración comenzó de inmediato con el CDC exigiendo mascarillas en el transporte público. Esta directiva, que ATU ha estado defendiendo desde el primer día, salvará vidas.

Si bien el mandato de mascarillas es excelente y lo correcto, tenemos que seguir luchando para proteger a nuestros héroes de primera línea. Nuestros miembros no son los encargados de vigilar que se usen las mascarillas, ni deberían serlo. Debemos exigir a nuestras agencias de transporte público que mantengan a nuestros miembros y pasajeros a salvo de cualquier persona que no siga la directiva.

Además del mandato de mascarillas, el presidente Biden señaló además que es amigo de los trabajadores al nombrar a varios defensores de los trabajadores en su gabinete. Pete Buttigieg, quien apoyó a los conductores de autobuses de ATU en Martha's Vineyard, fue designado como Secretario de Transporte. El ex alcalde de Boston, Marty Walsh, un aliado de nuestros miembros del Sindicato Local 589 de Boston Carmen, es el nuevo Secretario de Trabajo. Nuestra buena amiga, Nuria Fernandez, fue elegida para dirigir la Administración Federal de Transporte como Administradora Interina. ATU no podría tener más esperanzas sobre estos nombramientos y lo que significan para el futuro del transporte en los Estados Unidos cuando los trabajadores tienen un asiento en la mesa.

Los Locales luchan en el frente de la pandemia

Lamentablemente, nuestros heroicos compañeros y compañeras continúan muriendo a causa de este virus mortal. ATU y nuestros locales continúan luchando en el frente de la pandemia.

En Halifax, NS, el Local 508 reunió a miles en línea para pedir a los legisladores que exigieran que los pasajeros usen mascarillas en el transporte público. El Local 1622-Danbury, CT y el Local 1493-Raleigh, NC, han luchado por un servicio seguro, que incluya mascarillas obligatorias, límites de pasajeros más reducidos, entrada por la puerta trasera y más. Los locales continúan rechazando los despidos propuestos y los recortes en el servicio, incluyendo en el Área de la Bahía en los Locales 192-Oakland, 265-San José, 1555-Oakland, 1574-San Mateo, 1575-San Rafael y 1605-Concord, así como 1001-Denver, CO.

Han llegado las vacunas

Con las vacunas ofreciendo esperanza para poner fin a esta pandemia, ATU continúa abogando para que nuestros miembros tengan prioridad

para recibir las vacunas en todos los estados y provincias. En este momento, los trabajadores del transporte están recibiendo vacunas en Nueva Jersey, Illinois, Missouri, Nueva York, California, Massachusetts y otros estados.

Ahora, debemos trabajar para garantizar la participación masiva en los programas de vacunación para protegernos a nosotros mismos, a nuestros compañeros de trabajo, a nuestras familias, nuestras comunidades y la industria del transporte. Para asegurarnos de que nuestros miembros estén informados, creamos una página web sobre la vacuna del COVID-19. También realicé un seminario web sobre vacunas con el Dr. Bob Harrison, un médico de salud y seguridad ocupacional, para brindar información y orientación experta sobre las vacunas, que se puede ver en nuestro sitio web sobre el COVID-19.

Abogando a nivel federal

Nuestro trabajo de defensa continuó a nivel federal. En lo que va del año, he tenido el honor de ser invitado a testificar dos veces en nombre de los trabajadores del transporte.

Primero, nuestra amiga, Nuria Fernández, me invitó a hablar en una mesa redonda organizada por la Administración Federal de Transporte sobre el requisito federal de mascarillas. Compartí las preocupaciones de nuestros miembros con respecto al cumplimiento del mandato de mascarillas y los riesgos que corren los conductores todos los días cuando van a trabajar.

Luego testifiqué frente al Comité del Senado sobre Banca, Vivienda y Asuntos Urbanos sobre cuán crítico es el transporte público, la necesidad urgente de fondos federales adicionales para el transporte y la importancia de mantener seguros a nuestros miembros y pasajeros.

Gracias a nuestros esfuerzos, el Congreso aprobó y el presidente Biden firmó el Plan de Rescate Estadounidense, que proporciona \$30 mil millones en ayuda federal para las agencias de transporte.

En Canadá, ATU Canadá y nuestros locales continúan presionando para obtener los fondos de transporte operativos federales críticos necesarios para ayudar a continuar con la recuperación de la pandemia.

Un Local de Edmonton moviliza a sus miembros para luchar

Con una batalla contractual y una lucha contra la privatización en el horizonte, el Local 569-Edmonton, AB, ha movilizado a sus miembros para que pasen a la acción. El Local estableció un equipo CORE para reclutar a los miembros de su base. Casi el 70 por ciento de la unidad de negociación se involucró, firmando una petición contra la privatización que se entregó en una protesta frente al Ayuntamiento de Edmonton.

Mirando hacia el futuro con los programas de aprendizaje

Mientras todo esto ha estado sucediendo, ATU continúa liderando el camino con los programas de aprendizaje en la industria del transporte, incluyendo nuestros programas de Bus Eléctrico de Batería (BEB, por sus siglas en inglés). En esta revista, vamos a hablar sobre cómo estamos expandiendo nuestro programa de aprendizaje a lugares nuevos y emocionantes.

Estoy muy orgulloso del trabajo que ha realizado nuestro gran sindicato en estos tiempos sin precedentes. Con la llegada de la primavera y la distribución de vacunas en marcha, tengo la esperanza de que lo peor ya haya pasado, pero no podemos ni vamos a dejar de luchar. Porque...

Juntos, luchamos. Juntos, ganamos. ❖

Nous ne baisserons jamais les bras

Cela fait plus d'un an que le COVID-19 s'est abattu sur nous, et ce défi s'est révélé l'un des plus difficiles pour notre syndicat. Néanmoins, notre détermination à protéger nos membres est plus forte que jamais. Bien que nous ne soyons encore qu'au début de l'année, nous avons déjà constaté des victoires prometteuses.

Les élections ont des conséquences

Nous avons démarré l'année en force et obtenu des résultats historiques en mobilisant nos membres, nos passagers et le public pour élire Jon Ossoff et le révérend Rafael Warnock, faisant passer le sénat à une majorité en faveur des travailleurs, ce qu'il fallait pour voter les secours pertinents en temps de COVID. Nous sommes fiers du travail de l'ATU et des Sections locales. **732**-Atlanta, GA, et **1324**-Savannah, GA, ont contribué à ces magnifiques victoires.

Nous avons ensuite assisté à l'investiture historique du président Joe Biden et de la vice-présidente Kamala Harris. Ce gouvernement n'a pas perdu de temps et le CDC (Centre pour le contrôle et la prévention des maladies) a tout de suite exigé le port du masque dans les transports publics. Cette directive, que l'ATU a recommandée depuis le premier jour, va sauver des vies.

L'ordre de porter le masque est une très bonne chose, mais nous devons aussi continuer à lutter pour protéger nos héros de première ligne. Ce ne sont pas nos membres qui doivent faire respecter le port du masque. Nous devons exiger que nos agences de transport protègent nos membres et les passagers de quiconque ne respecterait pas la directive.

En plus de l'ordre relatif au port du masque, le président Biden a nommé à son cabinet des défenseurs des travailleurs, signalant ainsi qu'il est leur ami. Pete Buttigieg, qui a soutenu les conducteurs d'autobus de l'ATU à Martha's Vineyard, a été choisi comme ministre des transports. Marty Walsh, l'ancien maire de Boston, qui était l'allié de nos membres de la Section locale de Boston Carmen's Union, Section locale **589**, est le nouveau ministre du travail. Notre ami Muria Fernandez, a été choisi pour être à la tête de la *Federal Transportation Administration* en tant qu'administrateur intérimaire. L'ATU ne pourrait pas être plus fiante en ces nominations et ce qu'elles signifient pour l'avenir du transport en commun en Amérique, puisque les travailleurs ont voix au chapitre.

Les Sections locales luttent en première ligne contre la pandémie

Malheureusement, nos frères et sœurs héroïques continuent à mourir de ce virus mortel. L'ATU et nos Sections locales continuent à lutter en première ligne contre la pandémie.

A Halifax, NS, la Section locale **508** a convaincu des milliers de personnes en ligne d'envoyer une pétition aux législateurs pour exiger que les passagers portent des masques dans les transports publics. Les Sections locales **1622**-Danbury, CT, et **1493**-Raleigh, NC, ont lutté pour un service sûr, comprenant des masques obligatoires, une limite accrue du nombre des passagers, des accès à l'arrière du véhicule et plus encore. Les sections locales continuent à lutter contre les mises à pied proposées et les réductions des services, notamment dans la Baie de San Francisco pour les Sections locales **192**-Oakland, **265**-San Jose, **1555**-Oakland, **1574**-San Mateo, **1575**-San Rafael, et **1605**-Concord, ainsi que la Section locale **1001**-Denver, CO.

Les vaccins sont là

Les vaccins offrent l'espoir d'en finir avec cette pandémie. C'est pourquoi l'ATU continue à recommander que nos membres soient vaccinés

en priorité dans tous les états et provinces. En ce moment-même, les travailleurs des transports en commun se font vacciner dans les états du New Jersey, de l'Illinois, du Missouri, de New York, de Californie, du Massachusetts et d'autres.

Nous devons nous assurer maintenant d'une participation en masse aux programmes de vaccination pour nous protéger, nous-mêmes, nos familles, nos communautés et l'industrie du transport. Pour veiller à ce que nos membres soient informés, nous avons créé une page web sur le vaccin du COVID-19. J'ai aussi organisé un webinaire avec le Dr Bob Harrison, spécialiste en santé et sécurité au travail, pour offrir des informations et des conseils d'expert à propos des vaccins, que l'on trouve sur notre site internet dédié au COVID-19.

Défenses au niveau fédéral

Nos défenses se sont poursuivies au niveau fédéral. Jusqu'à présent cette année, j'ai eu l'honneur d'être invité deux fois à témoigner au nom des employés des transports en commun.

Tout d'abord, notre ami, Nuria Fernandez, m'a invité à parler à une table ronde organisée par la *Federal Transit Administration*, au sujet de l'exigence fédérale du port de masque. J'ai fait part des préoccupations de nos membres concernant l'imposition du port de masque et des risques que prennent les conducteurs au quotidien dans leur travail.

J'ai témoigné ensuite devant le comité sénatorial sur les activités bancaires, le logement et l'urbanisme, en expliquant l'état critique des transports en commun, le besoin urgent d'un financement fédéral supplémentaire, et l'importance d'assurer la sécurité de nos membres et des passagers.

Grâce à nos efforts, le congrès a voté, et le président Biden a signé le plan de sauvetage américain (American Rescue Plan), accordant 30 milliards de dollars de fonds fédéraux aux sociétés de transport en commun.

Au Canada, l'ATU Canada et nos Sections locales continuent à faire pression pour obtenir les fonds fédéraux essentiels au fonctionnement des transports en commun, afin de continuer à se remettre de la pandémie.

La Section locale d'Edmonton mobilise ses membres pour la lutte

Au moment où un conflit de contrats et une lutte contre la privatisation se profilent à l'horizon, la Section locale **569**-Edmonton, AB, a mobilisé ses membres pour passer à l'action. La Section locale a mis en place une équipe de base pour recruter des membres. Près de 70 pour cent des membres de l'unité de négociation ont participé, signant une pétition contre la privatisation, qui a été remise lors d'une manifestation devant la mairie d'Edmonton.

Envisager l'avenir grâce aux apprentissages

Pendant tous ces événements, l'ATU a continué d'ouvrir la voie grâce à des programmes d'apprentissages dans le secteur des transports en commun, notamment nos programmes d'autobus électriques à batterie (BEB). Dans ce magazine, nous allons parler de l'expansion de notre programme d'apprentissage qui nous mènera vers de nouveaux horizons.

Je suis vraiment fier du travail de notre remarquable syndicat au cours de cette période sans précédent. Le printemps arrive et la distribution des vaccins est en cours. J'espère donc que le plus dur est passé, mais quoiqu'il arrive, nous continuerons notre combat. Parce que...

Ensemble nous luttons. Ensemble nous gagnons. ❖

In Memoriam

Death Benefits Awarded October 1 - December 31, 2020

1- MEMBERS AT LARGE

ALDA ARNOLD
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

26- DETROIT, MI

PENDRUHL D JONES
LEO MAYS

85- PITTSBURGH, PA

SHELIA G ALSTON
GARY A ANTONOVICH
RICHARD M BRUNNER
JAMES E BUZON
JOHN J DUNLAP
JOSEPH W HARMON JR
PATRICK T HAZLETT
LAWRENCE A HEALY
MARY E HOLT
CLARK A JORDAN
THOMAS J KUCHNICKI
FRANK P MARCUS
THERON D MYERS
STANLEY C PAUL
VERNON ULERY
GENE WETMORE

107- HAMILTON, ON

MANUEL R HENRIQUES
WANDA KOCSIS

113- TORONTO, ON

HOWARD C ABBOTT
PETER ALOUSIS
JAMES AUSTIN
RAYMOND BAIN
ABINASH BASRA
JOSEPH BIELAK
TIMOTHY BRUMWELL
MARCO BUSUTTIL
HUBERT CRAWFORD
RONALD C DAVIS
VINCENZO DE VITO
GEORGE DICKSON
JOHN BERNARD DOOLEY
JEFFREY ENG
ERNEST GALLI
TONY GIANAKACOS
RICHARD G GRIFFIN
JAMES H HAMILTON
CHARLES HENDRY
IRENEUSZ JANAS
STAN KAWALA
DAVID P LOCKWOOD

SERGIO LONGO
HARRY MC CLEVERTY
RONALD J NAVARRA
GERALD E OICKLE
KENNETH LYLE RUTTAN
BRIAN R SCOTT
ERIC R SCOTT
DAVID SHEPPARD
ROMAS VICTOR SIMKUS
JOHN R SUNDERLAND
JOSEPH VASSALLO
GLEN WILLIAMS

192- OAKLAND, CA

DONALD C GRIGSBY
ROBERT M MC GILL

241- CHICAGO, IL

MARVIN A BASS
CHARLES F CARRETHEERS
EARL B CARSON
KEITH V EDWARDS
LEROY HERVY
VAN D HUDSON
GEORGE E JOHNSON
ALEXANDER LARKIN
PATRICK W MACKAY
SYLVESTER MCNUTT
ROSALI MOLINA
LOUIS C MOORE
ERNEST MORRIS
CHARLES W MYERS
ERMON G PHILLIPS
DONALD REED
JAMES E ROBERTSON
GABRIEL TYSON

256- SACRAMENTO, CA

KENNETH A SMITH

265- SAN JOSE, CA

ARTURO ALMEDA
VIVIAN AYRES
ROBERT J BAILEY
PAUL R HOLT
WILBUR J WALSTON

268- CLEVELAND, OH

WILLIAM EASTERLING
LARRY MOORE

279- OTTAWA, ON

GERALD BOILEAU

RICHARD R BOURBEAU
CHRIS DOYLE
WILLIAM J SOUTHWELL

281- NEW HAVEN, CT

HOWARD ROGERS JR

282- ROCHESTER, NY

LARRY ASHFORD
DAVID S CIMO
ROGER FENUKU
JOHN J MC GILL
HENRY L MORAN
JEROLD N SHAFF
ROBERT E WINCH

308- CHICAGO, IL

YVONNE C DAVIS
LINDA L NELSON

382- SALT LAKE CITY, UT

BRETT J GUNNUSEIO

416- PEORIA, IL

WILLIAM T METTS SR

508- HALIFAX, NS

ROY WILLIAMS

569- EDMONTON, AB

GORDON W CHRISTIE
ROBERT DUIKER
HENRY C DUMONT
SCOTT J FOSTER
MURRAY L SWANSON
GURU DATT VERMA
JOHN WITTEN

580- SYRACUSE, NY

SHAWN T MC MANUS

583- CALGARY, AB

DAVID HARAS
ALNUR MADHAVJI
LIVIOUS MOLDOVAN
RICHARD SCHLOSSER
GEORGE A SOUTHGATE

587- SEATTLE, WA

WAYNE L COULTER
KEITH A CROOVER
DAWN R MILLER
RYAN NELSON

SHIRLEY A SIMMONS-LOVINGS
TIMOTHY D THOMPSEN
DALLAS WOODMAN
JAMES E YOUNG

589- BOSTON, MA

RICHARD F KELLY
JOHN J KENNEY
JOANNE H NORTON
FRANCIS X SHEEHAN

610- CHARLESTON, SC

FRANK STANLEY

615- SASKATOON, SK

JAMES W COLES
ROBERT M PEARSON

616- WINDSOR, ON

WILLIAM M TURNER

618- PROVIDENCE, RI

LAWRENCE BAXTER
WILLIAM HODGE
WILLIAM MANTON
VALENTINA MOTTRAM
DEBRA PEREIRA

628- COVINGTON, KY

GERALDINE FISHER

689- WASHINGTON, DC

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CHRISTINA S BARBER
WILLIAM F BROOKS JR
STEPHEN J DABNEY
RICHARD L DAVIS
KENNETH H JACKSON
ELBERT JACKSON JR.
JOSEPH E KRUCELYAK
WILLIAM L LEAPART
CLEMANTINE A LINVILLE
HELEN MC GILL
BARBARA PARKMAN
NIEM H PHAN
PHILIP H POINDEXTER
ALVIN Q PORCH
WILLIAM S PROCTOR
WILLIAM PRICE SANDERS
CHARLES R SAVAGE-EL
ANTHONY W SEWELL
LEROY SMITH
ELBERT L STANLEY

THOMAS E STEVENSON
ALFRED B SUMMERS
JOSEPH E TAYLOR
FESSEHA B TEFAMICHAEL
BENJAMIN THOMPSON

725- BIRMINGHAM, AL

JAMES E HUBBARD
LLOYD E PETERSON

726- STATEN ISLAND, NY

EUGENE ANDRUCCI
DARLENE GRAPHENREED
MOHAMMAD HANIFF
KEVIN M HOWARD
JAMES VAVAS

732- ATLANTA, GA

BILLY R ADAMS
CARL E BELLE
SHERRY E HARDY
JOHNNY B PONDER
EUGENE PRESLEY
WILLIAM H WILDER JR

741- LONDON, ON

DONALD WILLIAM BOAM
EMIL SIVAK

757- PORTLAND, OR

JAMES H ANDREWS
LARRY C BRANT
DORIS Y CUSHMAN
RICHARD L DOUGLAS
FERNANDO MACIAS
MIKE C MATTISON
HAYNE H SIEMER

765- MONTGOMERY, AL

IRA J WILSON

788- ST. LOUIS, MO

ROBERT R ALSTON
ARLEE R BARTLEY
DONALD S BUECHLER
MARIE L EPPS
RICHARD H JONES
JIMMIE L PATTERSON
OTHIE L PRUNTY JR
BERNELL THOMPSON
VICKI L TRUSKOWSKI

819- NEWARK, NJ

THURMAN FREEMAN
ROBERT GUILFOYLE
ALFREDO HANNON
JANET C POLITO
ELSIE STRIGGLES

820- UNION CITY, NJ

TONY W ALSTON

JAMES BASILE
LYDIA FLOYD

822- PATERSON, NJ

HENRY CLARE
EUGENE SHAMIS

825- ORADELL, NJ

RUSSELL E BLACK
MC ARTHUR DANIELS
JAMES J HAYGOOD
JAMES MOESCHEN

842- WILMINGTON, DE

DONALD F O'BIER

880- CAMDEN, NJ

ROBERT BEHNKE
RICHARD EDGAR
WOODSON HARDY
WOODROW LEX
DOMINIC LIZZIO
EARL T PARKER
WILLIE R TORIAN
BERNARD WINDFELDER

966- THUNDER BAY, ON

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993- OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

NATHANIEL WYATT

998- MILWAUKEE, WI

ANDREW H ANDERSON
KENNETH BERGER
SOLOMON L LOVE
LEONARDO RAYFORD
SIEGFRIED K SCHULTZE

1001- DENVER, CO

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1056- FLUSHING, NY

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LEO FONTE
LIONEL HOGAN
FRANK LABARCA
RAYMOND PRUCHA
EDWARD SHEPERIS

1119- WILKES-BARRE, PA

PATRICK J MC GOUGH

1177- NORFOLK, VA

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JACK OSMENT

1179- NEW YORK, NY

PAUL GALLO
COURTNEY C SHAW
MICHAEL H STELLA

1181- NEW YORK, NY

ANTHONY ADORNETTO
FRANK BAKELAC
MAXINE BARNES
LINDA BENJAMIN
JOSETTE P BENOIT
JULIETTE BRISTOL
PHILOMENA CASTELLANO
JEAN C COLIN
LUCNOL DELVOIS
SEVENE DESIRE
ROBERT DI ANTONIO
YIRA J. DIAZ
LILLIAN FABRIZIO
MARGARET M GIUSTI
ISABEL GONZALEZ
DONALD PAUL JOY
DINA MILETTI
JOHN P QUINN
ENZO SALVO
JACK SANICOLA
ANTHONY TORNESE
CLEOPATRA TYSON
RAFAEL VILLEDA

1220- RICHMOND, VA

EARNEST W LOVING III
JOHN E THROWER
FRANK TUNSTALL III

1277- LOS ANGELES, CA

MOISES ANGULO
LOUIS L BUTLER
FRED E DUFFY II
ROBERT LAROB JR
TUAN NGUYEN

1279- JOHNSTOWN, PA

LOUISE M CRESSWELL
STEPHEN R HARFIELD

1287- KANSAS CITY, MO

HAROLD H AMBROSIUS
ROBERT R BOYED
DAVID A DEATHERAGE
LARRY E JOHNSON

1300- BALTIMORE, MD

CALVIN L BOYD
OLIVER JAMES
DANIEL E MOORE
MARCUS X PARKS
PHILIP W SHEARRILL

1321- ALBANY & TROY, NY

LEROY J DOYLE

1342- BUFFALO, NY

HENRIETTA BRYLINSKI
JAMES A CONNMY
JACK C HANNA SR

MORRIS W LIVINGSTON
JAMES MAY JR
H EDWARD MOLL
JAMES PALLADINI
JUDY L WESTON

1374- CALGARY, AB

VASILE FIRU

1385- DAYTON, OH

PAUL R LONG

1464- TAMPA, FL

LINDA C WILLIAMS

1505- WINNIPEG, MB

TADEUSZ PILOZOW
FREDERICK RUPERT
JOHN H STEVENSON
WILLIAM TOMCHUK

1555- OAKLAND, CA

DORIS F COLLIER-JOHNSON
UBORA R UJUZI

1564- DETROIT, MI

CARLISA R OGLTREE

1572- MISSISSAUGA, ON

JAMES KAFFETGOPOULOS

1575- SAN RAFAEL, CA

STEVEN R MOORE

1587- TORONTO, ON

BERNARD E BLAKELEY
ALAN HAUSE
SAISHANKAR VINAYAGAMURTHY

1614- DOVER, NJ

SEGUNDO LECARO
PERCY WHITE

1637- LAS VEGAS, NV

LAMIQUE WASH

1724- VANCOUVER, BC

ELIZABETH MC MILLAN
TERRY MOSS

1741- LAFAYETTE, IN

KAVIN H FRAZER

1753- VENETIA, PA

PATRICIA A BACH

1767- SAULT STE. MARIE, ON

KEITH S WIGMORE



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ATU COPE

ATU-COPE is the Amalgamated Transit Union's Committee on Political Education, the key political action committee (PAC) in the United States that has improved the lives of workers in the transit, school bus, and over-the-road bus industries for more than 30 years.

Like it or not, politics matters, and in many cases, we get to elect our own bosses. They make important decisions on key issues like: Funding, Service Levels, Privatization, and Safety.

ATU-COPE relies solely on the voluntary contributions of ATU members in the U.S. If we all gave just a few dollars per month, the PAC could support more pro-labor and pro-transit candidates and help keep them in positions of power.

ATU-COPE backs Democrats and Republicans. We support candidates who look out for transit, school bus, and over-the-road workers, regardless of political party.

Contributing to ATU-COPE is easy:

If your local has a checkoff provision in its contract, simply sign a Checkoff Authorization Card to voluntarily authorize your employer to deduct an amount you specify from your pay each month for ATU-COPE.

You can sign up to contribute by credit or debit card (one time or recurring).
Visit www.atu.org/action/atu-cope

