



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

Division 757

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March 17, 2011

Neil McFarlane, General Manager
TriMet
4012 SE 17th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: More of "Connecting the Dots"

Dear Neil:

I read the repost of your "Connecting the Dots" series. Neil, if you spent as much time and energy on trying to settle the 15 month old labor dispute that you spend writing to your employees in trying to convince them your offer is a "good deal," this dispute would have been settled a long time ago.

What you conveniently left out of your "bridge agreement" explanation was that you refuse to repay active employees for insurance premiums and increased medical costs as a result of your unlawful implementation. You also forgot to mention that in addition to the concessions you are seeking in a "bridge agreement," you plan to submit even more significant concessions to an arbitrator, including severe cuts to current and future retiree health insurance, as well as active employees.

I suggest that you spend your time in the future, preparing for how you plan to address the taxpayers of the Region should the State of Oregon find that you unlawfully changed the collective bargaining agreement during the pendency of negotiations and arbitration. The amount of liability to taxpayers could be staggering, due to once again, what appears to be a bad management decision.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hunt
President – Business Representative