



November 9, 2016

Ms. Shirley Block
President-Business Representative
Amalgamated Transit Union Division 757
1801 NE Couch Street
Portland OR 97232

RE: November 10, 2016 Bargaining Session

Dear Shirley:

We were disappointed by your letter dated November 8, 2016, which states the ATU will not be ready to meet and exchange proposals until January 2017. You commented that exchanging proposals before the Holiday Season, thus triggering the 150-day bargaining period, is contrary to good faith bargaining. That comment is perplexing.

As you know, TriMet made a proposal during the last negotiations to commence bargaining in the spring before this contract expires. That proposal was to ensure enough time to resolve the successor contract before the predecessor contract expired. ATU rejected that proposal. Consequently, TriMet's wage proposal for the current contract was prospective only—0% pay increases for the first two years prior to the contract's ratification. In addition, pursuant to ORS 243.712 and .756, we did not reimburse the \$4.5 million in health insurance premiums passed on to employees during the hiatus period, except for a small amount.

There are real costs to employees that result from not bargaining expeditiously. We reminded you about passed on insurance costs in our notice of opening dated September 27, 2016. While it is unfortunate that the ATU rejected early bargaining last time, you should expect consistency in TriMet's position about these costs. Therefore, we would encourage ATU to reconsider its position about not exchanging proposals and bargaining until after the Holiday Season.

However, given that your team is not prepared to share proposals tomorrow, and that TriMet has no ground rule proposals to offer, we are wondering what the agenda would be for tomorrow's meeting that you are restricting to ground rules. Does the ATU have any specific ground rule proposals to offer? If you have no specific ground rules proposals, your suggestion to just wait to meet until your team is ready to exchange proposals may be best. If you will let us know today whether ATU has any specific ground rules to offer, we can better respond to your suggested alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy M. Stedman".

Randy M. Stedman
Executive Director, Labor Relations & Human Resources

Copy: TriMet Bargaining Team