

Dear Members,

Once again, the ATU 757 Wage Committee met with the TriMet Negotiation Team today, June 2, 2017.

We are disappointed to report that the TriMet negotiation team seemingly did not come to the table ready to have meaningful conversations. The highlight of the day was when Randy directed all of the TriMet negotiations team out of the room for a mere 30 seconds before rejecting outright a proposal from the Union, one we made at their request.

Furthermore, the Union put together three proposals concerning the safety of all of our members and riders. The Union asked that more Fare Inspectors be hired and kept in house, that the Rider Advocate position be brought back, and that TriMet meet with us monthly to discuss new strategies, trainings, and public campaigns to prevent future violent acts on TriMet property and prepare all TriMet employees for when incidents do occur. TriMet did not even acknowledge these proposals.

TriMet remains bound and determined to remove anything from the WWA that could even remotely be considered permissive bargaining, and even alleged that TriMet's obligation to inform new hires that they must join the Union is illegal. When we posed the question to the other side as to why they were attempting to remove so much from our agreement unnecessarily, their answer was consistently, "because we can."

While today did not leave us feeling very hopeful about negotiations with TriMet, we remain committed to getting you an Agreement that we can all be happy with, and hope that Arbitration is not necessary. As you know, at 150 days the Parties may declare impasse. That day is on June 8th, however, we are optimistic that TriMet will honor the meetings they have already set with us, June 12th through June 14th.

If you have any questions about negotiations, please contact your Union Representative.

In Solidarity,

ATU 757 Wage Committee