Dear Brothers & Sisters,

October 31, 2019 was our second bargaining session with TriMet. We focused on Article 2: Transportation issues and mainly on TriMet’s proposal for an am/pm Extra Board. There was some good conversation, and even some shared interests, but mostly just more discourse that highlighted our philosophical differences. It is an unfortunate truth that the way we measure success is fundamentally different: ATU by the health and welfare of our members, and TriMet by numbers and dollar signs.

We have mixed feelings about the addition of an am/pm board, and, more importantly, are hearing mixed reviews from all of you. Therefore, we have decided to conduct a member survey to ascertain the level of interest. We will not continue bargaining on this subject until we have had a chance to hear from you. You will hear more information soon about the upcoming survey. Stay tuned!

We did share with Trimet that some of their proposals were non-starters for us. We will not allow TriMet to unnecessarily hinder the ability of our operators to take much needed time off and we will not accept proposals that reduce YOUR control over YOUR day, or your ability to exercise your seniority, if it does not benefit you.

The problem is that the people in charge of the other side of the table have never done your job and have only been here a short time. We must rely on each other, now more than ever, to preserve the history of this agency and this Local, and to protect all of the things that we have worked so hard to gain over the years. Please make sure to be involved in this process: talk to your Brothers & Sisters about what is going on, ask your Union rep questions, go to Union meetings! Fight this fight with us!

Fraternally,

Shirley Block
President-Business Representative
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