

April 17, 2020

COVID UPDATE

Brothers & Sisters:

The current situation with COVID-19 has certainly affected us all, but no one more than all of you. We are working hard to get you the protections that you need.

- PPE:
 - This week, we delivered homemade masks to TriMet Center, Powell, and Merlo garages, as well as sent masks off to Astoria and Bend (COIC & Paratransit).
 - So far we have delivered over 800 homemade masks to members. If you or your property would like homemade masks, please let us know.
 - The majority of these masks have been donated by IATSE Local 28. They have asked that we send them selfies in their masks. They are all currently laid off, and says the selfies are a big moral booster. Let's help them out!!
 - We have members at TriMet, Salem Cherriots and First Transit making masks for our members. A big THANK YOU to these members!!
 - The Union has also distributed a small amount of disinfectant for operators to use. If you or your property would like some, please let us know!
 - We have also distributed 1500 bottles of hand sanitizer. We have a small amount of bottles left. Please let us know ASAP if you need some!

- Hazard Pay: We have heard you loud and clear: You want Hazard Pay! And you DESERVE IT! We are working to get Hazard Pay at each property. But, it will take time, and it will have to be done on a property by property basis. We are also working on an International level to get Hazard Pay in the next Stimulus Package. We will keep you updated on both fronts.

- Social Distancing:
 - We believe that we have got all properties to place limits on rider numbers at this point. If your property is not enforcing limits, or you believe your property needs more, or better, signage, procedures, etc, please let us know.
 - Please practice social distancing at the garage or in the bull pen. None of us are immune to COVID-19, and many people will be asymptomatic if they do get the virus.

- Layoffs:
 - We have avoided layoffs at almost all of our properties. TriMet wanted to layoff up to 200 operators last month, and we have held them to zero. At other properties, including Salem, LTD, and Valley Transit we have successfully worked with management to come up with creative scheduling and alternative duties, to make sure that everyone stays employed and insured.
 - Unfortunately, we will be seeing layoffs at First Transit. While we were able to keep your health insurance for the month of April, you will not be covered after this month.
 - If you need help getting health insurance coverage, or have questions about your options, you can call the Union Hall or you can call or email Brad Fetrow at 503-

381-2329 or Brad@fetrowinsuranceservices.com. He is expecting your calls and ready to help!

- Tests: We have sent letters to both Washington and Oregon Governors requesting that our members be treated as First Responders so that you will have priority access to testing. We will keep you updated on this.

TRIMET

- Powell Shuttle: TriMet and ATU signed a MOA yesterday, April 16, to have TriMet operators operate the Powell Shuttle.
- Pouches: TriMet and ATU have agreed to temporarily suspend the use of pouches to reduce touch points. This will help keep our Station Agents safe. This is a temporary change only and will not result in a reduction of hours. For operators that do not report to a garage, you can coordinate with a Dispatch if you need something that would normally be in your pouch. If you must go into the garage you will be paid travel time.
- Extra cleaning: We have heard from you that there needs to be more cleaning. Until TriMet can get additional service workers hired and trained, diesel and facilities apprentices will be helping out with cleaning, at their normal wage. Thank you Brothers & Sisters!!
- Bus Camera: We found out this week that a bus camera had been moved. That camera is now back in its original location. It is important that we get information from you, otherwise we can't follow up on these types of things. Thank you!
- Cans: We know that this is a big problem. We are currently working with TriMet on solutions that would allow people get their cans turned in, without putting you at increased risk. We know this is frustrating and we are sorry that TriMet is not making this a priority.

Again, we are so grateful for the hard work and dedication that you show each day. You are not valued enough by your Employers, we know that, but we are working with them every day to keep you protected during this difficult time. We know that you may feel alone out there, but we promise you we are working day and night to get you more protections, better conditions, and the respect that you deserve.

Keep calling, emailing, and messaging. You are our best source of information, whether it is about a contract violation, or an idea that we haven't thought of. We want to hear from you!

In Solidarity,
ATU 757 Leadership