

ATU 757 Q&A Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, November 24 @ 5:00pm

Below you will find a summary of the meeting. Thank you all for submitting questions and attending the Q&A session. If you have any suggestions, please contact marijanam@atu757.org.

Topics discussed:

Political update
Extending Recall Rights at First Transit
Meetings with Doug Kelsey- TriMet
3ft vs. 6ft
OHA outbreak list- TriMet
Vaccine for Transit Workers
Labor Management relationships
Face Mask Suspension Grievances- TriMet
Return Seniority Rights- TriMet
Bargaining LME Positions & Apprenticeship - TriMet
ULP's- TriMet
White Shirts vacation- TriMet

General political update

- a. We have two new lobbyists representing us, Don Loving and Mary Watkin. They are submitting two bills that would help with the Apprenticeship program issues. They will also be working to get our Right to Strike back, or to get us similar legislation to Washington. On the national level, with Biden coming in, ATU International has several people on the various Transition Teams for Biden. TriMet has reached out and is requesting federal funding for Measure 26-218 that was voted down. If they get this, we will ask that operating costs are built into the stimulus package, which is usually not included.
- b. We are also working closely with the International on 13(c) issues and our campaign for COVID Safety and the Apprenticeship program. Regarding 13(c) and the way our contract is written, if TriMet has new jobs, they must train the current workers. They want to contract out work for new electric buses. TriMet needs to abide by the rules or they can lose federal funding. We are drafting up language to let them know they are in violation with 13(c) and that they have to train our members.

First Transit: Extending recall rights?

Our Reg. 1 and 2 members are still not back at work, they have a year to return. At this point we have not had a successful extension signed. Reg. 1 may not be opening anytime soon. Obviously, we want to create an extension on a recall, but more importantly we want to get folks back to work.

Has Shirley met with Doug Kelsey in an effort to pressure TriMet in contract negotiations?

President Block has met with Doug Kelsey to discuss contract negotiations. Unfortunately, the meetings with Mr. Kelsey were not fruitful. ATU requested that Sam DeSue attend negotiations, which Doug rejected. Mr. Kelsey's focus was on securing ATU's support for the Measure 26-218 SW Corridor Light Rail Project so he can continue to build his housing projects along the rail line and bust the union. We did not support Measure 26-218 and ultimately voters did not approve it either.

Where are we on the 3ft vs 6 ft rule

We have repeatedly asked TriMet to return to the 6ft rule, especially considering the freeze, however they have said they will follow the Governor's order. We have asked the Governor's office to change to 3ft at least for the duration of the freeze, but they have chosen to remain status quo. We cannot give you a commonsense reason for this, as we don't believe there is one.

Why isn't TriMet on OHA's COVID outbreak list?

ATU reached out to OHA when this question was previously asked. At that time, TriMet had not had enough active cases at one time. Now, they have. Recently, we reached out again to question why they are not on the list, as we expected them to be based on the current numbers. It may be that at the time of reporting, they did not have the requisite number of cases at one site, i.e. Powell vs. Center Garage. We will have an update for you soon.

How is ATU lobbying to get vaccine for transit workers?

Just as COVID tests were prioritized to essential workers, we will ask that vaccines be as well. ATU International has multiple people on the Biden Transition Teams (DOT & DOL), and we will pass this ask on to them.

How can we highlight overlapping interests to improve labor management?

We have a good relationship with many of our employers. More recently, the LTD board signed the first heroes' bonus of \$1,000 and three floating holidays. We also got a 10% wage increase in Valley Transit due to COVID. TriMet has done a lot of good things during COVID with PPE, hand sanitizer, and hiring new cleaners. Unfortunately, that's overshadowed by their unwillingness to meaningfully discuss hazard pay, or maintain 6ft of distancing, or their bad faith bargaining, or overall poor treatment of our members. We would like to have a better relationship with TriMet and remain hopeful that someday we will again.

Is the local filing grievances for face mask suspension? Don't we want people to wear masks?

We recognize that there are two very different schools of thought here, and we want to have respect for that. We do want you to wear a face covering. We understand that this is an issue that people have strong feelings about and that there has been a lot of mixed messaging about this. Ultimately our responsibility here is to tell people to wear the face covering, but also to protect our rights to progressive discipline before getting a suspension.

Explain proposal removing return seniority rights, what is our reasoning behind it?

If a member goes into Management and later decide they want to come back to their old position, it isn't fair to our members. Many ATU members have voiced their opinions on this and want us to move forward with the proposal. Numerous TriMet proposals in their contract are from former union members who are now working in Management roles.

Explain the bargaining over the facilities LME position and apprenticeship?

TriMet asserts that only about 10-15% of their facilities work requires an LME, so they are wanting to add a new classification that does not require an LME. We cannot stop them from creating a new classification, so we are focusing on protecting the Apprenticeship program and making sure both classifications still exist and go through an Apprenticeship program. We do not have any interest in losing this position or the opportunities it provides and are trying to protect all our existing members and classifications as well as future opportunities.

Why haven't we filed a ULP against TriMet for bad faith bargaining?

We have filed a ULP for bad faith bargaining with three claims lumped together. We never wanted to go to interest arbitration, however TriMet wants to take everything away and give nothing in return. That is not a negotiation.

Will White Shirts get their vacation dated back to hire date?

We have a proposal for this, TriMet does not have it in theirs.

