

ATU 757 Q&A Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 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:

Arbitration tactic – TriMet
Service Workers work - TriMet
Maintenance sign-up - TriMet
Arbitration selection
Reg. 1 work
MV taking over First Transit
First Transit and First Student sale
Vaccines for transit workers
Arbitration or Right to Strike
Vaccines for school bus drivers
First Student furlough
Union dues on laid off status
ATU 757 Officer Elections
TriMet GM position
Legislative update

If TriMet is posturing to use arbitration what is ATU doing differently to avoid the same result as last time?

We are coming in with a reasonable proposal while TriMet is coming in with a lot of takeaways, arbitrators typically do not like to take away. We are also working with ATU International and local legislators to push TriMet back to the table. Counter ULP's have been filed which are currently pending. We can't continue to have arbitrators choose, we need our Right to Strike back so we are also working on this. Most of the small transit properties are working with us, but TriMet is the only one that is focusing on takeaways.

Can you please save the Service Worker position from having to choose between bus or

TriMet wants Service Workers and Helpers to choose either Rail, Bus, or Facilities for the rest of their career. You would get one chance to choose and it would be permanent. We tried to offer up reasonable solutions, like a longer sign-up or a lock in period, but they rejected all of those ideas. We know that we can't keep them from creating different classifications, which is basically what this is, so our current proposal seeks to maintain some of the benefits of being able to switch between the departments.

How will the maintenance signup next month be physically arranged to ensure we aren't at risk?

The sign-up for Helpers/Service Workers may take a couple days to complete. We have been talking about it for a while and have come up with several solutions. First group of 50-75 will be at various location and a total of seven people will be allowed in the room. Please be patient, we are always trying to make the sign-up hassle free for everyone. We tried this approach with the COVID-19 Cleaners and it was a success.

When does the selection begin for arb? How confident are you that arb is sympathetic to unions?

We have already completed the arbitrator selection. The Arbitrator will be Norman Grand. Interest arb. is not always sympathetic to unions. We don't believe TriMet's argument is as strong as they want us to believe. It's hard to guess how someone is going to rule.

Reg.1 work

Reg. 1 is still closed. We are in Phase 1 for COVID and Reg. 1 folks most likely will not start working until the Governor releases restrictions. A recall extension has been signed making it effective until May 1, 2022.

Is MV taking over First Transit as rest as United States?

We are aware of the sale, but it is not yet clear who the buyer(s) will be. We are in touch with ATU International as this affects all First Transit properties, and will keep you informed as soon as we hear more.

Does sale of First Transit include First Student properties?

We know FS and FT run independently but are a part of First Group. They might be separate sales.

Why don't transit workers have vaccines yet?

ATU 757 leadership is working to get vaccines and so are many of your employers. We have sent letters to the Governor requesting that transit workers are placed in priority status. School staff and healthcare workers have been prioritized.

Do you prefer current arb process or right to strike?

We prefer not to have an arbitrator choose for us, we want to make decisions together at the table. We have two dates scheduled with TriMet, Feb. 3rd and Feb. 10th. While we want to discuss hazard pay and apprenticeship programs, TriMet wants to talk about uniform colors. We have put forward legislations to get the Right to Strike back, but we also need to look at other options to help us come to an agreement.

Will vaccine be available to school bus drivers at the same time as teacher?

School staff has been prioritized and by all accounts should start getting vaccines on the 25th.

First Student - what now that furlough is over?

Furlough is not over. Members will be called by seniority for work that is available. By seniority, someone could choose to stay on furlough. There will be a sign-up for the current 35 routes, and possibly a second sign-up if the 35 routes change, so members will be able to rebid on those.

Do union dues have to be paid back if laid off?

No, you will not need to make up union dues. ATU International has been waving dues for those who have been off work since March 2020.

ATU 757 elections

On March 15, 2021, we will have a Zoom meeting for the nominations to the Election Committee. The Election Committee will confirm and chair the Officer Nomination meeting May 10th, which may be via Zoom or in person depending on what they decide and COVID regulations at that time. The Special Nomination meeting will be opened, and the nominations go in order from President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Executive Board Officers, and Liaison Officers. We have a tentative date, June 16, 2021 for the final ballot count at the Monarch Hotel so we can get people in to monitor safely. DOL is also giving us some guidelines to follow. Please keep checking our website, Facebook, and your union bulletin board for these notifications.

Doug Kelsey is retiring, who is going to be the next GM and what is the process?

The TriMet Board wants diversity and outside consultants to come in and look at applications. The next Board meeting is on January 27th where they will discuss the GM position. ATU 757 leadership and members are going to testify at the meeting about First Transit jobs, apprenticeships, and how TriMet is treating our members during COVID. If you're interested in participating, please email Kristac@atu757.org for more information!

Legislative Update:

We are rebuilding our political relationships. Listed below are seven bills we have been working on. We also have meetings scheduled with Congressman Peter DeFazio and Senator Jeff Merkley. TriMet knows they are being watched.

- [SB 670](#) - Includes matters concerning apprenticeship or training program administered by certain mass transit districts as mandatory subject of collective bargaining for employees of district.
- [SB 669](#) - Requires certain mass transit and transportation districts to be registered apprenticeship training agents as condition of receiving distributions from Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
- [SB 437](#) - Includes matters concerning apprenticeship or training program administered by certain mass transit districts as mandatory subject of collective bargaining for employees of district.
- [SB 429](#) - Provides that for mass transit districts and transportation districts with population of 500,000 or more, percentage distribution from Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund is conditioned upon district providing documentation to Oregon Transportation Commission that demonstrates existence of state-recognized apprenticeship program administered by district.

- [HB 2482](#) - Removes entering or remaining unlawfully in or on public transit vehicle or public transit station as manner of committing crime of interfering with public transportation.
- [SB 332](#) - Imposes minimum service requirements on certain mass transit districts.
- [SB 690](#) - Repeals provision that prohibits transit workers from striking.

