

ATU 757 Q&A Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 @ 10:30am & 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.

Agenda:

Guest : Sarah Ewing, TriMet Deputy General & Head of Vaccine Taskforce
Political Update
Dues Questions
Arbitration Update
Officer Reports

GUEST : SARAH EWING, TRIMET DEPUTY GENERAL & HEAD OF VACCINE TASKFORCE

Oregon is currently going through waves for 65+ population to receive vaccines. The Governor will announce the next group for vaccine's on Friday, February 26th. Both TriMet and ATU have met with the State of OR – Vaccine Advisory Committee and gave recommendations to the Governor to include transit workers in the next phase.

Recently, TriMet Vaccine Taskforce spoke with OHA about logistics of what it may look like when TriMet workforce is eligible, however OHA did not have enough information to comment, logistics are a work in progress. As vaccine supply increases, TriMet is hoping to set up vaccination sites and flexible scheduling.

If you are a WA resident, make sure to check WA prioritization/schedules as they differ from Oregon.

How will timeloss be affected if I have side effects from vaccine?

This is on the agenda to discuss at the next TriMet's Vaccine Taskforce meeting (Feb. 25).

Do I have to take the vaccine during my phase, or can I choose to get it later?

Once you are eligible to receive the vaccine, you can get it at any time, you do not have to take it during your phase/group.

If you have any questions related to vaccines, email vaccine@trimet.org or visit <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>. You may also Text the word "Alert" to 22300 to receive alerts from TriMet.

As an essential non-emergency worker, **First Transit** employees are eligible to receive their vaccine NOW.

POLITICAL UPDATE

ATU 757 has been meeting with County Commissioners, Board of Directors, Local and Federal Legislators to discuss the TriMet Apprenticeship Program, First Transit, and Section 13(c) violation for new TriMet electric buses. We are working with ATU International on these campaigns as they have connections with the Federal Delegation. TriMet wants to contract out work on electric buses, however these buses are federally funded. The other campaign is for First Transit members who are not seeing any help from TriMet after TriMet received \$185mil from the CARES Act, and they are estimating around an additional \$190mil from the end of 2020 Stimulus Package.

Our goal is to get with every politician who will listen. Most of our employers are willing to do the right thing for their employees, however TriMet is coming to the table with zeros. We have a meeting with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici who supports apprenticeship programs.

The Right to Strike is still an active bill, we are waiting for a hearing date.

DUES QUESTIONS

- 1) Please explain the requirements for paying the COVID 19 reduced union dues.
A member must be sick 15+ days or laid off due to COVID-19. There are no COVID-19 reduced dues, ATU International has been waiving dues for those who are not receiving a paycheck.
- 2) Who notifies the employer's payroll department about when to change payment amounts on those employees?
ATU 757 staff notifies the payroll department at each property and updates a monthly member report that gets sent to the International.
- 3) What, if anything, must our officers do to try to collect dues?
Union Officers (Executive Board, Liaison Officers, Shop Stewards) do not need to do anything to collect dues. If you have a member with dues questions, please have them contact our office at 503-232-9144.

ARBITRATION UPDATE

- We recently won a termination arbitration at **MV Canby**. Afterwards, we were able to amicably negotiate a separation agreement in addition to backpay for the operator.
- We will start taking Maintenance arbitrations in the summer.

NEGOTIATIONS:

- We are waiting on ULP decisions with **TriMet**, ERB (Employment Relations Board) is very backed up. We need the decisions back before we give our best and final offer. The ULP's will determine if our proposal has permissive subjects to bargain (Apprenticeship Program), and we also asserted TriMet has bargained in bad faith.

- President Shirley Block has met with JIC and International to follow up with **MV on First Transit and First Student** sale. We are trying to get the **MV Canby** contract signed before the sale happens.
- We are working to add a new bargaining unit of **IT workers at LTD**. We had the hearing on February 16th to certify them as an appropriate unit. We look forward to a good decision and welcoming them to our Union family soon.
- **Yamhill County Transit**: we have agreed to move to mediation. The big hang ups are wages and medical.
- **LTD** has voted for a one-year contract extension. See Bill Bradley's Labor Press article for more specifics.
- **Salem Cherrits** has agreed to a one-year contract extension.
- We are preparing for **C-Tran** negotiations.

OFFICER REPORTS

Mary Longoria, ATU 757 Financial Secretary

We still have 530 members laid off. Our audit has been completed and came out with a clean bill of health. The Budget and Audit Committee look at the books and all the checks that go out and come in.

Jim Bennett, C-Tran

Recently there were two investigations conducted by Labor & Industry. First, Labor and Industry investigated the use of Bioesque at C-TRAN to sanitize our buses and protect our community from COVID-19 exposure. The results of that test all came back well under the PEL (personal exposure level). Also, Labor and Industry has opened a new carbon monoxide investigation based upon a complaint. They tested for CO on 8 of our A runs on February 3rd. The preliminary tests results are back, the STEL (short term exposure limit) and the TWA (time weighted average) both came back with an average of 0. COVID precautions at C-Tran are going well, we are in phase 2 in WA so some restrictions have been lifted. The Governor put out a mandate that everyone must wear a mask on the bus. C-Tran Operators may ask the passenger to wear it, if they don't, driver will then make an announcement to put masks on. If the passenger still declines to mask up, driver will then call dispatch for removal of the passenger.

Warren, First Transit R1

R1 is still closed. We do know that the bid is lumped into one RFP, but that doesn't mean that the regions will not remain separate, just that they will all be under one contractor. Once we know who that contractor will be, we will know more about what will change about the makeup of the regions.

Fred Casey, TriMet Salaried Employees

We had a productive negotiation session on Friday. Fare Inspectors are trying to push hard to get us to write exclusions and behavioral warnings. Unnecessary discipline is still being issued.

Michael McCury, TriMet Merlo Transportation

TriMet is issuing unnecessary discipline at this garage. I have been very busy representing members at mandatory meetings. Bargaining sessions with TriMet for the Operations side have been alright, however they are picking maintenance apart.

Mike Francois, TriMet Powell Maintenance

We had a Sign-up for Service Workers. Moving date to the new building is tentative, possibly April. It's going to be tight for a while with limited space and parts.

