



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 998 • AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCTS CONTINUES TO DRAG FEET ON MILWAUKEE TRANSIT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MILWAUKEE – On September 3, 2015, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998 and Milwaukee County Transit System met for negotiations with a federal mediator.

James Macon, President of ATU Local 998 is still concerned with a number of important issues that have not been resolved. “We gave them a written proposal a month ago, and still don’t have anything in writing from them,” Macon said.

“Currently, there are about 80 members who are not required to pay into the pension because they have less than one year of service. Under the proposal, that number could grow. We need to have major movement on that issue.”

ATU Local 998 has offered to go to arbitration to resolve the issues, but the company refused, citing a ‘looming deficit.’ However, as of March 31, 2015, MCTS does not have a deficit and the County has a budget surplus.

We are disappointed that County Executive Chris Abele and his newly appointed MTS Board have dragged the transit system into the first work stoppage in thirty-seven years. Abele and his MTS Board are attempting to reshape Milwaukee transit at the expense of workers and riders. They have failed to uphold their own ethical standards to ‘promote decisions that benefit public interest and actively promote public confidence in the transit system.’

We reaffirm our commitment to working toward a fair contract agreement that puts riders first, retains full-time, professional transit workers, and moves Milwaukee forward.

Further bargaining sessions are scheduled for September 10 and 25.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998, established in 1934, represents over 1,100 active members in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Kenosha and Sheboygan. Our members are the bus drivers, mechanics, station attendants, and other support personnel who make safe, efficient, and affordable public transportation possible. Learn more at ATU998.org.

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