



# **AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION**

## **LOCAL 998 • AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MCTS OFFERS RETROGRADE PROPOSAL ATU TO VOTE WEDNESDAY**

MILWAUKEE – September 25, 2015 – Today Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998 resumed negotiations with Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) with the assistance of a federal mediator. James Macon, President of ATU Local 998 released the following statement.

“Today MCTS offered us a 2 year proposal with language on part-timers that was significantly worse than their previous proposal. MCTS insists on increasing the number of lower wage, part-time transit workers, but does not want to limit the number of hours they work. We see this as an attempt to exploit Milwaukee workers by allowing them to work full-time hours without any benefits.

“Increasing the number of part-time transit workers would limit contributions to the pension, threatening the ability of hard-working Milwaukee County transit workers to retire with dignity, adequate pension, and health care coverage.

“We are concerned that as benefits and compensation to workers decrease, the number of runs that will go unfilled will increase.

“We offered MCTS a four year plan to have stability. We were willing to sign off on the agreed upon items and take everything else to arbitration. MCTS refused.

“On Wednesday, September 30, we will be taking the 2 year proposal to the members to vote on. The bargaining committee does not support the company’s proposal. We will be urging members to vote “no.”

“We are disgusted by the current proposal and remain committed to fighting for a fair contract that puts riders first, retains full-time professional drivers, and moves Milwaukee forward.”

*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](http://ATU998.org).*

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