

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 3/25/2024

Did You Get Your Break?

For this current sign-up do you always get adequate break time at the end of your run?

Yes No

Do you think that schedules are a serious problem and operators deserve better?

Yes No

Connect with us on instagram @Sonsocialists to send your response!

What Happened To COLA?

OG workers at AC might remember a time when they used to get a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), which meant that when the cost of living went up, so would our pay. When we look at how much we are paying at the grocery store, at the fuel pump, on rent and everything else, now would be a really good time to have some COLA. As we look forward towards the next contract, why shouldn't we start to talk about the things that we need, not just the things that we don't want to give up?

The 'Rapid' Displacement of Working Class Families

With the Tempo (BRT) up and running from downtown Oakland to San Leandro, one could take a ride and see the status of the neighborhood. East Oakland has long had a reputation for being 'rough', but it has also been home to many of us. But now with separate lanes, and the land value going up, you can see how that impacts the neighborhood. Higher property value means higher rents, making it harder for already struggling families to stay put. Separate bike lanes are nice, but they weren't a concern for many people who grew up in these same neighborhoods 10-15 years ago.

It's not hard for some to see new projects and feel like they are being left out, rather than being handed an upgrade meant to help all the public. Even when a new building is being built to provide more housing, if you can't afford to live there, you might feel like you're being pushed out. With the BRT or any other thing in this society, why does 'progress' have to get done on the backs of working class people, time and time again?

Appreciation For Every Day Of The Year

With Transit Appreciation Day happening recently, we got a big 'Thank You' from management. Maybe a meal if we were lucky, but that's just about it. It's like your significant other only gives you a hallmark card on your birthday but ignores you every other day. Many can tell you how good that works out. But what would real appreciation feel like? A day off, some extra break time, or extra hours of pay? Adequate runtime for regular breaks? Access to clean restrooms and breakrooms? Wages that keep up with inflation.

Coming from a transit workers perspective, we front line workers have to do and give up so much day to day to make sure the community keeps running. And we show up to work and keep it pushing, one way or another. While it's nice to be appreciated for a day, it feels better to actually be valued and thought of as a human and not just a statistic on a moving bus out on the road.

Hedging Their Bets

There is a lot of focus on the upcoming presidential election. If any of us look towards November, it is likely with a general sense of dread.

The super rich are also paying some attention as well. In a meeting with richest and most powerful people in the world, Jaime Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase spoke for many of his peers about the prospect of either Trump or Biden winning saying, "I will be prepared for both, we will deal with both, my company will survive and thrive in both." He is right. Whoever wins in November, him and his buddies will win.

It doesn't have to be that way. How we start to build up our forces so that we can start to win?

