

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 8/1/2022

Working to Live After Work

The infamous 2nd tier retirement plan is starting to show its head. For anyone who was hired after 1/1/2020, payments into the 2nd tier pension have just started showing up. And while having a pension is nice, having to make payments into it a pension is not so nice.

For anyone who has to, there gets to be this weird calculation about how much you might have to pay into it, and how quickly you would start to get that part back. For example, if you paid in \$10,000, how long after retirement would it take to make that back? Once the money is put in, do we get any advantage, or is that just put into the pool for everyone?

The only reason that AC Transit functions is because of us, why should we have to pay anything at all?

How Long to Keep Going?

Vacations are nice, but never long enough. Sometimes when we're on vacation, we start to dream about the last vacation we'll take, if this would be a nice place to stick around and settle our roots for one last time. This is thinking about retirement, and our life after 'Work Life'.

It's a strange and scary feeling. What would you do, would you have enough money, what would your quality of life be like? But what we don't want to think about is, will we make it there? We all assume we will, but how many people do we know that stayed at work too long, and afterwards, didn't get the time to enjoy what they waited so long for. So why wait just for retirement to enjoy work and life, why not do what you can to make the most of what we have now? Why don't we battle to make conditions better, more than just tolerable, so all of us can enjoy as much time as we can take.

Everything's Going Up... But Our Pay!

It's no secret to any of us that it's getting harder and harder to get by, throwing many of our lives into crisis. Gas, groceries, utilities, housing and more... it's getting crazy. In the SF Bay Area, foreclosures are up 90% since last year. Why are companies raising their prices? A big reason is because they can. A survey of over 3,000 companies found that they make an extra 72 cents for every dollar that they spent in 2021, compared to an extra 56 cents for every dollar they spent in the 2010s. And the extra money that they get from us shows - corporate profits are at record levels. For example, Shell oil made \$9 billion in the first quarter of this year, its highest profits ever.

What does all of this mean for us? From June 2020 to June 2021, inflation went up 9.1%. Imagine if our wages went up 9.1% in one year. We need a pay increase!

Our Voices

Recently, Bloomberg News ran a story called, "Diary of a Pandemic Bus Driver," written by MUNI operator, Brendan Bartholomew. He describes in raw detail the various stresses that transit workers were put under over the past two years. Whether issues related to the pandemic or others, we should be trying to get our voices out to the public because we have common interests. Check the story out at tinyurl.com/MuniBus



"You can afford to retire at 65, but you'll need to die at 70."