

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 4/17/2023

What's the Real Problem?

For those of us that were lucky enough to be off on April 10th, some board members set up a meeting where they could listen to us ATU members. They wanted to know what the issues were that kept us from coming to work, from staying with the job, and not abandoning it.

What most people agreed was that it's not the same job that it used to be. Wages are considerably lower than what they were. The job is tougher and more arduous on our bodies. The longer we stay in the seat on the runs and the further we have to live from the job, the more time is taken away from our lives. This job is not built for a person anymore. It's like we are the first generation of robots that are going to drive these buses! We're human beings, that means we need adequate restrooms, breaks, and time off to recover from what we do. And this shouldn't be any surprise, but for some, maybe it shows just how much they need us!

Saying The Quiet Part Out Loud

In response to rapid job loss associated with the COVID pandemic, a number of states and cities passed eviction moratoriums to help keep people in their homes. Now the calls by landlords to end the moratoriums are becoming louder and louder. In recent protests by landlords against the moratorium in Oakland, one landlord engaged in a hunger strike for three days. He also complained about the fact that he has had to pick up odd jobs to get by during the time that he hasn't collected rent.

Unfortunately for him, he got a taste of what all of us already deal with - that we have to work to get by. With that comment, he "gave away the game" for this whole society - the fact that some of us work for a living and others live off of our work!

Rules For Me, Not For Thee

The National Rifle Association (NRA) just wrapped up their convention. You might be surprised to learn that they were strong advocates for gun control...but only when politicians like Trump and Pence were speaking, when attendees were patted down! It is interesting how they have rules for themselves but a whole different philosophy for everyone else!

I Got 51 Stops But A Break Ain't One

On The 51A, like a whole bunch of lines, it is one thing after another when it comes to traffic. By the time we get to the end of the line, it is time to get started on the next trip. Why shouldn't we have enough run time to get a break?

Upcoming Townhall - Who is Essential? Who is Not?

The COVID pandemic forced workers to take action to protect safety on the job. What was "normal" before, became unacceptable. The super wealthy made record profits while they celebrated "essential workers." Now, we are supposed to go back to "normal" and accept lower staffing, more work and dangerous working conditions.

Join us to discuss the lessons from the pandemic with author, Jamie McCallum.

Sunday, April 23th at 4pm

<https://tinyurl.com/April-TH-2023>

