

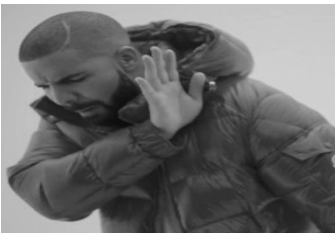
Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 5/1/2023 (Happy International Workers Day!)

A Tale of Two Crises

Public transit is facing a major funding crisis, particularly coming out of the pandemic. While AC Transit is not as deep in a hole right now, agencies like BART and MUNI are facing the possibility of what they call “doomsday service cuts” which could mean mass layoffs. In response, various transit agencies are now begging the state of California for over \$5 billion to avert the worst of the cuts. It’s unclear how much money, if any, they will get.

Meanwhile, less than a month ago, the Silicon Valley Bank collapsed, due to its risky investments for venture capitalists and tech companies. Immediately, this system wasted no time with the FDIC, Federal Reserve Bank and Treasury Department handing over **\$300 BILLION generated by working people!** Since then, there have been several other banks that have collapsed that have been propped up by public funds. Who does this system work for?

The Government Be Like:



**Fully Fund
And Save
Public Transit**



**Bailout
Tech Bros In
Silicon Valley
Bank Collapse**

Antioch Racist Police

The Antioch Police Department has been rocked by scandal, exposing what many have known for a long time, that they have acted in blatant racism and abuse. Officers regularly bragged in text messages between each other about brutalizing and harassing black people while calling them all sorts of racist dehumanizing names. One even admitted to falsifying confessions to “make cases filed easier.”

The problem goes much deeper than one department. It’s a whole system designed to oppress and harass people of color and the poor: if we want to end that oppression, then the whole system will have to go.

Killing Us Softly And

Keeping The Retirement Checks

It's not just in our imagination. Working in public transit is bad for our health. Even before COVID, the stresses of this job come with a deadly combination of higher rates of high blood pressure, back problems, respiratory problems, obesity, insomnia, depression and more. In fact, a study from the UK found that bus drivers were 2.8 times more likely to die by 64 than high-level managers.

We all know stories of operators who die almost immediately after they retire. Management might as well say, “why do anything about working conditions, it saves us money on the back end from paying out retirement checks!”

Take it to the Board?

Why is it when we have major problems, we are told to take it to the Board of Directors? Why should any problem that we have not be able to be solved sooner? While a few board members were giving us their ears about working conditions in the meeting last month, ultimately, any hope for action goes back to the board. What happens then? On the rare occasion that something does get done, that’s great. The majority of the time, it’s like sending a prayer up for rain in the desert. It might feel good to do, but in the meantime, we are out here working and dying from the heat!

May Day Online Celebration!

May Day is the celebration of the global struggles of the working class in the fight for a better world for all. As we face the growing challenges in front of us, let’s remember that we are not alone in our fight, and that the working class of the world is confronting the same enemy. We can draw inspiration from the bravery and determination of workers everywhere, past and present.

Join us for a celebration of the struggles of the past and recognizing those that lie ahead!

Saturday May 6 at 11AM

<https://tinyurl.com/7k2sb2mw>



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