Historic Legislation a Big Victory for the ATU
ATU Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

From the VTA in San Jose, CA, to Metro in the Twin Cities, MN, to TriMet in Portland, OR, and many other transit agencies, the ATU has been setting the standard for apprenticeships in North America. In celebration, the ATU took part in National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) by highlighting the success of our members, including Local 757-Portland, OR, Journeyman Diesel Mechanic Kevin Kinoshita, and Local 265-San Jose, CA, Coach Operator Symone Wright.

NAW is a nationwide celebration where labor and industry leaders come together to highlight the successes and value of apprenticeship programs that have helped rebuild our economy, advance gender and racial justice, and support underserved communities. NAW is an opportunity to recognize apprenticeship programs as a proven and industry-driven training model that provides a crucial talent pipeline to address some of our nation’s most pressing challenges.
International Officers & General Executive Board
ATU Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

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As we begin a new year, I want to recognize all the hard work that went into making the ATU a more successful and resilient Union in 2021. It was a year of intense growth from our many legislative and contract victories to our most devastating losses due to the pandemic and workplace violence that brought us together more than ever before as a Union family.

2021 Victories

We started 2021 with significant victories in Georgia by electing Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. People said we couldn't win these runoff elections, but our Locals had a plan: member-to-member engagement across the state along with the ATU bus. It excited not only our membership but the community to get out the vote for these important elections. Thanks to our efforts, we made history and flipped the Senate to a pro-worker majority.

On January 20th President Biden was inaugurated. His administration immediately issued an Executive Order requiring masks on public transportation, intercity buses, and trains, better protecting our members and riders from the deadly virus.

In March, to help aid in the pandemic recovery, we helped secure passage of the American Rescue Plan, bringing in much-needed $30 billion in funding for transit to avoid layoffs and keep services running.

Our advocacy didn’t stop there. Soon after, President Biden introduced his Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which, in the end, included $106.9 billion for transit, with billions to be invested in vehicle electrification, critical safety protections, and workforce development programs for our members.

In Canada, our members in Alberta mobilized to elect pro-transit, pro-worker candidates in municipal elections. In Edmonton, former Local 569 bus operator Amarjeet Sohi was elected Mayor. This played a critical role in saving our members’ jobs from being outsourced.

Our Locals Holding the Line

With the pandemic continuing, our Union has been challenged like never before. Rather than lose hope, we chose to act. Together we helped stave off potential layoffs, fought for hazard pay and mask enforcement, and helped ensure that transit workers were safe on the job.

From the U.S. to Canada, whether you marched in the streets, called an elected official, contributed to COPE, or organized your workplace, every single action mattered – and together, they added up to important victories.

We also grieved together. On the morning of May 26th, our Union was forever changed after the tragic mass shooting of our Local 265 -San Jose, CA, brothers where I was on the ground in San Jose the day after with our members to offer support.

Unfortunately, San Jose was not an isolated incident. Recently in Kalamazoo, I was also on the ground after a
shooting on a bus driven by a Local 1093 member. Then days later, in St. Louis, our Local 788 brother Jonathan Cobb was shot and critically injured while driving his bus in an act of senseless gun violence.

The pandemic has put a strain on all of us, and the need to process the losses surrounding both the virus and the tragedy in San Jose, the daily assaults on our brothers and sisters, and the strains of everyday life, can be overwhelming. I want you to know that you’re not alone. You have your ATU family, and we are here walking alongside you. We will not stop talking about the mental health crisis. We will not stop fighting for better protections for our members.

From California to Florida and beyond

Throughout this year, I was able to see all the hard work our Locals put in as I traveled coast to coast, most recently from Northern California to Florida, to thank the members for keeping their communities moving throughout the pandemic. In California, I visited Local 256-Sacramento, Local 1605-Concord, Local 1574-San Mateo, Local 1575-San Rafael, Local 1555-Oakland, Local 192-Oakland, and Local 1225-San Francisco. While there, I met with members at transit centers, garages, and maintenance facilities to talk with dispatchers, supply clerks, and other members about their concerns along with touring zero-emission buses and state-of-the-art training centers.

To end my tour of Northern California, I met with members of Local 265-San Jose, CA, in emotional visits since the tragic mass shooting at the Guadalupe yard.

In Tampa, Florida, I was able to visit with Locals 1593-Tampa, FL, and 1701-Sarasota, FL, along with International Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kirk at the HART streetcar garage, bus maintenance facilities, and transit centers to discuss the recent passage of the Infrastructure Bill and how the funding is critical for worker training and measures to better protect transit workers on the job.

Our last stop was Local 1464-Tampa, FL, representing City of Tampa municipal workers in Solid Waste, Fleet Maintenance, Wastewater Collections, and Water Distribution. We saw firsthand the critical work our members perform each day for the people of Tampa.

I’ve always said you can’t run a union from an office, and that’s why these visits to Locals will continue in the new year and beyond. Being out there with the members gives me renewed hope that we truly are stronger together.

The year ahead

In 2022 there’s a lot that will shape the year ahead. With historic levels of funding in the U.S. for public transit being distributed to modernize, revitalize and protect our transit systems and workers, there’s reason to be optimistic. We still have battles ahead, including ensuring this funding means safer vehicles, improved working conditions, more service, better jobs, and training for our members on new and existing technology.

In addition, in 2022, we will hold our Union’s 60th International convention in Las Vegas, NV. At our convention, we set the vision of our Union moving forward for the next three years. We look forward to charting a path that will lead us to even more victories in the years ahead.

Thank you again for making every victory possible, every heartache bearable, and most of all, for being part of our incredible ATU family. We couldn’t have done it without you. We look forward to putting the pandemic behind us and continuing the fight for the rights and safety of our members in 2022.

If you or anyone you know is feeling overwhelmed, call our trusted FHE Health partners at 1-866-276-1610.
In our Last “In Transit,” I put forth the proposition that as our predecessors did, we need to use the tools we have to provide the best job, job experience, and way of life possible for our membership today and for those who will follow us. We need to get Back to Basics. Serving as ATU International Executive Vice President, there is not a clearer view for me of the collective strength of our members than that to be gained by establishing successful workplace committees in our Locals. I discussed Health and Welfare Committees. A tip of the hat to our Local 589 - Boston’s Carmen’s Union, who has taken up the challenge. I’m asking that each of you consider revitalizing and revamping committees that may be inactive.

Why am I asking you to pick up the mantle of committee leadership or membership? Simply put, we need you. The future of the ATU demands that we mentor dedicated organizers, communicators, and negotiators.

Committees are the strongest threads in the fabric of the ATU. Dedicated members who have unique experiences and strengths are called upon to use them to build the ATU’s future. Collective Bargaining, the ATU Committee on Political Education (COPE), elections, and Organizing Committee positions could be filled with members who are gifted and show passion in those areas. What’s your passion for assisting your brothers and sisters?

Over the past year, I have been addressing Health and Safety Committees because the changing world around us demands it. Too often, our members are being affected by violent acts in our workplaces. Within the last month, our Local 1093 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, suffered an active shooter at Metro Transit Authority. The malaise left three victims (passengers), thankfully, with non-life-threatening injuries. Though physical injuries were mitigated by the quick response of our members, the emotional injuries are traumatic and became present days after the incident.

International President John Costa, IVP Paul Bowen, and I immediately joined Local 1093 President Earl Cox in Kalamazoo to demand better security and to secure EAP services for our members. A tip of the hat to our EAP partner FHE and Janet Gerhard for the in-person 24/7 work to assist our members to recover from the trauma of despair and shock. Yet since then, we had a Local 788 St. Louis, MO, operator shot on duty. The perpetrator was in a van using a rifle. Thankfully, an arrest has been made, and the operator is recovering.

Can we call upon you to advance coordinated strategies to aid in the security and health of your colleagues in your Local? Will you, Local elected leaders, involve those who may not ordinarily attend Union meetings invite all who show a concern, passion, and willingness to promote our welfare? Our Union is not just a Union meeting. We are a diverse family with many needs, desires, and contributions to make.

Can your brothers and sisters count on you to join the conversation (not everything is a fight) and advance the Union through the strength of our committees? Your job depends on the strength of your Union. Together we can build back. We can build better. Together we will!
What kind of candidate do our members want?

Having been a Local Union and International Officer for many years, I have had the opportunity to talk to members in break rooms and shops. What’s clear from those conversations is our brothers and sisters are concerned about “kitchen table” issues, healthcare, time off, having a home, paying for their children’s education, and improved pay. We, as Union Officers, are tasked with the duty of delivering our members these things.

When evaluating political candidates to support these “kitchen table” issues are also the things we look for in a candidate and not what party they may represent. These issues should resonate across party lines. It’s our duty to fight for the best wage rates, benefits, and safe working conditions to maintain your job and provide for your families.

Understanding that all our members may not agree with the endorsements of the International and/or Local Unions, our choices have consequences. No Union has benefited more than the ATU from the 2020 election. Due to the choices we made, very few members in the ATU were laid off and were provided with protections to help us stay safe on the job. In addition, thanks to our efforts, Congress recently passed landmark legislation in the U.S. – the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – that will benefit our members on the job, including protecting them against assaults and training them to prepare for the new technology in our industry.

In Canada, we have seen the effects of electing pro-worker candidates, and in Edmonton, it protected us from privatization.

I am asking our members in the U.S. and Canada to commit to electing pro-worker and pro-transit candidates for political office in 2022. It’s a big year for our survival to maintain and improve our wages and benefits and to protect the ones we currently enjoy.

How can we help? By getting involved with the candidate of our choice, volunteering, and working with their campaigns. In the U.S., you can help by contributing to ATU-COPE, our Political Action Committee, on a volunteer basis. ATU-COPE is a way that you can give to help us have a voice in the political arena. We need ATU-COPE to win and get things done for the ATU in the U.S. It also ensures that our elected representatives stand for our values as working people.

One of my New Year’s resolutions is to make sure that as many members as possible get involved with the political process and U.S. members contribute to ATU-COPE.

What’s your New Year’s resolution? If you’re not already, I challenge you to get involved with your Local in political action. Your voice and vote matter now and in the future.
It was just a few years ago when the transit workers in Memphis, TN, spoke up. They were sick and tired of the continuous violent attacks on the members of ATU Local 713. The bus drivers were getting beaten, punched, spit on, and verbally assaulted almost daily. The Local leadership demanded barriers on the buses to keep the drivers safe.

Management’s answer: No. We just don’t see the need, they heartlessly said. It’s just too expensive, they stated. There’s not enough evidence that shields work, the bosses continued. Then they falsely told the Local and the news media that there just hadn’t been that many attacks.

End of story in Memphis. Bus drivers: Report to work at your own risk.

Of course, the issue of transit worker assault has been a problem all across the U.S. and Canada for years, long before the pandemic turned bus drivers into the mask police, resulting in many operators getting treated like punching bags. For decades, countless bus drivers have been stabbed, shot, beaten with wooden canes and metal pipes. They’ve had hot coffee and urine thrown on them.

And when they reject our pleas for protections, management almost always says that the beating victims are “in their prayers.” Over the past decade, we’ve received lots and lots of prayers but little action.

Fast forward to Chicago in December 2021. ATU Locals 241 and 308 held a major news conference to tell city leaders that transit workers are getting beaten daily. “The whole city is a hot spot,” said Local 241 President Keith Hill. Members held up signs saying, “Enough is Enough.”

Will the result be different in Chicago and other U.S. cities this time? Yes, it finally will.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law by President Biden on November 15, is a game changer. It includes the Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act, the bill written by the ATU and fought for by our members for years. The legislation provides transit workers and their unions with the power to make major safety changes on the ground.

Under the new bill, any time there is any “interference” with a transit worker while they are on the job, it will be considered to be an “assault.” This new definition of “transit worker assault” will ensure that all attacks will be reported, including, spitting, punching, or even verbal assaults. No more sweeping incidents under the rug or denying that there’s a problem. In addition, all transit systems must now report all assaults to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

But it doesn’t stop there. Not even close.
Using the data reported to FTA, transit systems must work to put together risk reduction programs, setting targets to reduce assaults. If targets are not met, transit systems are required to use federal money that they must set aside to address the problem.

The risk reduction plans, targets, and solutions are going to be developed by labor-management safety committees, half of which will be made up of people appointed by the Union representing the plurality of transit workers at the transit system.

Yes, you read that right. The workers and their unions will be in charge of developing the safety plans. And, transit management may no longer submit their safety plans to the FTA -- which they need to do in order to qualify for federal funding -- until the labor-management safety committee signs off on the plan. That’s a real power shift.

Under this new process, if workers can show, using the appropriate data, that measures are needed to address transit worker assaults, the Union can require the agency to act, and the agency will no longer be able to refuse Labor’s demands or claim that they cannot afford to take action.

Moreover, the law is not limited to just assaults, far from it. The Union will now be in the driver’s seat on every safety issue that is dealt with in the public transit agency safety plans. It could be operator issues like fatigue or bathroom breaks. Or it could be maintenance issues, like garage safety or other matters. We are now in charge.

Now, when management says no to common sense safety solutions, we will have the leverage to get a different result. Soon, we are going to see real positive changes in the safety area so that our members can go to work and come home in one piece.

“Not a week goes by that we don’t hear about a transit worker being punched, verbally abused, spit on, stabbed, shot, and even killed on the job,” said ATU International President John Costa upon passage of the bill. “The epidemic of violent assaults on transit workers has plagued our country’s transit systems for too long. This bill will help protect our members and riders and will save lives.”

Other ATU Priorities Addressed

The bill, which replaces the FAST Act, the previous multi-year federal surface transportation bill, also includes our key priorities on the issues of funding and workforce development.

The massive bill provides significant increases in investment to put public transit agencies on a path to modernize their systems and meet the growing and evolving demands of our communities. The bill provides $107 billion for public transit, an increase of $41.1 billion (63%) from current levels. It increases each of the formula and competitive grant programs by 35-37 percent compared to current levels.

The bill maintains FAST Act policies regarding the use of federal transit funds for operating assistance. Formula funds for urbanized areas with populations of less than 200,000 persons may still be used for operating assistance to pay wages and benefits. And even in larger areas, transit systems that operate 100 or fewer buses in peak service hours can use the funds for operating assistance. And preventive maintenance provisions permit the use of funds for maintenance costs, including labor.

All funding will still be subject to the traditional transit employee protections -- Section 13(c) -- that have been in existence since 1964, ensuring the continuance of collective bargaining rights and job rights of transit workers.

Workforce Development

Finally, the bill addresses the training requirements of our maintenance members who will need to quickly get up to speed on the new zero-emission (likely electric) buses that will be coming to our systems at a fast pace in the next few years. Many agencies already have several of these vehicles in service. The bill provides more than $5 billion for transit systems to convert their fleets from diesel to electric vehicles, and 5% of this funding must be used
by transit systems to fund workforce development training, including registered apprenticeships and other labor-management training programs. That’s $500 million set aside for training. This will help ATU members keep their jobs and get the tools they need to work on these new buses safely.

In awarding competitive bus grants for projects related to zero-emission vehicles, the bill requires transit systems to submit a zero-emission transition plan. Moreover, transit systems must examine the impact of the transition to zero-emission buses on the current workforce and avoid the displacement of the existing workforce.

Politics Matters

“The passage of the Infrastructure Bill is a victory for transit workers and working families of America. The ATU applauds the commitment of House and Senate leadership for advancing this legislation that provides generational investments in the future of our country that will help revitalize our nation through a more equitable and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Costa.

The bill would not have happened without the leadership of President Biden, who delivered on his promise to invest record levels of funding in transit and protect ATU Members from violent attacks.

“For his leadership in the labor movement, expertise in the transportation industry, and political activism, ATU International President John Costa has been elected an At-Large Member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Costa joins a slate of 75 Mayors, state and municipal elected officials, labor union leaders, advocacy leaders, community activists, and others nominated by DNC Chair Jaime Harrison. As an At-Large Member, Costa will play a critical role in setting the strategic vision and critical policies of the DNC.

“I am honored and humbled to be elected as an At-Large Member of the DNC,” said Costa. “I look forward to working with all the DNC Members to provide advice and recommendations on behalf of our members, the labor movement, and working families.”

International President John Costa elected an At-Large Member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC)
The ATU attends White House signing of historic U.S. Infrastructure Bill

On November 15th, ATU International Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kirk and Local ATU leaders from across the U.S. had the honor of attending the White House Rose Garden ceremony of President Biden signing the landmark Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law.

“The world has changed, and we have to be ready,” President Biden said at the White House. “My fellow Americans, today I want you to know we hear you and we see you. The bill I’m about to sign into law is proof that despite the cynics, Democrats and Republicans can come together and deliver results. We can do this. We can deliver real results for real people we see in ways that really matter each day to each person out there and we’re taking a monumental step forward to Build Back Better as a nation.”

The bill is a massive victory for the ATU, with historic funding for public transit and critical safety protections for our members that ATU has fought hard for. In addition, the bill will provide money to purchase zero-emission buses and develop critical training and apprenticeship programs to ensure our members are prepared to repair, maintain, and operate these vehicles.

ATU calls for increased safety as gun violence increases at transit systems

With the increase in gun violence on buses, subways, and at transit centers, the ATU has been pushing back to make our transit systems safer by demanding an increase in protection for our members on the job and our riders.

In Kalamazoo, MI, in the wake of the shooting on a bus that left three people shot by a gunman at the Metro Transportation Center, Local 1093-Kalamazoo, MI, and Metro Transit are calling for police at transit centers to ensure worker and rider safety.

In St. Louis, MO, a Local 788 bus driver, Jonathan Cobb, was shot on the job by a bullet fired outside his bus, leaving him critically injured. A suspect is charged in the incident while the Local continues to push for better protections for its members.

In Edmonton, AB, with serious concerns of more riders carrying weapons, Local 569-Edmonton, AB, is demanding better safety and more power for transit peace officers, after there were calls for five incidents involving bear spray, six involving knives, and three involving firearms within one week.

“Nobody should have to go to work fearing for their lives,” said International President John Costa. “This recent rise in gun violence on public transit is devastating. It was only last May that our Local 265-San Jose, CA, brothers were killed in a tragic mass shooting at a VTA rail yard. The ATU is working with our Locals on the ground so that not one more of our members’ lives are put at risk or taken from us for simply doing their jobs. Assaults against transit workers must be stopped.”
ATU California Locals and CTW to expand workforce development partnerships with Locals across California

ATU Locals from across California joined with the California Transit Works (CTW) to lead the way on the important work of expanding workforce development for ATU Locals and transit agencies across the state. Apprenticeships and training programs are critical for preparing our members for the move to zero-emission vehicles and other technology as well as opportunities to advance their careers.

A statewide consortium of labor unions, transit agencies, and community colleges that works to promote high road training partnerships to address critical issues in public transit, CTW currently partners with Local 265-San Jose, CA, Local 192-Oakland, CA, Local 1575-San Rafael, CA, and Local 256-Sacramento. Our ATU Locals play a critical role in CTW by providing the knowledge and expertise of frontline workers to promote ongoing health and wellness strategies for workers in a high-stress industry and address workplace and industry issues related to skill development and technological change.

Deborah Moy, a nationally recognized organizational change expert and trainer from CTW, facilitated the discussion. She was joined by a panel of other industry leaders representing CTW, the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA), AC Transit, Mission College, the California Labor Federation, and the ATU, including Jamaine Gibson, ATU International’s Director of Apprenticeships and Workforce Development.

“The whole idea of creating career pathways to bring someone in from the lower level and be able to move them up to some high skill position, it’s definitely something the Union is behind and definitely needs to be a part of,” said Gibson in describing the importance of labor/management partnerships from the ATU perspective. “This is what we see as the future of public transit.”

The panel went on to discuss building labor/management partnerships using the four principles of the CTW, which are programs that are industry-driven, worker-centered, community-oriented, and have measurable results. “This program is about paying it forward as far as I’m concerned,” said Eliseo Acosta Jr., a member of Local 265-San Jose, CA, and maintenance worker with the VTA. “It’s a trade. Every day we’re trading knowledge amongst our peers.”

Attendees also broke out into caucuses, the first one for management and one for union participants. Each caucus worked on creating a common vision for moving forward with a labor/management program at their agencies. To end the day, the groups discussed their commitment to action and the next steps to make their vision for a transformative partnership and training program at their facilities a reality.
The ATU welcomes the newest workers to vote yes to join the ATU family

Despite the pandemic continuing, the ATU has been aggressive in organizing since transit workers need union representation now more than ever. Regardless of the challenges of organizing during a pandemic, transit workers across North America continue to mobilize for a better life through their union. From hazard pay to safety measures to fighting layoffs to strong contracts, these workers know the strength that a union has to protect them on the job. The ATU welcomes all the new members that have joined our ATU family this past year.

### 2021

**December 14, 2021**  
Hartford, Connecticut, ATU Local 448  
Precision HR, transportation counsellors, monitors, aides  
NLRB election, 86 Yes for ATU, 3 No, 148 workers in unit

**October 14, 2021**  
Milton, Ontario, ATU Local 1572  
PW Transit, operators and mechanics  
OLB election, 28 Yes for ATU, 7 No, 36 workers in unit

**October 4, 2021**  
Bridgeport, Connecticut, ATU Local 1336  
Transdev, customer service reps  
NLRB election, 2 Yes for ATU, 1 No, 5 workers in unit

**September 3, 2021**  
West Palm Beach, Florida, ATU Local 1577  
MV, mechanics, utility workers and fuelers  
Card check recognition, 15 workers in unit

**August 24, 2021**  
BWI Airport, Hanover, Maryland, ATU Local 1764  
Impark/Reef Technologies, customer service reps  
Voluntary recognition, 2 workers in unit

**August 10, 2021**  
Baltimore, Maryland, ATU Local 1764  
First Transit, facilities technicians  
NLRB election, 2 Yes for ATU, 0 No, 2 workers in unit

**August 5, 2021**  
Towson, Maryland, ATU Local 689  
Dillion’s Coach USA, new Towson, MD, Circulator, operators and mechanics, voluntary recognition  
20 workers in unit

**August 3, 2021**  
Baltimore, Maryland, ATU Local 1764  
Transdev, road supervisors, trainers, QA, clerks  
NLRB election, 9 Yes for ATU, 3 No, 22 in unit

**July 30, 2021**  
Toledo, Ohio, ATU Local 697  
TARTA/University of Toledo, operators  
Ohio SERB voluntary card check, 4 in unit

**July 21, 2021**  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania, ATU Local 1496  
River Valley Transit/City of Williamsport, office clericals, building mte., IT staff  
Pennsylvania Labor Board election, 8 Yes for ATU, 1 No, 2 AFSCME, 17 in unit

**July 8, 2021**  
Ottawa, Ontario, ATU Local 279  
Alstom Transport Canada, infrastructure and track maintenance  
Federal card check recognition for ATU  
35 workers in unit

**June 25, 2021**  
Fairfax County, Virginia, ATU Local 689  
Transdev, facility/building maintenance techs  
Voluntary recognition, 2 workers

**June 10, 2021**  
Oceanside, California, ATU Local 1308  
MV, road and maintenance supervisors, dispatchers, traffic controllers, maintenance clerks  
NLRB election, 17 Yes for ATU, 0 No  
30 workers in unit

**June 1, 2021**  
Thousand Palms, California, ATU Local 1277  
Sunline Transit, maintenance supervisors  
California PERC card check majority for ATU  
8 workers in unit

**May 19, 2021**  
Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Local 1764  
First Transit, paratransit and fixed route operators  
13 Yes for ATU, 2 No, 70 in unit

**April 8, 2021**  
Stratford, Ontario – ATU Local 741  
City of Stratford Transit Division, operators and mechanics  
OLB election, 25 Yes for ATU, 1 No, 33 in unit

**March 30, 2021**  
Austin, Texas – ATU Local 1091  
MTM, resolution specialists, admin. asst., operations asst.  
5 Yes for ATU, 0 No, 5 in unit

**February 23, 2021**  
Selma, California – ATU Local 1027  
MV, drivers, dispatchers, road supervisors  
mail and admin assistants  
NLRB election, 16 Yes for ATU, 5 No, 40 workers in unit

**February 22, 2021**  
Washington, Pennsylvania – ATU Local 1743  
First Transit, dispatchers  
NLRB election, 4 Yes for ATU, 0 No, 6 workers in unit

**February 2, 2021**  
Toledo, Ohio – ATU Local 697  
TARTA, building and grounds technicians  
SERB Card check majority for ATU, 2 workers in unit

**January 29, 2021**  
BWI Airport, Hanover, Maryland – ATU Local 1300  
Imperial Parking, shuttle bus operators  
NLRB election, 16 Yes for ATU, 2 No, 33 workers in unit

**January 26, 2021**  
Washington, Pennsylvania – ATU Local 1743  
First Transit, operators  
NLRB election, 10 Yes for ATU, 3 No, 15 workers in unit

**January 4, 2021**  
Biddeford, Maine – ATU Local 714  
Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit, drivers, mechanics, customer service reps, cleaners, administrative employees  
MLRB Card check majority for ATU, 32 workers in unit
The ATU holds first-ever virtual meeting of U.S. State Legislative Conference Boards

This December, more than 55 ATU Local leaders attended the first-ever meeting of the ATU State Legislative Conference Boards hosted by ATU International President John Costa and International Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kirk.

State Legislative Conference Boards have been engaged in elections, state legislative fights, political fights, and other actions but have never met together before. “This will be the first, but not the last,” said Costa about the future of the special meetings.

The zoom meeting featured lively and informative discussions about the important role our Conference Boards play in fighting for the rights and interests of our members, our families, our communities, and public transit in states. Costa and Kirk talked about how elections have consequences and the importance of mobilizing our Locals and members for elections and political action.

“Brothers and sisters, it’s clear that elections have consequences, and politics matter,” said Costa. “We as a union must get involved in politics at the local, state, and national levels to help build a better future. Our Conference Boards play a key role for our Locals and our members. We, as a Union, have always proven that we are up to any challenge and will always fight for our members and our riders,” Costa said about the significance of getting involved in politics.

The attendees also heard from politicians, political analysts, ATU staff, and other experts to learn about the political landscape for 2022, the critical election cycle in 2022, and ATU’s key legislative agenda. Among the speakers were NJ Gov. Phil Murphy, Former U.S. Secretary of Labor and candidate for Maryland Governor Tom Perez, Pennsylvania Attorney General and candidate for Governor Josh Shapiro, Assistant Majority Leader in the Illinois State House Rep. Marcus Evans, President of the Maryland State Senate Bill Ferguson, and others.

Costa also announced the hiring of Emma Cleveland as our State and Local Political Coordinator starting in January 2022. Previously Emma served in different roles in politics and campaigns at SEIU 32BJ. At the ATU, she will assist our locals and Conference Boards in building their political power and help them establish and strengthen COPE programs.

The day ended with a spirited session about the importance of the ATU-COPE program. Costa and Kirk led a lively discussion about successful strategies and tactics for Locals to increase COPE contributions of their members. Overall, it was a great day for the ATU, with attendees connecting and learning from each other about how to be better political advocates on behalf of the ATU, our Locals, our members, our riders, and our communities. ✡
ATU awards Oscar Owens Scholarships

The following students, beginning post-secondary education in the 2021-2022 academic year, have been awarded ATU scholarships in memory of our former International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar “Double O” Owens. Excerpts from their essays appear after their bios below:

**Hosaena Tilahun** - Hosaena Tilahun, daughter of Tadele Shimels, Local 689-Washington, D.C., is attending Dartmouth College, planning to major in Architectural Engineering. Tilahun, an honor student, is a mentor for aspiring female engineers and wrote for her school’s first academic journal.

“How do you form a union? It begins with unity. At its core, unionization is a belief in the power of us — the strength of our collective voice in support of fair working conditions and environments. From the beginning of our country’s founding, Americans have grappled with defining democracy, equality, and equity. Within our imperfect union emerged organized labor.”

**Emma Kennedy** - Emma Kennedy, daughter of Brendan Kennedy, Local 589-Boston, MA, is attending UMASS Boston, planning to major in Secondary Education and Spanish. Kennedy, a member of the National Honors Society, is also involved in the Model United Nations and the Global Languages Club.

“Organized labor benefits society because when union members negotiate their contracts and go on strike, they are advocating for more than just their own benefits and working conditions. Unions that serve the public, such as teachers, firefighters, and nurses, are known for fighting for provisions that protect the public as well as the workers.”

**Camilo Cortes Pinilla** - Camilo Cortes Pinilla, son of Hector J. Cortes, Local 569-Edmonton, AB, is attending the University of Toronto, planning to major in Biology and Anthropology. Pinilla, who volunteers as the leader of his high school Scona Media Club and plays for the water polo team, was also a member of the Executive Council of his school’s Students’ Union.

“When a unionized company raises benefits, others must follow suit if they wish to remain competitive to retain good workers. Through this mechanism of competition, organized labour is constantly pushing every Canadian company to treat its workers better. This ripple effect is what helped give hard-working Canadians pension plans and overtime pay; it is also what will continue to provide progress.”

**Greta Franke** - Greta Franke, daughter of Ross Franke, Local 308-Chicago, IL, is attending Emory University, majoring in Anthropology and Human Biology on a pre-medicine track as well as Music. Greta is an honor student who is also a student mentor and student ambassador.

“Before the labor movement, workers were taken advantage of by their employers, who were out for high profits at the expense of employee wellbeing. Importantly, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) gave employees the right to unionize, bargain collectively, and in other activities for their mutual aid and protection.”

**Alessandra Tortora** - Alessandra Tortora, daughter of Gregory Tortora, Local 726-Staten Island, NY, is attending Iona College, planning to major in Speech Pathology. Tortora, an honors student, is also a Special Needs Counselor and played varsity soccer while participating on the Student Council.

“Through generations of growth, evolution, and refinement, beginning in the early nineteenth century, organized labor has served an integral role in championing the rights of workers. It has fought and continues to fight for fair worker treatment, compensation, and benefits, and in doing so has radically improved the welfare of the broader United States population, irrespective of union status.”
The ATU takes home wins at the 2021 Labor Media Awards

The International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) has announced the winners of the 2021 Media Awards. Every year, the ILCA awards unions that demonstrate excellence in various categories. The ATU is honored to win eleven awards this year, including four honorable mentions. The ILCA is the professional organization of labor communicators in North America that provides a platform to showcase, advance, and amplify the work of labor communicators.

The ATU won the following awards:

**Max Steinbock Award**
The highest single award for journalistic excellence
First place - *In Transit* magazine October-December 2020

**Visual Communications**
Third place award - For best front page/cover, *In Transit* magazine October-December 2020

**Saul Miller Awards for Political Action**
Second place - ‘How a Union Saved Public Transit,’ *In Transit* magazine April-June 2020

**Best Informational Graphic for Visual Communications**
Third place - Transit ballot initiatives, *In Transit* magazine July-September 2020

**Visual Communications - Best Illustration**
Second place - Fight on the Frontline Against the Pandemic, *In Transit* magazine July-September 2020

**Electronic Media - Best News Video**

**Political Action - Best Mail Piece**
Second place - Biden/Harris Rep. Elissa Slotkin ATU mailer

**Best Website**
Honorable mention – ATU website, www.atu.org

**Best Electronic Publication**
Honorable Mention - The ATU Dispatch

**Best Issue Advocacy Video**
Honorable Mention - ‘Not One More’

**Political Action - Best Flyer**
Honorable Mention - Ossoff/Warnock GA senate runoff election leaflet
Canada Throne speech leaves out transit workers, riders, and operational transit funding

The Canadian federal government has once again left transit workers and riders frustrated and disappointed by completely ignoring the need for funding for transit operations in the Throne Speech delivered before Parliament.

Just like the federal budget announcement in April, struggling transit agencies were left out in the cold. “The Throne Speech spoke a lot about getting our economy back on track – how are we supposed to do that without functioning public transit systems?” said ATU Canada President John Di Nino. “Not receiving any operational transit funding means that essential services, including paratransit for seniors and people with disabilities, will be interrupted; this will harm the health and quality of life of our most vulnerable citizens as well as the local economy.”

ATU Canada has been demanding the government invest in emergency operational transit funding since 2020. Our demands were somewhat met when in late 2020, the government came to an agreement with provinces that saw $2.3 billion flow into the coffers of municipalities for transit. This came to an end for many cities at the end of March 2021 however and many transit agencies are struggling.

“Our transit agencies are in crisis and everyday are bleeding money fast without any operational funding,” said Di Nino. “If the government wants to get serious about tackling the multiple crises we face like the climate crisis and the pandemic, they need to commit to massively investing in maintaining and expanding public systems across this country.”

ATU Locals in giving spirit this holiday season

ATU Locals and members have a long history of giving back to their communities, this holiday season was no different.

In Tampa, FL, Local 1464 Women’s Caucus teamed up with the East Tampa Business and Civic Association and Florida House State Rep. Dianne Hart to serve prepared Thanksgiving dinners for 700 families in need and sponsor a clothing drive.

Local 726-Staten Island, NY, joined with the Kiwanis club to deliver close to 500 turkeys to food banks, catholic churches, the Jewish community center, and other community organizations feeding families in need this Thanksgiving.

The giving didn’t stop there. ATU Locals again held their annual “Stuff the Bus” holiday events to help those less fortunate. Local 85-Pittsburgh, PA, and allies packed an entire Port Authority of Allegheny County articulated bus adorned with Christmas decorations to the brim with presents for families.

In Halifax, NS, Local 508 members drove Halifax Transit buses to help pick up donations for Feed Nova Scotia. The buses made stops at 97 different locations, including businesses, schools, and City Hall, with boxes, cans and other supplies steadily filling up the buses.

In Bloomington, IL, Local 752 teamed with Connect Transit to gather 6.29 tons of gifts stuffed into two buses for the Children’s Home & Crisis Nursery.

In addition, Local 168-Scranton, PA members mobilized for a record-setting Stuff the Bus campaign. The Local teamed with the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS) and Scranton area unions to collect 1,970 toys and $6,570.

Let us know if your Local does a similar event or other charitable activities by emailing officeofthepresident@atu.org
International President John Costa has always said, “You can’t run a union from an office.” That’s why, while visiting California and Florida for their respective State Conference Boards, he took the opportunity to visit with members to thank them for keeping their communities moving throughout the pandemic and to listen to their stories, questions, and concerns.

First up on his tour of Northern California, Costa visited with members of Local 256-Sacramento, CA, and Local 1605-Concord, CA at their garages and transit centers. In Sacramento, Costa met with Regional Transit General Manager/CEO Henry Li to discuss issues impacting our members. Costa also spoke with Local 256 school bus workers in Elk Grove, who are currently fighting for a fair and just contract. In Concord, Costa met with Local 1605 members working for the County Connection.

Next up were Local 1574-San Mateo and Local 1575-San Rafael, where Costa toured their transit centers, garages, and maintenance facilities to talk with the members about their concerns. In San Mateo, Costa also met with SamTrans management to talk about critical issues affecting Local 1574 members.

Costa continued his tour of Bay Area Locals, meeting members of Oakland, CA, Locals 192 and 1555. Costa visited Local 1555 Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station agents, train operators, maintenance workers, and other members at BART stations, maintenance garages, and a state-of-the-art training center. At Local 192, Costa met with AC Transit bus operators, maintenance workers, dispatchers, supply clerks, and other members along with touring a zero-emission bus. In addition, Costa also presented 50-year Local 1555 member Andrew Williams a plaque recognizing him for his dedication and service to the ATU and his Local.

Costa then met with members of Monterey, CA, Local 1225 when he visited the Monterey/Salinas Transit facility, where he spoke to operators and maintenance workers along with touring a zero-emission bus, their new state-of-the-art maintenance facility, and visited with an operator training class.

In emotional visits, Costa went on to meet with members of Local 265-San Jose, CA, since the tragic mass shooting at the Guadalupe yard on May 26th. Offering his condolences, solidarity, and support, Costa checked in with members and asked how they were doing. The tour included visits with Way Power Signal-Overhead line workers, track workers, substation maintainers, and bus repair-transit mechanics. He also viewed the overhaul repair department to view the installation of safety bus barriers, the Rosa Parks bus, and the upholstery department.

From the west coast to the east coast, Costa then visited with members of Local 1593-Tampa, FL, at the HART streetcar garage, bus maintenance facilities, and transit centers to discuss the recent passage of the Infrastructure bill and
how the funding is critical for worker training to prepare for new technologies and measures contained in the bill to better protect transit workers on the job.

Costa and International Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kirk then visited with members of Local 1701-Sarasota, FL. At Sarasota’s main transit center Costa and Kirk thanked bus drivers for being frontline heroes and talked with them about their concerns. They also met with SCAT management to discuss critical issues affecting Local 1701 members.

Finally, early in the morning, Costa and Kirk visited with members of Local 1464-Tampa, FL, representing City of Tampa municipal workers in Solid Waste, Fleet Maintenance, Wastewater Collections, and Water Distribution. In touring these City facilities, Costa and Kirk saw firsthand the critical work our members perform each day for the people of Tampa. They also had the opportunity to talk with our members to hear their concerns impacting their Local. In addition, Costa and Kirk met with management at each department to talk about issues affecting our members and Local.

The tours of Northern California and Florida were inspiring to say the least. Being on the ground where the work is being done by our members and Locals was invaluable. Thank you to every single member who came to greet us and talk about your lives, including the hard work you put in every day on behalf of your communities. Thank you for your service. We couldn’t be prouder to be members of the same ATU family.
Despite the challenges of this year, our Locals continued to hold the line. Nobody said it would be easy, but our Locals have shown great strength and solidarity by fighting for well-deserved hazard pay, transit funding, pay increases, safer buses, an end to service cuts, and more. Here are some of their stories.

Local 1447-Louisville, KY, secures hazard payment for workers

After petitioning the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) in August, Local 1447-Louisville, KY, has successfully won hazard pay for hundreds of its members, who have worked during the pandemic. The TARC board, which approved the Local’s request, authorized any employees who worked more than 1,500 hours between March of 2020 and March of 2021 to be paid $3,000. Thanks to the Local, members will now be recognized for the critical role they played at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. TARC Executive Director, Carrie Butler, recognized union members for their sacrifices and the role the Local played in securing the much-deserved pay. “I am very, very proud of our membership for standing up and standing proud and together. They did the job,” said Local President Steve Bradshaw. “The cancelling of the requests for proposals and the idea of contracting out that work is a win-win for everybody,” he added. “It’s good for the city, good

Local 569-Edmonton, AB, mobilization to elect former member Mayor key to city reversing plan to outsource 100 cleaner jobs

After mobilizing their members to elect former bus operator Amarjeet Sohi as Mayor, Local 569-Edmonton, AB, helped save the jobs of 100 ATU members in transit cleaning and refueling service from being outsourced. The Local says the city has finally recognized the value of its cleaning and refueling staff. “I am very, very proud of our membership for standing up and standing proud and together. They did the job,” said Local President Steve Bradshaw. “The cancelling of the requests for proposals and the idea of contracting out that work is a win-win for everybody,” he added. “It’s good for the city, good
for the workers, and good for the Union.” The Local has been fighting since last year to save their members’ jobs by holding rallies and collecting 1,500 signatures for a photo petition to challenge the city’s decision. Thanks to the Local’s advocacy and hard work to elect Mayor Sohi, they played a key role in the city’s reversal.

Local 26-Detroit, MI, pushes for hazard pay, respect and more service

Despite receiving millions of dollars in federal COVID relief, the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) has cut service and denied workers well-deserved hazard pay. Local 26-Detroit, MI, is fighting back by pushing the DDOT to recognize transit workers for their bravery. “The city needs to find some way to make sure that the people who have been on the frontlines since this thing started and before are compensated or feel appreciated,” says Local President Glenn Tolbert. The Local is also advocating for their riders by fighting to restore service cut by the transit agency. “As an operator, you don’t want to leave anybody at the bus stop...the days of packing in like sardines are gone,” said Tolbert. Many drivers believe that as winter comes, the service cuts will only increase the tensions between drivers and riders. “DDOT needs to do something now,” says Local 26 member Mitchell Owens. “They don’t need to wait until the snow hits. They need to be acting now.”

Local 757-Portland, OR wins wage increases for school bus and paratransit members

With the tight labor market and driver shortage, Local 757-Portland, OR, was able to negotiate big wage increases for several bargaining units in an effort to retain current workers and help recruit new ones. For First Student, the Local fought for and won a $6 an hour increase for around 300 workers. Local President Shirley Block said members were so excited for the contract they were jumping up and down at the ratification vote. Drivers with Portland Public Schools also got a $3 an hour raise, making their starting wage $22.64. TriMet paratransit drivers also won sizeable raises and improved medical insurance after the Local negotiated a strong contract with new contractor Transdev.

San Jose and Oakland Locals rally to demand hazard pay

Local 265-San Jose, CA, and Local 192-Oakland, CA, members joined with allies to rally in front of San Jose and Oakland City Halls to demand hazard pay for risking their lives on the frontlines of the pandemic. Our members have been operating and maintaining trains and buses over the last 18 months despite the dangerous working conditions, including the tragic mass shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) railyard that took the lives of our nine Local 265 brothers. “It’s about time they pay,” said Local President John Courtney. “We deserve it. We risked our lives. We’ve suffered. We brought COVID home to our families. Why not now?” The Local, which has sent at least four letters to VTA since 2020 to try and negotiate the pay, was joined at the rally by allies from the San Jose labor movement, the community, and elected officials. AC Transit in Oakland has received $150 million in Covid funding but refuses to use it for hazard pay for our Local 192 members.

Local 1505-Winnipeg, MB, demands better safety amidst increase in violence on buses

After a recent rash of violence on public transit, including two stabbings in one week, Local 1505-Winnipeg, MB, is sounding the alarm about the need for increased safety for riders and workers. “We’ve been talking about safety for how long, and nothing’s being done,” said Local President Romeo Ignacio. “It’s passengers that have been affected, but there’s also an impact on our members. For the two stabbing incidents, I don’t think anyone would have peace of mind coming back to work the next day and possibly encounter something bigger.” The Local is demanding...
that the City of Winnipeg’s transit advisory committee support a transit police force and other safety measures, such as an app that allows bus operators to report and track assaults.

**Local 268-Cleveland, OH, joins with riders, allies to push for more transit funding**

A coalition of community, labor, and environmental groups, including Local 268-Cleveland, OH, organized a rally to celebrate and push for more public transit funding included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure law and the Build Back Better Act. The group also rallied to pressure Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to continue supporting public transit funding. In Cleveland, more funding is needed not only for capital projects but for services and maintenance to ensure the safety of both workers, riders, and the public. “I’m not here to criticize the agency, but we have been running trains that are two times their useful life expectancy,” said transit advocate Akshai Singh. “The workers, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 268, who do the maintenance, they’re being asked to do a harder and harder job.”

**Local 1031-Beaumont, TX, transit workers, riders demand safer buses**

A change to the way buses are maintained at Beaumont First Transit could soon become a reality thanks to the efforts of Local 1031-Beaumont, TX. Meanwhile, it’s been over a year since the Local began contract negotiations, and they are threatening to strike over wage and safety issues, including the severe disrepair of buses. “We have buses that shut down every day, every day in the middle of the street,” said Local 1031 member Gustafvia Moore. “We’ve had a bus driver where the bus shut down on the highway.” The Local and community members have teamed up to call attention to these unacceptable conditions. The transit agency has recently received federal grants to buy new buses and finally give drivers and community members the working and riding conditions they deserve.

**Local 1220-Richmond, VA, protests proposed service changes, calls for better pay and protections**

In a protest to demand higher pay and more protections for workers, and an end to proposed service cuts, dozens of members of Local 1220-Richmond, VA, rallied outside the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC)’s headquarters. The drivers are also worried about their jobs being outsourced and don’t feel their voices are being heard.

**Warwick bus drivers reach deal, averting strike**

Parents and schools in Warwick, RI, breathed a sigh of relief after school bus drivers, members of Local 618-Providence, RI, reached an agreement with company First Student for the next three years, averting a strike and a disruption in school transportation. The agreement comes after an earlier tentative deal was rejected by union members, and they voted to authorize a strike if necessary. The new contract ensures that drivers will be paid when schools cancel in-person classes and includes increased pay, 401(k) contributions, and other benefit improvements.
heard.” We are going to be out here every day until we can get management to come out and talk to us. They tell us this is how it’s going be, either to take it or leave it. If not, go find a job somewhere else,” said Local President Maurice Carter. “We’re tired of being told that.” The Local plans to continue protesting until they have a voice on the job, including when it comes to any proposed service changes or other issues impacting workers and riders.

Local 1328-Raleigh, NC, presses city for hazard pay for the hero GoRaleigh members

GoRaleigh workers, members of Local 1328-Raleigh, NC, who kept buses moving throughout the pandemic, rallied to demand hazard pay and sick leave for workers who contract COVID-19 or have mental health issues. “We need to reward people who kept this city moving during this pandemic,” said Local President Terrence Dewberry. At least 27 members have been infected so far with the virus. “To go to work and bring something home that could kill your whole entire family if not contained, that’s not the working conditions we signed up for,” Dewberry said. Bus driver Marvin Brooks caught COVID-19 last winter. “All I know is I went to work, and I came home with it,” Brooks said. Another bus driver Sherita McCullers expressed concern that she and her fellow workers feel on the job each day. “As I go to work every day, I pray. It’s what it is. You’re very terrified,” said McCullers. “I’m still afraid. I don’t want to take anything dangerous home to my family at all. We’re on the frontline, and we, as drivers, are fighting. I think everybody on the frontline deserves hazard pay.”

Local 788-St. Louis, MO, pushes for improvements and better working conditions to deal with bus driver shortage

Amidst a driver shortage, Local 788-St. Louis, MO, is fighting for better pay, benefits, and working conditions to recruit more drivers. “It’s not the Metro of 20 years ago,” said Local Vice President Catina Wilson. The Local and riders are frustrated by the agency cutting commuter lines and reducing services on some of the area's highest-capacity bus lines. Many drivers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the job and are leaving. Stress from COVID-19 has resulted in a lack of empathy from management and “unrealistic expectations” in the pandemic era. “The stress of the job and the danger that comes with the job, a number of them are calling it quits,” said Wilson. The Local believes the transit system needs an overhaul, first by making operators feel appreciated. “You can’t live today on these kinds of wages. And they don’t get the treatment that they deserve when they’re making this system work,” said Wilson.

Thunder Bay Local ratifies strong contract

Great news for Local 966-Thunder Bay, ON, as members ratified a strong contract with the City of Thunder Bay. Their previous agreement expired in June of 2020. Local President Fred Caputo called the agreement a “fair” deal for transit workers. The Local represents 150 drivers and technicians at Thunder Bay Transit. In October, 96 percent of the membership voted in favor of a strike authorization, leading the Local to file for conciliation after multiple meetings and contract talks halted in September.
The November off-year elections in the U.S. were a good night for the ATU, public transit, and working families. Our ATU Locals and members played a critical role in many of these victories.

In New York City, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams was overwhelmingly elected Mayor of New York City thanks to the hard work and early support of our NYC Locals 726-Staten Island, 1056-Flushing, 1179-Queens, and 1181-New York. “New York City Mayor-elect Adams will rebuild the middle class, bolster public transportation, and strengthen the rights of labor unions,” said International President John Costa.

In New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy was re-elected as well as Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop. The ATU has been Ridin’ With Murphy since he was first elected Governor and helped deliver this victory. The ATU New Jersey State Council and Locals across the Garden State look forward to continuing to work with Governor Murphy to build back better for public transit, workers, and families. The ATU has also been a longtime supporter of Mayor Fulop and looks forward to working with the Mayor to improve the community of Jersey City.

In Ohio, there were multiple wins with Justin Bibb being elected Mayor of Cleveland and Shontel Brown being elected to Congress for Ohio’s 11th District, both endorsed by Local 268-Cleveland, OH. Also, Cincinnati Mayor-Elect Aftab Pureval, endorsed by Local 627-Cincinnati, OH, was elected. In addition, thanks to the hard work of Local 697-Toledo, OH, Issue 12 was passed to boost public transit in the city.

Thank you to all our members who contributed to our COPE program and got out the vote for these important elections.
Recognizing the importance of workforce development and apprenticeship programs to the ATU and the transit industry, Jamaine Gibson will join the International staff and serve in a new role as Director of ATU Apprenticeships and Workforce Development.

“With the changing technology and demands in our industry, it is crucial that our members are trained and prepared to meet the challenges on the job—not only today but in the future,” said International President John Costa. “Jamaine has already been assisting the International and working with Locals across the U.S. and Canada to develop innovative apprenticeship and workforce development programs across all segments of the ATU membership. We look forward to Jamaine continuing this important work, especially as many transit systems move towards zero-emission vehicles with the boost in funding for these programs from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Build Back Better Act.”

Under Jamaine’s guidance, the Local 265-San Jose, CA, Joint Workforce Investment (JWI) program, in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), has set the standard for workforce development and apprenticeships in the industry. He was both a mentee and mentor in the program before rising to be JWI Apprenticeship Coordinator.

Brother Gibson joined Local 265 as a VTA bus operator in 2011, after working for 10 years as a United Autoworkers (UAW) safety representative at the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI).

The ATU is excited to announce that Andrew Falotico, ATU Local 113-Toronto, ON, Health and Safety Representative, will be assisting the International Union as its new Health and Safety Specialist and Trainer in the development of Health & Safety training programs.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic made clear, our members work extremely difficult and often dangerous jobs with little or no support from employers. Our Local Unions stood up and fought back to win common-sense protections through active campaigns and strong safety committees,” said ATU International President John Costa. “Andrew brings a wealth of experience in fighting for the health and safety of our members at Local 113. We look forward to having Andrew work with International staff and Local Unions to develop innovative training programs for Local Union Safety Committees in the United States and Canada.”

Falitico has decades of experience in transit safety and health obtained while working at the Toronto Transit Commission as a coach technician and most recently as the Local 113 Health and Safety representative, where he supports 45 Health & Safety Committees and five COVID-19 health and safety committees that serve the interests of 12,000 Local 113 members.
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, ATU mourns the deaths of those members who put their lives on the line as essential frontline workers during this global crisis. We send our deepest sympathies and condolences to their families, extended families, friends, their locals, and all who knew them. Below we honor our members lost to this deadly virus since the last In Transit was published.
Victorias y tragedias

Al comenzar un nuevo año, quiero reconocer todo el trabajo duro que se realizó para hacer de ATU un sindicato más exitoso y resiliente en 2021. Fué un año de intenso crecimiento, desde nuestras numerosas victorias legislativas y contractuales hasta nuestras pérdidas más devastadoras debido a la pandemia y la violencia en el lugar de trabajo, que nos unieron más que nunca como una familia sindical.

Victorias en el año 2021

Comenzamos el año 2021 con importantes victorias en Georgia al elegir a Jon Ossoff y Raphael Warnock. La gente decía que no podríamos ganar la segunda vuelta de las elecciones, pero nuestros locales tenían un plan: el compromiso de miembro a miembro en todo el estado junto con el colectivo de ATU. Esto entusiastizó no sólo a nuestros miembros sino también a la comunidad para salir a votar en estas importantes elecciones. Gracias a nuestros esfuerzos, hicimos historia y cambiaron el Senado por una mayoría pro-trabajadores.

El 20 de enero tomó posesión el presidente Biden. Su administración emitió inmediatamente una orden ejecutiva que exigía el uso de mascarillas en el transporte público, en los autobuses interurbanos y en los trenes, protegiendo mejor a nuestros miembros y a los usuarios del mortal virus.

En marzo, para ayudar a la recuperación de la pandemia, ayudamos a conseguir la aprobación del Plan de Rescate Americano, que aportó los tan necesarios 3 mil millones de dólares para financiación para el transporte, con el fin de evitar despido y mantener los servicios en funcionamiento.

Nuestra defensa no se detuvo allí. Poco después, el presidente Biden presentó su Ley de Inversión en Infraestructuras y Empleos, que finalmente incluyó 106,9 mil millones de dólares para el transporte público, con miles de millones que se invertirán en la electrificación de vehículos, en protecciones de seguridad críticas y en programas de desarrollo de la mano de obra para nuestros miembros.

Nuestros locales se mantienen en la línea

Con la continuación de la pandemia, nuestro sindicato se ha visto desafiado como nunca antes. En lugar de perder la esperanza, decidimos actuar. Juntos ayudamos a evitar posibles despido, luchamos por las prestaciones por condiciones peligrosas y la aplicación de la mascarilla, y ayudamos a garantizar la seguridad de los trabajadores del transporte en su trabajo.

Desde Estados Unidos hasta Canadá, ya sea que hayan marchado en las calles, llamado a un funcionario electo, contribuido a la COPE u organizado su lugar de trabajo, cada una de sus acciones fue importante, y en conjunto, se sumaron a importantes victorias.

También lloramos juntos. En la mañana del 26 de mayo, nuestro sindicato cambió para siempre tras el trágico tiroteo masivo de nuestros compañeros del Local 265-San Jose, CA, al día siguiente estuvo en el lugar con nuestros miembros para ofrecerles apoyo.

Desafortunadamente, San Jose no fue un incidente aislado. Recientemente, en Kalamazoo, también estuvo en el lugar después de un tiroteo en un autobús conducido por un miembro del Local 1093. Días después, en St. Louis, nuestro compañero del Local 788, Jonathan Cobb, fue disparado y herido de gravedad mientras conducía su autobús en un acto de violencia armada sin sentido.

La pandemia nos ha puesto en tensión a todos, y la necesidad de procesar las pérdidas que rodean tanto al virus como a la tragedia de San Jose, las agresiones diarias a nuestros compañeros y compañeras, y las tensiones de la vida cotidiana, pueden ser abrumadoras. Quien sepa que no está solo. Usted tiene a su familia de ATU, y nosotros estamos aquí caminando a su lado. No dejaremos de hablar de la crisis de salud mental. No dejaremos de luchar por una mejor protección para nuestros miembros.

De California a Florida y más allá

A lo largo de este año, he podido comprobar todo el duro trabajo que realizan nuestros locales, ya que he viajado de costa a costa, más recientemente desde el norte de California hasta Florida, para dar las gracias a los miembros por mantener sus comunidades en movimiento durante la pandemia. En California, visité el Local 256-Sacramento, el Local 1605-Concord, el Local 1574-San Mateo, el Local 1575-San Rafael, el Local 1555-Oakland, el Local 192-Oakland y el Local 1225-San Francisco, donde me reuní con los miembros en los centros de BART y Monterey/Salinas Transit, garajes e instalaciones de mantenimiento para hablar con los despachadores, empleados de suministros y otros miembros sobre sus preocupaciones, además de visitar los autobuses de cero emisión y los centros de formación de última generación.

Para terminar mi gira por el norte de California, me reuní con miembros del Local 265-San Jose, CA, en visitas emotivas debido al trágico tiroteo masivo en el parque de Guadalupe.

En Tampa, Florida, pude visitar los Locales 1593-Tampa, FL, y 1701-Sarasota, FL, junto con el secretario-tesorero internacional Ken Kirk en el garaje de tranvías de HART, las instalaciones de mantenimiento de autobuses, y los centros de transporte para discutir la reciente aprobación de la Ley de Infraestructura y cómo la financiación es fundamental para la formación de los trabajadores y las medidas para proteger mejor a los trabajadores del transporte en su trabajo.

Nuestra última parada fue en el Local 1464-Tampa, FL, que representa a los trabajadores municipales de la ciudad de Tampa en residuos sólidos, mantenimiento de la flota, recolección de aguas residuales y distribución de agua. Vimos de primera mano el trabajo crítico que nuestros miembros realizan cada día para la gente de Tampa.

Siempre he dicho que no se puede dirigir un sindicato desde una oficina, y por eso estas visitas a los locales continuarán en el nuevo año y más allá. Estar allí con los miembros me da una esperanza renovada de que realmente somos más fuertes juntos.

El año venidero

En 2022 hay muchas cosas que marcarán el año venidero. Con los niveles históricos de financiación para el transporte público que se están distribuyendo para modernizar, revitalizar y proteger nuestros sistemas de transporte y a los trabajadores, hay razones para ser optimistas. Todavía nos quedan batallas por delante, como la de garantizar que esta financiación se traduzca en vehículos más seguros, mejores condiciones de trabajo, más servicios, mejores puestos de trabajo y formación para nuestros miembros sobre la tecnología nueva y la existente.

Además, en 2022, celebraremos la 60.ª convención internacional de nuestro sindicato en Las Vegas, NV. En nuestra convención, estableceremos la visión de nuestro sindicato para los próximos tres años. Esperamos trazar un camino que nos conduzca a más victorias en los próximos años.

Gracias de nuevo por hacer posible cada victoria, cada dolor soportable y, sobre todo, por formar parte de nuestra increíble familia ATU. No podríamos haberlo hecho sin ustedes. Esperamos dejar atrás la pandemia y continuar la lucha por los derechos y la seguridad de nuestros miembros en el año 2022. ❖

Si usted o alguien que conoce se siente abrumado, llame a nuestros socios de confianza de FHE Health al 1-866-276-1610.

28 October - November - December 2021 | IN TRANSIT
Victoires et tragédies

Au seuil de la nouvelle année, j’aimerais reconnaître tout le travail qui a permis à l’ATU de mieux réussir et de mieux résister en 2021. Cette année a connu une croissance intense, depuis nos nombreuses victoires sur le plan législatif et contractuel jusqu’à nos pertes les plus dévastatrices du fait de la pandémie et de la violence sur le lieu de travail, ce qui plus que jamais a fait de nous une famille.

Les victoires de 2021

2021 a débuté par des victoires importantes en Géorgie avec l’élection de Jon Ossoff et de Raphael Warnock. Les gens ont dit qu’on ne gagnerait pas le second tour de ces élections, mais nos sections locales avaient un plan : c’était un engagement de membre à membre dans tout l’état avec le bus de l’ATU. De ce fait, non seulement nos membres, mais aussi la communauté tout entière ont été incités à voter lors de ces importantes élections. Grâce à nos efforts, nous avons marqué l’histoire et fait basculé le sénat vers une majorité pro-travailleurs.

Le 20 janvier, le président Biden a pris ses fonctions. Son gouvernement a immédiatement promulgué un décret présidentiel exigeant des masques dans les transports publics, les bus interurbains et les trains, afin de mieux protéger nos membres et nos passagers du virus mortel.

En mars, pour soutenir la lutte contre la pandémie, nous avons favorisé l’adoption du Plan de secours américain (American Rescue Plan), ce qui a permis le financement de 30 milliards de dollars pour éviter les licenciements et poursuivre les services dans les transports en commun.

Notre intervention ne s’est pas arrêtée là. Peu après, le président Biden a présenté son investissement dans les infrastructures et sa loi sur l’emploi, qui a finalement inclus 106,9 milliards de dollars pour les transports en commun, dont une grande partie doit être investie dans l’électrification des véhicules, d’importantes améliorations de la sécurité et des programmes de perfectionnement de la main d’œuvre pour nos membres.

Nos sections locales maintiennent leurs positions

La persistance de la pandémie a éprouvé notre syndicat comme jamais auparavant. Plutôt que de perdre espoir, nous avons décidé d’agir. Ensemble, nous avons écarté des licenciements potentiels, nous avons lutté pour obtenir les primes de risque et l’obligation du port de masque, et nous avons fait en sorte que les travailleurs des transports en commun soient en sécurité au travail.

Des États-Unis au Canada, qu’il s’agisse de manifestations dans les rues, de visites chez des fonctionnaires élus, de la contribution à COPE ou de l’organisation de votre lieu de travail, chaque action a eu son importance - et tout cela a permis des victoires importantes.

Nous avons également été très affligés. Le matin du 26 mai, notre syndicat a changé pour toujours après la fusillade tragique de nos frères de la section locale 265-San Jose, CA, où je me suis rendu le lendemain pour soutenir nos membres.

Malheureusement, il ne s’est pas agi d’un incident isolé à San Jose. Récemment je me suis rendu également à Kalamazoo à la suite d’une fusillade dans un bus conduit par un de nos membres de la section locale 1093. Puis quelques jours plus tard, à St. Louis, notre frère Jonathan Cobb de la section locale 788 a été grièvement blessé alors qu’il conduisait son bus, victime d’un acte de violence insensé.

La pandémie nous a tous stressés et il a été vraiment pénible de surmonter les pertes dues au virus, à la tragédie de San Jose, aux assauts quotidiens sur nos frères et sœurs, ainsi qu’aux pressions de la vie de tous les jours. J’aimerais que vous le sachiez, vous n’êtes pas seul. Vous avez votre famille de l’ATU et nous vous accompagnons. Nous ne cesserons pas de parler de la crise de la santé mentale. Nous ne cesserons pas de lutter pour une meilleure protection de nos membres.

De la Californie à la Floride et au-delà

Pendant toute cette année, je me suis rendu compte de tout le travail de nos sections locales, en voyageant d’une côte à l’autre. Lors de mon dernier voyage, je suis allé de la Californie du Nord à la Floride, pour remercier les membres d’avoir pris soin de leurs communautés pendant la pandémie. En Californie, j’ai visité la section locale 256-Sacramento, la section locale 1605-Concord, la section locale 1574-San Mateo, la section locale 1575-San Rafael, la section locale 1555-Oakland, la section locale 192-Oakland, et la section locale 1225-San Francisco, où j’ai rencontré des membres à BART et dans les centres de transit de Monterey/Salinas, les garages et les locaux d’entretien, pour parler avec les régulateurs, les commis aux fournitures et d’autres membres de leurs préoccupations, des bus à émission zéro et des centres de formation de pointe.

Pour achever ma tournée de la Californie du Nord, j’ai rencontré des membres de la section locale 265-San Jose, CA, et ce furent des visites très émotionnelles depuis la fusillade tragique au centre de triage de Guadalupe.

A Tampa, Floride, j’ai eu l’occasion de visiter les sections locales 1593-Tampa, FL, et 1701-Sarasota, FL, ainsi que le secrétaire-trésorier international Ken Kirk au garage de tramways HART, aux locaux d’entretien des bus et aux centres de transit, pour discuter du vote récent de la loi sur l’infrastructure et de l’importance du financement pour la formation des travailleurs, ainsi que pour de meilleures mesures de protection pour ceux-ci sur le lieu de travail.

Pour notre dernière étape, nous sommes allés à la section locale 1464-Tampa, FL, représentant les employés municipaux de la ville de Tampa pour les déchets solides, l’entretien des véhicules, la collecte des eaux usées et la distribution d’eau. Nous avons vu de nos propres yeux le travail essentiel qu’effectuent chaque jour nos membres pour les habitants de Tampa.

J’ai toujours dit qu’on ne peut pas diriger un syndicat depuis le bureau et que ces visites aux sections locales continueront au cours de l’année à venir et après. Ma présence auprès des membres me redonne l’espoir d’être vraiment plus fort ensemble.

L’année à venir

En 2022, de nombreux facteurs vont influencer l’année. Les niveaux de financement sans précédent visant à moderniser, revitaliser et protéger nos systèmes de transport et nos travailleurs nous donnent lieu d’être optimistes. Des combats nous attendent encore et nous devons notamment veiller à ce que ce financement se traduise par des véhicules plus sûrs, de meilleures conditions de travail, un service amélioré, de meilleurs emplois et des formations pour nos membres en utilisant les technologies actuelles ainsi que les nouvelles.

En outre, nous allons tenir en 2022, notre 60e convention internationale à Las Vegas, NV. Lors de cette convention, nous allons définir les objectifs de notre syndicat pour les trois prochaines années. Nous tracerson la voie à suivre vers des victoires plus nombreuses encore dans les années à venir.

Merci encore de nous avoir permis chacune de ces victoires, d’avoir rendu chaque peine supportable, et surtout de faire partie de notre exceptionnelle famille ATU. Nous n’aurions pas pu le faire sans vous. Nous avons hâte d’en finir avec la pandémie et de continuer notre combat pour les droits et la sécurité de nos membres en 2022.

Si vous ou quelqu’un que vous connaissez vous sentez dépassés, appelez FHE Health partners au 1-866-276-1610.

IN TRANSIT | www.atu.org
Death Benefits Awarded July 1 - September 30, 2021

1- MEMBERS AT LARGE
EDDIE M BARNETT
JACK W BRACEWELL
JOYUS JOANN CRIPÉ
PAUL WILBUR ENDERS
JOSEPH N JAQUAY

19- COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
JOE SMITH

85- PITTSBURGH, PA
RICHARD K APPLIGARTH
JEROME P BURNS JR
MARVIN GODFREY
Sylvester J Haïd Jr
TERRENCE A HAINES
JOSEPH L HONICK
GEORGE HUGHES
RONALD C KRAUSE
JOHN A KRZEMINSKI
MICHAEL J LE JEUNE
GEORGE M LUTZ
REGIS J MACK
CHARLES T MARSHALL
JANICE M PRICE
JOSEPH L HONICK

134- VANCOUVER, BC
DAVID L HENUSET

192- OAKLAND, CA
CORNELIUS PERRY

241- CHICAGO, IL
JAMES C BALL
ALBERT F BASTEAN
GILBERT R CHANEY
ORINE CLARK
WILLIAM CLEARY
FELIX COOPER
ROBERT D FLORES
CLEOPHAS FULTZ
GEORGE GRAY
ANTONIO GUZMAN
JACK HALL
ANNIE V HORTON

107- HAMILTON, ON
WILLIAM G JOHNSTON
ROY JOHN KIRK

113- TORONTO, ON
KENNETH BARROW
VERNONIQUE BIERMAN
JACK BRODIE
ALLAN BURNS
PAUL CARREAU
WILLIAM JACKSON COLLINS
PAUL DA TORRE
GEORGE WILLIAM DEAN

FRED L. DURHAM
HOWARD ERIC EDMUNDS
PATRICIA RINBOW
JOHN FONSECA
ALLEN WAYNE FYRE
LAWRENCE GRAYSTONE
VIRTUE HARDY
JAMES GRANGE HOPE
ALLEN RONALD JOHNSON
SCOTT MC DOWELL
BRIAN DAVID MC KEE
JAMES MCKINNON
JOHN MCMEEKAN
WAYNE HAROLD MOORE
BRONNO NIE MEYER
OSBORNE NOWELL
DAVID O NEILL
PETER T. RALKOS
MICHAEL GERALD RICE
JOSEPH SAMSON
ANSARI SATTAUD
JOHN JAMES STRANGE
ERIC TAYLOR THOMSON
HOWARD RUSSELL WEBB

SAVANNAH T VAUGHN
WILLIS E VIVIAN JR
MARY S WILLIAMS

265- SAN JOSE, CA
ABDULLAH AB ALAGHMANDAN
ADRIAN BALLEZA
ALFRED W. FRITZ
MICHAEL J RUDOMETKIN

268- CLEVELAND, OH
BETTE J GLAZE
ROBERT R HENDERSON SR

279- OTTAWA, ON
GARY G SAUNDERS
DOUG L SHANNON

282- ROCHESTER, NY
LAUREN J ZAZZNO
ROBERT HUGHES

308- CHICAGO, IL
HANNAH L BLANFORD
JOE L BROWN
TYRONE B BROWN
DORIS M CAREY
ARCHE L COOPER JR
PATRICIA G DINWIDDIE
LYNNWOOD R FLOWERS
TIFFANY T FREES
CLEVELAND A GARDNER
STEVEN L GREEN
LEON S HEGWOOD
JEWELL S HUNT
SEMIREX N McPHEE
CAROL L PERCE
DANDRIDGE T RAYFORD
VICTOR P RIGONI
GARY SHAW

382- SALT LAKE CITY, UT
ALBERT E FELLER

443- STAMFORD, CT
JOHN D KNIGHT
STEWART J NEUMANN

519- LA CROSSE, WI
JONATHON T WILLIAMS

569- EDMONTON, AB
BOB R DITTRICH

583- CALGARY, AB
NAVEED ASGHAH
IAN BEWS
KENNETH CLARK
FREDERICK S GREEN
DAWN M HELG
ALBERT HAMILL
DAVID HERBERT
WALTER E HOPKINS
STANLEY HYDEK
GRADY J JONES
JOHN K KEITH

589- BOSTON, MA
FITZ M ALLISON
GEORGE J COLBURN
RALPH C HAMILTON
CLINTON JONES
MICHAEL J MC DONAGH
JOHN V MEAGRA
JAMES E RICHARD JR
FRANCIS B WALLACE III
RICHARD F. WALSH
MARTIN H Patients

616- WINDSOR, ON
EARL LANE BOND
CARL F GARROD
MICHAEL P MOUSSEAU

PHILIP KLEIN
PATRICIA LEVELTON
CATHY MUSSLEWHITE
CAMERON D OLSON
HARVEY SEAGRAVE
LOIS J TESSIER

587- SEATTLE, WA
LARRY M HAGGLUND
FRANK L LOWE
JEFFREY D MAULDIN
STEWARD K NEUMANN
SAVE THE DATE

THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

will be held at

Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino - Las Vegas, NV
September 19-23, 2022