



ATU International President John Costa conducted a live telephone town hall this week with ATU International leaders and all Local Business Agents from across the U.S. and Canada to discuss the launch of the ATU COVID-19 Command Center. IP Costa’s vision and intent for developing this Command Center is to provide a rapid response mechanism to address the ongoing and ever-changing crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Local Business Agents heard from ATU staff and experts about the Command Center, industry and worker relief legislation in the U.S. and Canada, ATU COVID-19 resources for Locals, contract issues and other issues related to the escalating pandemic.

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## Stay updated on ATU’s response to COVID-19 on the ATU website

Stay updated on ATU’s response to COVID-19

[www.atu.org/covid-19](http://www.atu.org/covid-19)



ATU has been closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the threats it poses to our members and the riding public. The International has been working with our Locals to ensure that transit agencies and private contractors are protecting our members’ health, safety and security on the job. Your International and Local Unions are demanding to meet, and in many cases, have already been meeting, with our employers in order to develop a plan to reduce the chance of our members contracting COVID-19 and determine how

the employer will respond to reported incidents of possible exposure. The International has been working with elected officials and agencies in both the U.S. and Canada to call for legislation which will protect our members’ health and safety. For ATU’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), prevention tips for members, legislation and more, please frequently visit [www.atu.org](http://www.atu.org) for updates.

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## IP Costa calls on Congress to provide \$16 billion in direct emergency funding for public transit agencies

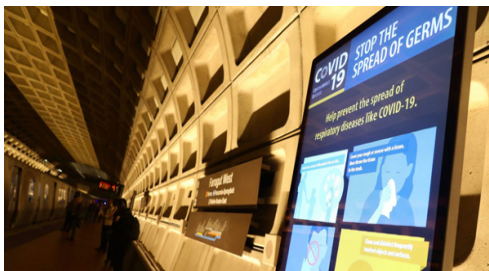


With transit workers like doctors, nurses, police officers and other workers still on the job to provide essential public transportation, ATU International President John Costa called on Congress in a letter today to provide \$16 billion in direct emergency funding to public transit agencies to offset some of their extraordinary direct costs and revenue losses caused by the coronavirus. “Since the public health crisis began, ATU members have been heroically coming to work every day, frightened that they are putting themselves and their families

at risk of contracting the coronavirus,” wrote IP Costa. Transit agencies are suffering as fewer people are riding public transit, but the riders on the buses and trains are transit-dependent. “You are probably poor and don’t likely have a car of your own. You need transit to get to the grocery store, the doctor and the pharmacy. Without the bus, these people would be stranded at home. That’s why public transportation is considered an essential public service. Please act immediately to save this lifeline in our communities.”

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## ATU members still clocking in as coronavirus spreads



Despite fears of contracting coronavirus at work, ATU members across North America are on the job to provide critical public transportation, which is essential in the fight against the escalating coronavirus pandemic. “We’re at a crisis right now that is like a war,” said ATU International President John Costa. “We’re first-line responders; we’re trying to keep the economy going; we’re trying to get first responders to their jobs, but at the same time, we have to be concerned for ourselves.” Local 689 Metrobus driver Antonio Pollard is

one of those workers. “We’re concerned as much as anybody else about our health, but we’re also concerned about the others that can’t get to work, such as people with ADAs, disabilities,” Pollard said. “We would like to help them and be there for them, also.”

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## Winnipeg Transit and TTC take precautionary measures amid coronavirus exposure



Concerns of coronavirus exposure have forced Winnipeg Transit and the TTC to take precautionary measures to protect workers and riders. The TTC temporarily had to shut down one of its bus garages after a mechanic who worked there tested positive for COVID-19. Meanwhile, two Winnipeg Transit buses were sequestered after being driven by a bus operator who was exhibiting flu-like symptoms. This comes as Local **1505**-Winnipeg, MB made a plea for donations for hand sanitizer as the agency has been unable to supply it for bus operators.

These are just a few of the instances of the impact of coronavirus on ATU members across North America. ATU Locals are fighting for better protection for our members and riders as the coronavirus pandemic grows. Read more.

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## Staten Island Local demands more protections for workers



Local **726**-Staten Island, NY has asked the MTA to implement additional protective measures and provide coronavirus testing for members risking their health to keep the city's mass transit system up and running. "Notwithstanding the tremendous public health risks that the virus poses to each and every one of us, the members of ATU Local 726 continue to come to work in the face of this tremendous uncertainty in order to provide safe and reliable public transportation to our fellow citizens, emergency responders and healthcare

workers who still need to travel and commute to work," wrote Local President Danny Cassella in a letter with Transport Workers Union Local 100 to the MTA. Among the safety demands the Local made are suspended fare collection, rear-door boarding, a six-foot perimeter/boundary around drivers to ensure social distancing and allowing drivers to limit bus capacity to 50%.

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