



ATU

The Transit Union AFL-CIO, CLC

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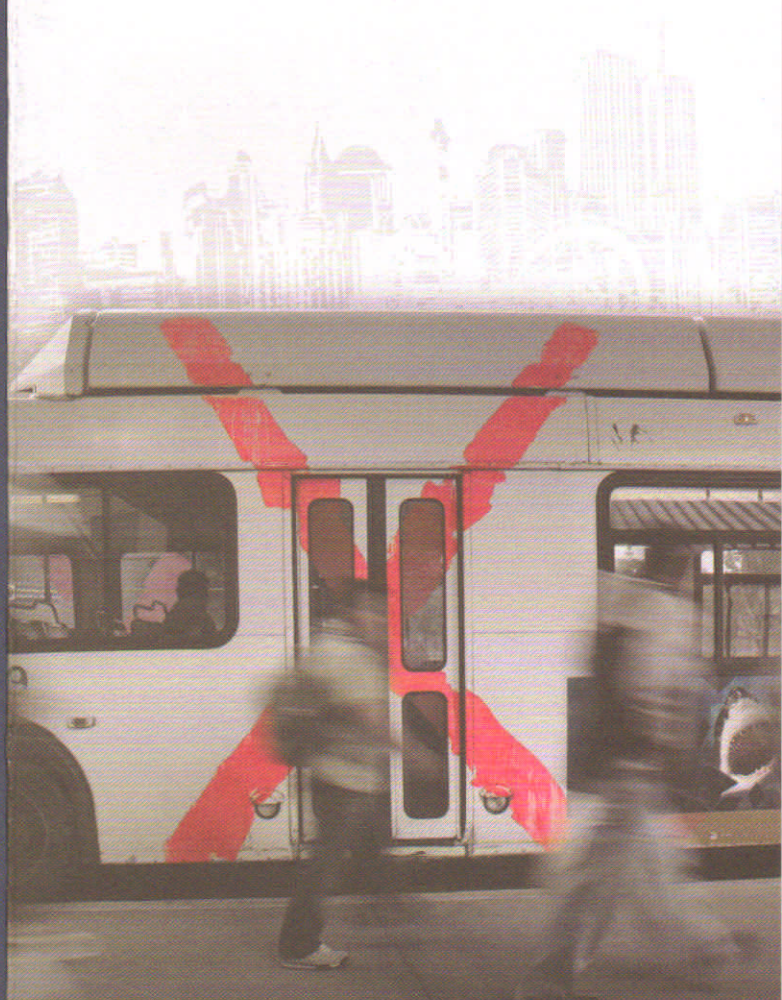
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ATUCOPE

THE **VOICE** OF TRANSIT WORKERS



The *VOICE* of Transit Workers

As a transit worker, school bus employee or over-the-road bus worker, your job, wages and working conditions are directly linked to politics. Representatives in federal, state and local government make crucial decisions everyday that determine the amount of funding available to your transit system or school district, the safety and security requirements at your workplace, your bargaining rights, and more.



By participating in ATU-COPE, you can have a direct impact on the political process - from guiding policies on transit funding, privatization and other issues that affect you to helping elect the public officials who make the decisions.

As the largest transit worker Political Action Committee (PAC) in the United States, ATU-COPE is the voice of transit workers, school bus employees and over-the-road bus workers at all levels of government. Since by law, union dues cannot be used to fund political campaigns, voluntary member contributions to ATU-COPE are used to help elect pro-labor, pro-transit candidates for local, state and federal office. Once the election is over, ATU-COPE works closely with the officials we helped elect to make sure that our members' interests are well-represented.



The Crisis

The economic recession has hit U.S. transit agencies hard. Since 2009, approximately 85% of public transit systems have raised fares or cut service. Everyone is affected, whether you live in a big city or small town. For many people, the bus just doesn't stop in the neighborhood anymore. Workers can't get to their jobs. Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities who rely on transit are stuck in their homes. It's a mobility crisis like we have never seen before.

At the same time, through no fault of their own, a wave of ATU members has been laid off. Across the U.S., thousands of our brothers and sisters are struggling to pay their mortgage and feed their families from day to day. Their self esteem and pride in performing an honest day's work for a fair wage are gone, and their lives are spiraling out of control.

For those of us that are fortunate to still have a job, you know that the tough economy is putting a squeeze on collective bargaining. The price of health care continues to skyrocket, wages are stagnant, and retirement packages are shrinking beyond recognition. Without immediate action, unions and the middle class that they built will be long gone.