



LOCAL UNION NO. 952

GENERAL TRUCK DRIVERS, OFFICE, FOOD & WAREHOUSE UNION

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Patrick D. Kelly
Secretary-Treasurer and
Principal Officer

TO ALL COACH OPERATORS EMPLOYED AT ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

October 5, 2009

Re: Recent Events

On July 27, 2009 at the Board of Directors meeting, Director Campbell requested that a list of OCTA funding sources provided to him by transit advocates be analyzed to determine if some of this funding could potentially be used for bus transit. Staff is currently conducting this analysis. We have met with OCTA and have discussed ways that we can work together to mitigate some of the planned reductions scheduled for March by finding ways to backfill some projects that use transit-eligible monies. The Bristol Street Widening Project is an example of an undertaking that uses some funds (possibly up to \$46 million) that could be transferred to operations for bus service.

In the next several months activities will begin to accelerate. The Community Meetings, to gather input from the public, have already taken place. Four scenarios (A, B, C and D), put together by staff, are available for viewing on OCTA's website. The service reduction program that is planned for the March 2010 service change may contain routing, frequency and service hour reductions. The possibility of eliminating some routes will be discussed as well.

On October 1, 2009, the California Transit Association (www.caltransit.org) posted a press release regarding the lawsuit that they filed against the state. The California Supreme Court left the appellate court decision intact. The appellate court ruled that the state illegally raided money intended for public transportation. It is unclear how much of the \$3.4 billion will be restored to public transit, however, public transit officials now hope to work with the Administration and Legislature to restore these funds.

On October 26, 2009, the Public Hearing will be held at OCTA beginning at 9:00 a.m. On November 9, 2009, at the Board meeting, staff will make recommendations about the use of transit-eligible funds for operations.

On November 23, 2009, staff will make its final recommendation to the Board regarding the March 2010 service change. It is possible that the Board will adopt the "best" of scenarios A, B, C and D. CEO Will Kempton has said many times that he and his staff are looking at options to "soften the blow" for March 2010. We will continue to partner with them to find alternatives.

Coach Operator contract surveys were mailed out. The deadline for returning them to the Local was Friday, October 2, 2009. From the results we've reviewed so far, job security appears to be the top priority. We will continue our analysis and report back to you in the near future.

The focus now must be on reducing the number of service cuts and job losses and restoring service as soon as possible.

We will continue to closely monitor the various meetings at OCTA. We will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please approach a steward or contact me directly at (714) 740-6235 if you have any questions.

In Unity,

Donna A. Metcalfe
Recording Secretary & Business Representative

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

