



"Freedom Through Organization"

LOCAL 85

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

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MESSAGE TO ALL ATU LOCAL 85 MEMBERS March 24, 2020

As part of our regular updates concerning the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to share the most recent developments. Just yesterday, Port Authority announced a 25% reduction in service. This service reduction will become effective tomorrow, Wednesday, March 25, 2020. While this was a difficult decision, it was necessary at this point. However, it reaffirms our commitment to balancing the need to protect you, our frontline workers, while maintaining as much service as possible for essential trips serving our hospital staff, government officials and emergency responders.

Just since last week, ridership has been down more than 50 percent. While no one wants to see reduced ridership, this reduction will continue to allow riders to practice social distancing. Importantly, even though ridership and service has fallen, we were successful negotiating an agreement that, no matter your assignment, you will continue to receive your normal pay. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of identifying and developing the runs needed to address this 25% service reduction. Once we have clarity on this issue, we will report it to you immediately.

As a recap, the issues we have already addressed and resolved consist of the following:

1. Two executed agreements protecting members health and safety, additional paid sick leave, protection for members with existing medical conditions, paid testing for the coronavirus, and guaranteed pay in the face of service reduction;
2. Consistent labor/management weekly updates to address ongoing and fluid issues;
3. Restrooms that have been closed along routes due to government shutdown orders have been replaced with Porta Johns;
4. Implemented sanitization programs, including the provision of rubber gloves & sanitizers;
5. Mandated rear boarding, effective March 25, 2020;

While we have accomplished much in such a short and dynamic time frame, we understand there is more work to do. In this regard, we continue to address the day to day needs that you face as you continue providing dedicated service to the public, such as:

1. Introducing caution tape for separation (in progress);
2. Limiting and/or ceasing fare collection (in progress, as this must be approved by PAT Board);
3. Maintenance - Manchester Shop, Auto Shop and Facilities will be on reduced schedules starting Thursday March 26th. All other Maintenance groups will be evaluated after 25% reductions are implemented.
4. Administration (reduction schedules are being discussed);
5. First Level – Instruction dept will be on reduced schedules starting Thursday. All other groups will be evaluated after implementation of 25% reductions.
6. Fare collectors (reduction to be implemented depending on fare collection);

Please understand that given the magnitude of this current situation, everything remains fluid. Therefore, as we move forward and address these issues, we will continue to update you accordingly. As with all our prior “Messages to the Members”, if you have any questions, please contact the Union hall.

**ATU LOCAL 85
EXECUTIVE BOARD**