

Local 111 & 2200 members,

Where We Are and Where We Are Going

After the most recent tentative agreement was rejected by 54 per cent of the membership, we conducted a survey to better understand your concerns. That step was necessary because we believed the key issues raised by members had been addressed in the second tentative agreement.

The two issues that came back strongest were running times and recovery times. Last week we met again with the mediator to identify what remains outstanding, and the mediator brought those concerns directly to the employer. There are no bargaining dates scheduled at this time. Both parties remain willing to meet, but there is limited value in returning to the table unless one party is prepared to move from its current position.

Members have asked what the union is doing to bring the parties back to the table. This week we launched the “Think 50” campaign, encouraging operators to drive the way they were trained and not let the schedule push them into unsafe practices. That means adhering to speed limits, but it also means allowing passengers the time to be seated before departing and taking the time needed to assist passengers who require additional support.

Think 50 is the first step in a broader campaign that will include further work-to-rule measures as we move through September, supported by a public campaign that puts the conditions operators face in front of riders and decision makers. The coming weeks will show what our world-class transit system actually runs on: operators who are consistently behind schedule, missing their breaks, and left to answer for problems they did not create.

We are also mindful of how quickly public support can be lost, and we do not intend to spend it carelessly. Alongside these actions, your leadership continues to apply pressure at every level of government. Those discussions focus primarily on funding, which, as members know, drives every public service. During challenging economic times for all three levels of government, we have to make sure public transit is not left behind.

Our actions over the coming weeks are intended to bring the parties back to the table and resolve these issues. Each step has been chosen deliberately, on our timeline, and further steps remain available to us. We will keep you informed as this campaign moves forward.

In Solidarity,

Mike McMillan, Local 111 President

Scott Walters, Local 2200 President