

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

19-08

DATE: 9/27/2019
TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Status of Contract Negotiations with Amalgamated Transit Union

BACKGROUND

MCTS recognizes that bargaining can only proceed as quickly as either party wants it to. MCTS also recognizes that good pay and benefits help us to retain and attract mission driven employees that will help meet passenger expectations. Over the past year, MCTS has made several attempts to settle the contract with ATU:

- MCTS offered ATU arbitration as a means for an independent third-party to decide what is a fair deal for employees given the fiscal constraints on Milwaukee County and its transit system.
- MCTS dropped co-insurance, which was described as the biggest issue preventing agreement.
- MCTS submitted a final offer and asked that ATU members vote on a package proposal that included minimal changes to healthcare, increases in wages, and retention of cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). The proposal even ensured that ATU members experience a net take home pay increase in the event of healthcare costs at the out-of-pocket maximum.

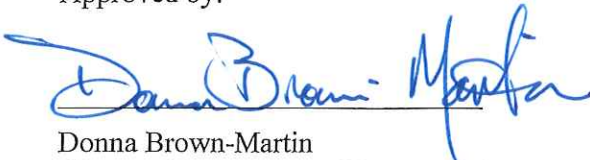
A month after the final offer was given, a vote was taken and ATU leaders advised members to reject it, which they did on September 5, 2019. At the time of writing this report, MCTS and ATU hadn't yet met to discuss the rejected final offer. Should there be progress to report, it will be shared verbally in Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by: Dan Boehm, President & Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Joe Lamers, Budget Director, DAS – PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller