

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

18-366

DATE: 5/4/2018
TO: John Weishan, Jr., Chairperson, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee
FROM: Julie Esch, Interim Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Status of Contract with Amalgamated Transit Union

BACKGROUND

For the past three years, employees represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local #998 have been working under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with a term of April 1, 2015 thru March 31, 2018. The labor agreement is between ATU and Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. (MTS), a quasi-governmental instrumentality of Milwaukee County responsible for managing and operating the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). Negotiations toward a new CBA began earlier this year:

February 22, 2018 Negotiations kick-off

March 6, 2018 Initial proposals were exchanged

At the time of writing this informational report, a negotiation meeting was planned for May 11, 2018 and there were up to five (5) additional dates that both parties were potentially available for negotiations in late May and early June.

CBA expired March 31, 2018

The current status of the CBA is that it is expired. MTS has respect for both, transit employees and the negotiation process. Through negotiations, management and the union mutually agree on wages and benefits befitting of a quality workforce that engages in delivering safe, reliable and customer-focus transit services. To honor the process, MTS offered to extend the contract on a month-to-month basis in advance of the March 31, 2018 expiration as a demonstration of the good faith with which we will continue to work towards a new labor agreement. Although ATU routinely agreed to such extensions in the past, as of the writing of this informational report, a current extension has not yet been signed. Despite this setback, MTS vows to continue to honor the negotiation process, and continue to extend to all employees the respect and support necessary to safely and reliably serve the transportation needs of the community.

Negotiations Update Website

MTS is establishing a website for updates on progress towards negotiating a new CBA. Throughout the negotiation process, please check <https://www.ridemcts.com/laborupdate>. The negotiation update website will be a reliable source for information about proposals made by both MTS and the union.

Finally, additional updates will be provided to the County Executive, TPW&T Committee members, and Chairman of the Board if progress or setbacks occur during the negotiation process.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:



Julie Esch
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cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
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