

Speak Out Now at AC Transit May 14th 2018

Safety, It's a Real Issue

Last week a driver made the news after he was arrested for bringing a pistol to work for his safety. The only real surprise here is that he supposedly emailed management about it beforehand.

Making that decision may be surprising to some, but we all know the dangers we face out on the road. Drivers have been threatened, spit on, punched, beaten, shot at and worse. And what protection do we have? OCC? The Sheriff?

Drivers are literally on the front line with nowhere to hide. And our society is pushing many of our passengers further and further into the fringes. Attempting to defend ourselves is understandable. But in the long run we will have to confront the society causing this tension, all together.

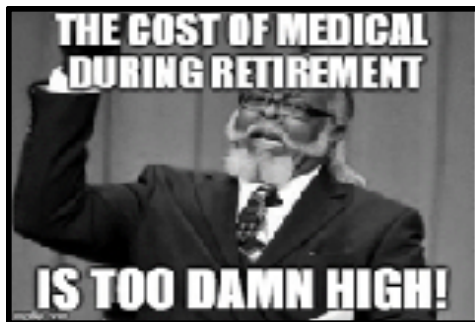
It's the Conditions Stupid!

The phrase "Doctor Shopping" has been making its way around. It's what management uses to describe drivers trying to protect their livelihood.

Supposedly, drivers are going to outside medical facilities who don't have access to their medical records so that they can pass the medical exam. If this is true, why?

Working public transit is a serious job so safety should be a number one concern, and drivers agree! The problem is the health issues many of us do have are caused by the job itself! Who has time to eat properly, exercise, and sleep eight hours with the schedules AC gives us?

If AC management is serious about safety, they should start by improving the working conditions.



What's The Word?

With all of the changes coming to AC Transit service in the next signup, you might think it's a good idea to start notifying the public about the changes.

Is AC Transit management going to put out notices at the bus stops? On the buses? Or are they going to do nothing until maybe the last minute? Drivers barely know what's going on. Are they going to have operators explaining to confused and frustrated passengers why their routes got cut and reorganized once the next signup rolls around?

Working For What?

Working at AC Transit is not a small sacrifice. We put in long hours and many years to take care of our families and hopefully build something for ourselves. But when it comes time to retire, how many of us feel like we don't really have the option? There is no way that we can afford to pay the outrageous medical costs. Is this just a trap to keep us working until we are older and older? What are we working for? When can we control our lives?

Right Tool For the Job

Not all of us are mechanics or gardeners, but when we need to get something done, we know what tool to use. If we need a screwdriver, we get one. If a lot of us are drivers, we know how important the seat can be. One that doesn't adjust, or with torn up cushions will make our day harder. We also know what kind of a beating we take in the seat, even with the 'air ride'.

Have you ever seen the car that has "BOSE shocks"? You can see a video on google. Why is it that they make a seat now with magnetic ride technology and we haven't tried it? If there's something the district can do to extend our careers here, and ease our aching backs than why aren't we doing it? With all these new buses coming in you would think a state of the art drivers seat would be a #1 priority!