

# Speak Out Now! At AC Transit 3/5/2018

## The Sign-Up Saga Continues...

The recent Divisional sign-ups were messy, to say the least. The Divisions 4 and 6 sign-ups had issues with incorrect travel-time on some runs, missing weekend information and incomplete information on Group Relief weekend assignments in the synopsis. The D6 sign-up had to be cancelled 2 times. With multiple synopses floating around, and Addendums to go along with them, having to cross-reference and making sense of it all was a headache. Also, at D2, there was some trouble.

AC got it wrong again, big surprise. Drivers at AC are the ones who see the realities on the road, why shouldn't they be in charge of scheduling?

## The Cold Bureaucracy

As new people come into the Scheduling Department, there is hope and optimism to help improve AC Transit. But that dies out eventually.

Even if management in the scheduling process have good intentions, they don't have to live the consequences of a shoddy process. There is a lack of regard for the consequences to Operators and passengers from top management. There is a certain attitude from the top that trickles down to all levels of the Scheduling Department, causing low morale. So why should anyone be surprised when things go wrong?

## Welcome, AC, To The 21st Century!

18 years into the century, AC is finally trying to use the internet and computers to make life easier. The District implemented BidWeb for the majority of drivers for the first time. Aside from the sign-up errors mentioned above, it seemed to go alright.

There still was the option to come in for those who didn't want to use the computer. Otherwise the computer seemed to speed up and improve the process – making it unnecessary to come to the Gillie room. Finally, the benefits of internet and computers are made useful for drivers at AC. Better late than never?

Now if only we could get the Clever Devices, which will provide directions for our routes, rolled out soon – AC will maybe finally catch up with the possibilities of technology.

## Safety On The Bus

AC Transit is back on the news again. After looking at every reported assault against bus drivers in the past 3 years, NBC Bay Area found a spike in the number of assaults despite the District claiming that there has been a decline in assaults.

What does AC Transit classify as an assault? Does it include getting spit on? Having a gun pointed at us? Harassed? Or are they only focusing on situations that put people on a leave of absence?

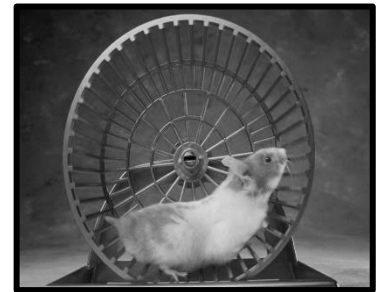
AC has been toying around with the idea of having extra training to deal with difficult passengers or a protective barrier around operators like at MUNI for years but not much action. AC's disregard for our safety couldn't be clearer.

## Not Rich Enough, Not Poor Enough

On paper, it can look like workers at AC are doing pretty good for ourselves. For some of us, it is the first time that we are not poor. It is one of the few jobs that someone without a college degree can earn some decent money and benefits. And it is at least good enough that we don't qualify for many government assistance programs. But after taxes, what is our take home pay? On top of this, why is there no (COLA) cost of living adjustment at AC?

We can hardly afford to live in the Bay Area so we have to move further and further away from work. It is like the harder we work, the further we don't get ahead.

*Life at AC: The Harder We Work, The Further We Don't Get Ahead*



## Watsonville Canning Strike: Lessons For Us All

In 1985, 1,000 mostly Mexican women workers were forced out on strike when the owner tried to break their union. They organized themselves, went on strike for 18 months, forced the plant owner into bankruptcy and won a new contract. Come learn about the strike:

**Saturday, March 17th, 7pm, doors open 6:30pm**  
**South Berkeley Senior Center,**  
**2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley**