



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 1505

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WINNIPEG TRANSIT WORKERS DEMAND A FIX FOR MAJOR BUS SAFETY ISSUES IN WINNIPEG

**North American buses are decades behind in safety standards,
endangering operators, riders, motorists & pedestrians**

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Winnipeg, Manitoba – Winnipeg bus drivers are angry and are demanding major safety changes for buses that are endangering the health, safety and lives of bus drivers, riders, motorists, and pedestrians.

Here in Winnipeg, transit workers represented by Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1505 passed a resolution on September 13th calling on Winnipeg Transit to lobby manufacturer's with the hopes of fixing bus operator workstations to end the preventable accidents, and driver injuries that plague Transit systems.

Assaults, verbal abuse, and spitting on operators are on the rise. Most transit buses have unsafe, wide window pillar designs and hazardous eye-level mirrors, which create large blind spots that lead to tragedy when drivers don't see pedestrians crossing in front of them.

Poor bus suspension, seating, and ergonomic design causes a much higher rate of debilitating back pain and chronic health conditions for bus operators than the rest of the population.

"Vicious attacks on bus operators, dangerous driver blind spots, ergonomically poor seating, and primitive steering and controls are endangering bus drivers, riders and everyone else on our streets," says ATU 1505 Interim Vice-President Everett Rudolph. "There are buses being used in Europe that address all these problems. It's time Winnipeg Transit, bus manufacturers such as New Flyer Industries, and elected officials make efforts to adopt these well-established solutions and make our buses safe for everyone."

The Local is calling for buses that have:

- Protective barriers that can be quickly raised or lowered by an operator, that do not obscure the operator's view, and that do not block air conditioning or heat from the driver's workstation.

- Unobstructed views for bus operators that include open view windshields, minimal A-pillars connecting the windshield to the driver's side window, and mirrors that don't obscure an operator's vision.
- Workstations that include "active" ergonomic seating, intelligent steering, adjustable pedals, and a dashboard and steering wheel that both telescope and tilt.

The Amalgamated Transit Union is the largest labor organization representing transit workers in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1892, the ATU today is comprised of more than 200,000 members in more than 250 local unions spread across 47 states and nine provinces, including 3,000 workers at Greyhound Lines, Inc. Composed of bus drivers, light rail operators, maintenance and clerical personnel and other transit and municipal employees, the ATU works to promote transit issues and fights for the interests of its hard-working members.