



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

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metro.net

**September 23, 2015**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** *PAW*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: JAMES T. GALLAGHER** *JTG*  
**CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF OPERATOR BARRIERS**

**ISSUE**

At the September 17, 2015 System Safety, Security and Operations Committee meeting, James Lindsay, President, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) made a public comment on Agenda Item 64. Mr. Lindsay's specific concern was the potential of Metro contracting out the installation of the operator barriers.

**DISCUSSION**

In response to increased operator assaults, Metro's CEO directed staff to retrofit all of Metro's bus fleet with protective operator barriers in order to provide additional operator protection. In order to expedite the installation of the barriers, staff proposed that the New Flyer buses that are still under warranty, which did not come with an installed barrier, be contracted with New Flyer to retrofit these buses with operator barriers. For the remaining bus fleet of approximately 1,300 buses, staff planned to procure and install an operator barrier retrofit kit for each bus type. Since this proposed project included contracting out the installation of the operator barriers in 427 New Flyer buses, staff contacted the ATU for approval of the contracting in accordance with the CBA.

Staff engaged in discussions with the ATU and on September 23, 2015, staff received letters from Mr. Lindsay (Attachment A) agreeing to the contracting of the operator barrier installation of New Flyer buses and concurring that Metro staff will perform the installation of the operator barriers for the remaining bus fleet of approximately 1,300 buses.

## **NEXT STEPS**

With the approval of Agenda Item Number 64, staff will proceed with issuing a contract with New Flyer to initiate the installation of Operator barriers on the New Flyer buses.

Staff is currently in the procurement process for approximately 1,300 operator barrier retrofit kits and will present a detailed installation plan as a package at a later date.

Staff will be seeking approval for additional mechanic positions and equipment maintenance supervisor positions to perform the project installation of the 1,300 operator barriers.

## **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A: ATU Letters from September 23, 2015

*Amalgamated Transit*



*Union - Local 1277*

Tel: (323) 222-1277  
Fax: (323) 222-1335

1744 North Main St.  
Los Angeles, California 90031-2517

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

John Roberts  
Deputy Executive Officer, Operations  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles CA 90012

RE: THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PROTECTIVE OPERATOR BARRIERS AND MONITORS ON NEW FLYER BUSES

REVISED: 9/23/15

We met on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and again on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 to discuss the installation of protective operator barriers and monitors on the New Flyer series busses within MTA's fleet. The MTA and ATU Local 1277 have reached an agreement in which MTA may proceed with the partition and monitor installation project. In addition, it was agreed that ATU would be responsible for transporting the busses to and from the New Flyer Facility in Ontario California as well being present during the entire installation project.

Please be advised that this concurrence is granted on a non precedent setting basis.

If you have any further questions, you may contact me by telephone at (323) 222-1277 ext.101 or by e-mail at [jlindsay@atu1277.com](mailto:jlindsay@atu1277.com)

Sincerely,

James Lindsay  
President/Business Agent

afl-cio-cle  
c: Don Ott Labor Relations

ATTACHMENT A

*Amalgamated Transit*



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RE: THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PROTECTIVE OPERATOR BARRIERS ON  
REMAINING 1300 TO 1500 BUSES WITHIN THE MTA FLEET

The MTA and ATU Local 1277 met on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 to discuss the aforementioned project. An agreement was reached in which MTA may purchase and/or build internally a "Commercially available, off the shelf" drivers protective operator barriers/partitions and that the respective ATU bargaining unit members would install the drivers partitions.

If you have any further questions, you may contact me by telephone at (323) 222-1277 ext.101 or by e-mail at [jlindsay@atu1277.com](mailto:jlindsay@atu1277.com)

Sincerely,

James Lindsay  
President/Business Agent

afl-cio-clc  
c: Don Ott Labor Relations