

For Immediate Release
December 9, 2009

Informational Picket at Overlake Transit Center Supporting Striking Para-transit Workers in Vancouver, B.C.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 587 Will Join With Their Sister Local, ATU 1724 in an Informational Picket That Will Start at 8:00 am at Overlake Transit Center in Redmond on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Seattle, WA- Transit workers from Handy DART have been on strike since October 26th, 2009. Their employer, MV Transportation, took over the contracts for the para-transit service for the disabled in January 1st of this year. Issues include:

1. Handy Dart workers have the lowest wages in the Vancouver transit system
2. MV has refused to continue participation in the municipal pension plan.
3. The call center that handles booking will be out-sourced.
4. Elimination of their full-time guarantee.
5. Increasing the use of casual workers who do not receive benefits.

97% of the Handy DART workers voted to strike. Also, the Union has been requesting binding arbitration so that the service can get back on the road more quickly. MV Transportation has refused this request.

The informational picketing will take place at Overlake Transit Center, which is the staging area for the Connector services from Microsoft, which are contracted to MV Transportation. Overlake Transit Center is located at NE 40th St, and 156th Av. NE in Redmond. ATU 587 supports their sister local in their fight for fair wages and working conditions.

ATU Local 587 was founded by the drivers of Puget Sound's electric streetcar fleet, which included the regions first interurban line in 1912. The union currently represents more than 4130 transit workers in King, Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

For further information, contact:

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