



MetroTransit

BULLETIN

January 27, 2012



HRM's Contract Negotiations with ATU

HRM's contract with ATU Local 508, comprised of transit workers including Bus Operators, Ferry Crews, Fleet Mechanics, and others, expired on August 31, 2011. Negotiations have been ongoing since September 2011. A Conciliator was appointed in October 2011, however, an impasse was officially declared January 18, 2012, by the Minister of Labour after a report was filed by the Conciliator.

If a work stoppage happens, when will it begin?

ATU Local 508's membership voted on January 22 to reject HRM's contract offer, which constitutes a vote to strike. However, they are not in a legal position to remove service until February 2, after a 48 hour notice to strike has been filed, and after the 14 calendar day countdown has ended following the declaration of the impasse. The HRM Bargaining Team, the Union and the Conciliator resumed negotiations Jan.29, as HRM's objective remains to get a timely agreement on a contract deal that will mean an efficient, reliable transit system for its customers and HRM citizens.

All Metro Transit services will continue to operate until further notice.

If a work stoppage happens, how long will it last?

Unfortunately this is not a question we can answer at present.

Would bus or ferry service continue during a work stoppage?

Without our unionized employees, we simply do not have the resources to provide adequate service to the public on the fixed route bus and ferry services, community transit, MetroX, MetroLink, and Access-A-Bus (AAB). All of these services would cease operation during a work stoppage.

What about dialysis patients that use Access-A-Bus?

A contingency plan has been prepared for both ambulatory and non-ambulatory dialysis patients to continue to have their transportation needs met, should a legal work stoppage come into effect on February 2.

These customers will be contacted directly by Access-A-Bus management staff within 48 hours prior to the work stoppage deadline, to provide confirmation of any new arrangements to ensure that their dialysis treatments are not disrupted and that they continue to be accommodated.

What travel alternatives are available should there be a work stoppage?

We recognize that our customers rely on us for daily travel to and from work/school. Carpooling is one alternative for travellers. The following Transit Park & Ride lots will be FREE for customer carpool parking in the event of a work stoppage:

Dartmouth

- » Maybank Field - Mic Mac Blvd
- » Portland Hills Terminal
- » Woodside Ferry Terminal

Halifax

- » Mumford Terminal (Near Walmart/ Tim Horton's)
- » Centennial Arena – Lacewood Dr
- » Exhibition Park
- » South Centre Mall – Spryfield

Sackville/Tantallon

- » Downsview Terminal
- » Cobequid Terminal
- » Sackville Terminal
- » Hubley Centre

HRM's Smart Trip ride matching program is another option for customers to consider. Visit www.hrsmarttrip.ca for details on how to sign up as a driver or passenger.



If I just purchased a bus pass, will I get my money back if a work stoppage begins?

In the event of a work stoppage Metro Transit will provide information on how any unused portions of a bus pass will be honoured, after, (and if) a work stoppage occurs. It is impossible to determine this in advance without knowing if it will take place, or its duration. Further information on how to claim a refund or extend disrupted use of a monthly pass would be communicated to customers via:

- » halifax.ca/metrotransit
- » [@hfxtransit on Twitter](https://twitter.com/hfxtransit)
- » **Transit Retail Outlets**
- » **490-4000**

What if I have a UPass?

Participating universities in the UPass program will be contacted by Metro Transit in the event of a work stoppage. There are provisions in the UPass agreements as to how the universities would be reimbursed for any unused portions of UPasses if a work stoppage occurs. It is impossible to determine this in advance without knowing if it will take place, or how long it might last.

Further information on how to make up for loss of service on a UPass will be provided through the participating UPass universities to their students following the conclusion of a work stoppage.

Where can I get more information?

In the event of a work stoppage, local media outlets (newspapers, TV, radio, online news) will provide a lot of coverage. We caution customers that sometimes the full views of either or both sides in the dispute are not always conveyed through the media.

Official sources of information for customers related to a potential work stoppage include:

- » halifax.ca/metrotransit
- » [@hfxtransit on Twitter](https://twitter.com/hfxtransit)
- » **490-4000**