



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Media Contact: David Stephen
Phone: (301) 669-8207
Email: dstephen@atu689.org
For Planning Purposes Only

THURSDAY: Hundreds of Metro Workers to Protest the Privatization of Metrobus at Virginia's new Cinder Bed Road Bus Facility

For the first time in Metro's forty year history, private contractors, known to relax safety standards, will be bidding to manage & operate existing Metrobus routes out of the new Cinder Bed Road Facility

Washington D.C. – December 5, 2017: This Thursday morning, hundreds of members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, the union representing more than 9,000 of Metro's front-line employees, will hold an action to oppose the outsourcing of bus operations and maintenance at the new Cinder Bed Road Bus Facility in Lorton, Virginia. The rally will occur as private contractors are inside meeting with WMATA representatives to discuss the bidding process to manage and operate nine existing Metrobus routes that will be relocated to the facility in 2018.

Privatization has led to relaxed safety standards around the country and the union firmly believes that the expansion of privatization at Metro is the wrong direction for the system and the tax-paying public. WMATA was founded, in large part, because of the lax standards of private contractors in the 1950s, much like the ones who operate D.C. Circulator and D.C. Streetcar, two systems that have had numerous safety, pay, benefits, and work environment problems in the last two years. The winner of the Cinder Bed facility's bid will be able to set its own standards for safety, wages and work rules.

Who: Hundreds of members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689.

What: Anti-privatization protest against private contractors seeking to manage and operate nine existing Metrobus routes who will be meeting with WMATA officials inside the Cinder Bed Road Bus Facility.

When: Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Cinder Bed Road Bus Facility
7901 Cinder Bed Road, Lorton, VA

About Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 is comprised of more than 13,000 members performing occupations within the many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, and the DC Streetcar. A member of the Amalgamated Transit Union (AFL-CIO/CLC), the largest labor organization representing transit workers in the United States and Canada, Local 689 was established on January 19, 1916.

###