

Michigan
Council 25

AFSCME

We Make Michigan Happen

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

Albert Garrett, President

ALERT

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D-DOT holds Hearings on Bing's Proposed Cuts

Last year, the Detroit Department of Transportation (D-DOT) recorded over 38.7 million riders on the city's bus system. That works out to an average of nearly 45 rides for every resident of the city. There is no way to break this down: how many of these rides took Detroiters to their jobs? How many took them shopping? How many to church? How many to schools or vocational training? How many to visit friends and relatives? If some Detroiters do not use the bus, the average number of rides shoots up for those who do.

D-DOT is holding hearings on Mayor Bing's proposed cuts to bus service. Hearings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, August 24

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wayne County Community College, 5900 Conner

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rosa Parks Transit Center, 360 Michigan

Wednesday, August 26

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Neighborhood City Hall, 7400 W. Vernor

Thursday, August 27

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers

Mayor Bing has publicly stated that he refuses to use the federal stimulus money to avoid layoffs of city workers, or to improve the situation of laid off workers.

He has asserted that the citizens of Detroit who would normally use city bus services on routes he would cut, or on weekends, can use jitney services instead.

When it was reported to Marie Antoinette that the people had no bread, she reportedly observed, rather disdainfully, "Let them eat cake." She was apparently so out of touch with reality that she did not understand, or care, that the people were starving.

Mayor Bing has adopted the same attitude of royal condescension toward the working families and citizens of Detroit. His attitude toward city workers and their families makes it clear that he has settled upon union-busting as his mission in office. Consider:

- Bing **wants** to lay off city workers. He has the means - federal stimulus money - to avoid layoffs, but refuses to use it.
- Bing **wants** to cut city services, starting with bus service. He doesn't care that Detroiters need and depend on the bus. He wants us to give up the bus and hire private transport - jitanes.
- Bing **wants** to privatize transportation, but he won't so it in so many words - yet. But that's what his plan adds up to: cut back public service and tell people to hire private transportation.

Go to the hearings and make your voice heard!~