



Getting you where you need to go!

15 Industrial Parkway
Burlington, VT 05401

Phone (802) 864-CCTA
Fax (802) 864-5564

Information Notice

Contact: Meredith Birkett
CCTA Acting General Manager
mbirkett@cctaride.org

CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PROVIDES BINDING ARBITRATION PROPOSAL

- PRESENTED BY CCTA BOARD CHAIR AT 2 PM TODAY -

April 13, 2011 – Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) held a press conference at its office this afternoon at 2 PM. CCTA Board Chair Chapin Spencer read the following statement.

Regarding Binding Arbitration Proposal: The CCTA Board of Commissioners believes very strongly that a Drivers' strike would be a terrible blow to the delivery of an essential public service provided to the residents of this county and northern Vermont.

To preclude this disaster, the Board has done something that is more often suggested by unions and resisted by public management. By a communication delivered to the Teamsters yesterday, CCTA requested that any dispute remaining between the parties at the end of tomorrow's mediation session with federal mediator Elayne Tempel be submitted to final and binding arbitration before an experienced neutral arbitrator. This commitment to final and binding arbitration would be in substitution for the exercise of their right to strike.

Why do we make this suggestion? First of all, because the issues that continue to separate us, while very important, do not involve arguments over pay and fringe benefits that can have major consequences for a public entity's budget. Second, we firmly believe that arbitration is the far preferable method for resolving this dispute than would be the detrimental economic impact that is a strike.

We believe it would be far better to have the remaining disputes resolved by an experienced neutral party than it would be to discontinue our services to the public for the duration of a strike, as is the Board's present plan. Many, many people count on CCTA for essential services such as doctors and hospital appointments, grocery shopping and transportation to school and work. Thirty percent of CCTA riders report they would be unable to meet their transportation needs if bus service is not available.

Also, striking employees would not be receiving pay during a strike, causing large potential problems for them and for their families.

On balance, our Board strongly favors resolving this dispute by an orderly adjudication process rather than through the totally chaotic events of a strike.

This morning, the Union responded that final and binding arbitration is unacceptable to them at this time. We are disappointed with this response and are hopeful that the Union's sense of public responsibility and personal interest will cause it to reconsider. We continue to believe that binding arbitration is a much better alternative than a strike should the parties be short of a mutually acceptable settlement at the conclusion of mediation tomorrow.

###

