

"We believe our fight is now," asserted McMahon, "Do not impose further pain on transit riders and commuters by misusing the funding the governor has delivered."

McMahon insists that the authority should "continue to operate (without reducing service) and leave the burden on Harrisburg (the state capital) to come up with a dedicated, reliable source of funding."

"If the authority has to shut down," he declares, "it will be on the politicians in Harrisburg."

Adding insult to injury the agency has also approved a fare hike and hundreds of layoffs, and plans another 10% service cut next year. ➔



Pittsburgh Local 85 President Pat McMahon rallies a coalition of transit advocates to fight planned cuts by the Port Authority of Allegheny County. Copyright©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2011, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



Cliff Hughes, a member of Amalgamated Transit Union, chants "No More Cuts" during a rally in Mellon Square Park to protest the Port Authority's plans to cut back regional public transit, February 25, 2011 Copyright©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2011, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



Members Speak Out: SEAT Plans Layoffs While Hiring More Managers

On Wednesday, February 23, ATU bus drivers and members of the community made their voices heard at the SEAT board meeting in New London, CT. Even though there are no immediate funding cuts planned for transit, the board is proposing layoffs that will hurt hard working families, as well as the community.

Cutting back the workforce puts additional stress on current drivers, as well as weakening the pool of available workers in case someone is sick or on leave.

Meanwhile, the private company First Transit, which manages the system, continues to fill their ranks as they move forward with plans to create three more administrative positions this year.