

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 31, 2010

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**Keep America Moving to save transit service and jobs
ATU Local 1056 urges support for coalition at Penn Station rally**

**Statement by ATU Local 1056, Daneek Miller, President/ Business Agent
Wednesday, March 31, 2010**

Amalgamated Transportation Union (ATU) Local 1056 thanks our national and local coalition partners including our International ATU, the Transport Workers Union and its Local 100, and Operation PUSH and the Rev. Jesse Jackson for forging the Keep America Moving coalition to focus the discussion on the need to maintain, rebuild and strengthen our mass transit network here in New York and certainly nationwide. New York City still drives our nation's economy and to thrive, New York – especially the Greater New York region, **REQUIRES** a thriving, working integrated mass transit system that relies on bus, subway and commuter rail service.

Historically – from its outset, the United States always recognized the great bang for its bucks by investing in transportation infrastructure and always looking at the cutting edge modes; today that means mass transit. Yet today, our nation spends more than four times more dollars (82%) on roads than on mass transit (18%). At this time of economic uncertainty, disinvestment and underinvestment in mass transit represent the dumbest public policy imaginable. When transit thrives, it drives our economy.

The investment in projects also supports the construction and manufacturing trades. The investment in solid, consistent, reliable transit service pays big dividends and any adherence to the short-sighted penny-pinchers will further setback the economy and slow if not derail our (economic recovery).

Local 1056 represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division. The MTA just voted to reduce and eliminate bus service throughout Queens. We cannot let these harmful cuts stand.



Thus, we call on all New Yorkers, all Americans, our brothers and sisters in organized labor and our elected officials at all levels to work together to **KEEP AMERICA MOVING**.

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Representing all hourly rated Employees of the Queens Division, Who safely Operate and Maintain Buses for MTA New York City Transit.

Serving the communities of Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx since January 23rd, 1935.