

OBAMA | BIDEN

GOOD FOR TRANSIT

“... I want everybody here to know, as long as I’m in the White House I’m going to stand up for collective bargaining.”

— President Barack Obama, Labor Day, 2011, Detroit, MI

Employment surge reflected in record transit ridership

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported that the U.S. unemployment rate dropped below 8% (to 7.8%) for the first time since President Obama took office in 2009.

International President Larry Hanley responded to the news, asserting, “It’s no coincidence that U.S. employment is surging as transit ridership is soaring to some of the highest levels in history. This provides further evidence that greater federal support for mass transit is needed to keep this economic recovery rolling.”

Obama policies spur more transit jobs

Edward Wytkind, president of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department, lauded the Obama administration, saying, “Transportation workers are seeing their ranks grow steadily under job-creating

policies put forth by the president. The latest jobs report included a 17.1% increase in ‘transportation and warehousing jobs’ from August.

“For the transit and ground passenger transportation sector alone, 9,200 jobs were created just in the last month – a 9.2% increase over the previous month.

“This jobs report is another clear reminder of the choice in this election for transit workers. It is a choice between a president who has made modernizing and expanding our transportation system a centerpiece of his economic agenda, and his opponent whose plan for America would cut half a million transportation jobs in his first year in office through reckless budget-slashing.”

