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ATU Local 241 President Jefferson to Meet With U.S. Department of Transportation Chief Ray LaHood at U.S. Capitol Building

Meeting with Illinois Congressional Delegation set for Tuesday, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson to Attend

CHICAGO – March 16, 2010 – In an effort to seek restoration of February's Chicago Transit Authority service cuts and job losses, Darrell Jefferson, president of ATU Local 241 is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood Wednesday at the Capitol Building.

Jefferson, in Washington, D.C. for the Amalgamated Transit Union Legislative Conference, will point to HR 2746 (sponsored by Rep. Russ Carnahan), as part of the remedy for Chicago's transit woes. The bill proposes allowing local transit agencies to use anywhere from 30 percent to 50 percent of the transit funding they receive from the federal government to operate public transportation systems.

In reinforcing his commitment to finding a permanent funding solution for mass transit, Jefferson noted, "We need our union brothers and sisters to get their jobs back. They do vital work for mass transit in Chicago. It is imperative that a funding solution for mass transit is put in place to eliminate 'CTA doomsday scenarios' once and for all."

Jefferson also will meet with members of Illinois' congressional delegation Tuesday, where he will outline the facts of the local's most recent concessions and bailouts, including relieving CTA of $1.3 billion in retiree health-care and bond obligations two years ago. In addition, he will underscore how, CTA workers surrendered their 3 percent wage increase for 2007 and 2008, and also another 2.3 percent in scheduled pay increases this year that went directly to the pension fund to help bailout the CTA from its current financial crisis.

ATU Local 241 filed a series of lawsuits against the CTA in February, ranging from a class-action grievance aimed at CTA employee relations, a federal suit for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act, and a state lawsuit filed in Cook County to enforce 10 contract agreements.

ATU Local 241 is the voice of working people employed in the transportation industry. It is the largest local within the ATU in the United States with nearly 11,000 members.

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