

# RESTORE THE ROUTES & REFORM THE VTA!

We who rely on public transit are having our livelihoods disrupted by cuts in service instituted by VTA management and its board.

We are demanding our elected officials restore the routes and reform the agency once and for all.

VTA's record speaks for itself:

**Fact #1:** Between fiscal year 2015 and 2018 administrators' salaries were raised 30% while VTA drivers were denied any wage increases and their union would not be recognized.

**Fact #2:** VTA increased fares not once, but twice, in the 2019 calendar year alone.

**Fact #3:** In fiscal year 2019 alone, VTA spent, \$312,102.08 in taxpayer dollars – intended for public transportation service – on union busting activities.

- More than \$160,000 of that money went to a union busting consultant.
- Another \$154,000 of that money paid replacement workers, who were paid at a higher rate than strikers normally make, during a 28-day strike.
- This doesn't include legal expenses from prior years of their unsuccessful anti-union campaign nor does it include the total cost of all out of state replacement drivers.

**Fact #4:** When the union and management finally settled a contract in August 2019, VTA management told the *MV Times*, "this is an affordable and sustainable agreement for the VTA to maintain..."

**Fact #5:** Less than a month later, VTA announced a potential \$1 million deficit in their budget and proposed that most routes be eliminated.

**Fact #6:** Their reason? A budget shortfall. VTA.

- Claims the union contract created a **\$700,000** deficit, yet the additional cost of the agreement over three years is less than **\$400,000**.
- Claims rental property at the airport used by VTA increased by **\$100,000** in 2019, yet FOIA documents show that rent only increased by **\$26,000**.

**Fact #7:** Without community input or notification made to ridership, the VTA announced service cuts would be made after December 1st but began implementing some of them as early as September 29th.

**Fact #8:** Full time union operators are being sidelined while non-union management staff are being assigned to drive buses in their place.

VTA management and the board has demonstrated an inability to manage the agency's finances, which threatens sustainable year-round public transit service.

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Sign the petition today: <http://bit.ly/restorereformVTA>

