

Resolution # 3

The Battle to Protect Workers From Job-Displacing Technologies

WHEREAS, examples of new technologies that are impacting American jobs, in ground and air transportation are everywhere: cashless tolls over bridges and on roadways, Tap-and-Go fare collection in mass transit, autonomous vehicles, electric buses, driverless trains, drones for aviation inspections and the newest threat - Artificial Intelligence - are all threats to our future job security; and

WHEREAS, passenger and worker safety are severely impacted by these job-erasing technologies - where there is no true advantage to most of these “advances” other than to act as an incentive for the bosses to reduce the workforce at any cost; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous examples of the TWU leading the way to ensure that our jobs are safe from the corrosive effects of automation:

The International and Local 208 officers successfully negotiated first-in-the-nation contract language with the Central Ohio Transit Authority that restricts management from introducing autonomous vehicle technologies without the Union’s agreement.

Local 291 in Miami has also won contract language that preserves maintainers’ work, at premium pay, on the company’s electric bus fleet.

Local 100 is facing a similar situation with the MTA’s growing electric bus fleet, and is already preparing to negotiate new contractual language to protect maintainers’ jobs.

Local 100 saved hundreds of Station Agents’ jobs, threatened by automated fare collection, by negotiating a transition of the job from token booth duties to a customer service model, at extra pay.

Local 100 has also convinced the New York Legislature to send a bill to Governor Hochul to preserve Conductor positions on New York City subways

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the 27th Constitutional Convention of the Transport Workers Union urge our International

Union to engage in a multi-tiered fightback to preserve our work against the encroachment of new technology by:

- the timely and intelligent use of the collective bargaining process to score language that will cut off management's avenue to introduce new technologies without union input, approval, and worker training to deal with such changes.

- engaging in a media campaign to highlight the individual achievements of our members for their professionalism and heroism on the job, as well as shining a negative light on the dangers posed to the public by driverless and other automated technologies.

- political action in the legislative and regulatory processes to protect transportation industry jobs.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Convention urges the International Union to continue its efforts to include sponsoring training seminars to arm Local leaders with the knowledge and expertise to use the collective bargaining agreement as a necessary tool in the fight for our members' jobs.