



NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO

President
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New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO Resolution

“Protecting the Public Safety and Jobs in the Age of Autonomous Vehicles in the New York City Public Transit System”

Adopted: November 15, 2018

WHEREAS the New York City Central Labor Council recognizes the vital role our public transit bus system and its thousands of bus operators play in the lives of millions of New Yorkers every day as they travel to and from work, school, houses of worship and other important destinations; and

WHEREAS we are committed to ensuring that the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority continues to provide efficient, convenient, reliable and – above all – safe transportation to all; and

WHEREAS employment as a transit bus operator traditionally has paved a path to the middle class for hardworking blue-collar workers by providing family-supporting wages and decent benefits; and

WHEREAS we are not opposed to the introduction of technology that can be used to make public transit buses – already an extremely safe mode of transportation – even safer by equipping them with cameras, sensors and wireless technology to help prevent collisions, with the understanding that there are safety gaps that only a human operator can fill; and

WHEREAS we recognize that autonomous vehicle technology – despite false promises and despite the aggressive timeframes for introduction advocated by some – requires continued, long-term testing, evaluation; and

WHEREAS we understand that, even if autonomous vehicles advance to the point that they are believed to operate safely 100 percent of the time, they will never be able to provide the vital services human operators do, which include: reporting and preventing criminal activity; responding to life-threatening health emergencies; assisting in natural disasters and terrorist attacks; and taking control in cases of emergency system failure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Central Labor Council expresses our opposition to the introduction to autonomous buses into New York City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if autonomous buses are introduced in New York City that introduction will occur only if and when these vehicles are proven to operate in a manner that is safe for passengers, other vehicles and pedestrians; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will not accept any job losses among New York City transit bus operators related to the potential introduction of autonomous vehicles to the city’s transit system.

Submitted by: The Transport Workers Union