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## **Chicago Transit Authority Asks Manufacturers of \$2 Billion Rapid Transit Cars to Disclose American Jobs Plans for First Time**

***Disclosure could encourage manufacturing companies to create up to 20,000 good American jobs***

**CHICAGO, IL** – On Thursday, October 17, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) announced it will ask companies vying for a \$2 billion contract to manufacture 854 new rapid transit cars to provide specific information on how many jobs they plan to create in America and how they will generate opportunities for American workers, for the first time. The addendum to the Invitation for Bids could enhance the impact of the \$2 billion project by encouraging manufacturing companies to train and hire disadvantaged workers, including veterans and residents of low-income neighborhoods. American jobs commitments from Chicago rapid transit manufacturers could result in the creation of as many as 20,000 U.S. manufacturing and related jobs, according to economists from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

"We applaud Mayor Emanuel and the CTA for taking a lead role in bolstering Chicago's economy and creating jobs," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "We urge manufacturers to work in partnership with the CTA to create quality manufacturing jobs here in Chicago and around the U.S."

Due to CTA's addendum, manufacturing companies will be encouraged to develop comprehensive American jobs plans that include factors like the quality and quantity of jobs created for American workers in addition to factors of cost, and those plans will be incorporated into contracts once the bid is awarded by CTA. Manufacturing companies have until December 18, 2013 to submit information about their American jobs plans to CTA.

"The city of Chicago is demonstrating leadership to rebuild American manufacturing, and leveraging our buying power deliberately for community benefit," said Naomi Davis, Fellow at Green for All, and Founder of BIG: Blacks in Green. "Community activists and city officials must now work closely together to ensure that CTA's intentions result in real jobs and opportunities for Chicagoans. We're ready to roll up our sleeves and collaborate."

Chicago working families are in dire need of good jobs and economic opportunities. Illinois' manufacturing sector has declined by 20 percent over the last decade. The state's unemployment rate is 9.2 percent, the second highest in the country, and the unemployment rate for Illinois African American workers is nearly double, at 17 percent. In response, city officials, business leaders, labor unions and community groups are stepping forward with initiatives to support the city's manufacturing sector, like CTA's new American jobs addendum.

"With so many Americans struggling to find work, it is critical that public agencies use our taxpayer dollars to invigorate our economy," said Madeline Janis, National Policy Director of LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy). "If manufacturers step up, this could be a

big opportunity to create jobs for low-income communities and communities of color, while upgrading Chicago's transit networks with new, efficient, American-made rail cars."

Every year, transit agencies across the country spend around \$5.4 billion on bus and rail car purchases, totaling a \$50 billion investment over the past ten years. The new Jobs to Move America coalition is advocating for cities to maximize these taxpayer dollars spent on transit by rewarding bus and rail car manufacturing companies for creating American jobs, especially benefiting low-income communities. The Jobs to Move America coalition is comprised of community, labor, philanthropic, academic and environmental organizations, and small businesses.

In 2011, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority implemented Jobs to Move America plan and awarded a \$305 million contract to build 550 clean-fuel buses to Canada-based New Flyer Industries. The company will now build a new service and assembly center in the Los Angeles area and add 150 new jobs to their factory in Minnesota, creating 200 good U.S. jobs.

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#### **About Chicago Federation of Labor**

*The Chicago Federation of Labor represents more than 300 local unions with a combined membership of half a million members in Chicago and Cook County. It is the third largest central labor council of the AFL-CIO in the United States. <http://www.chicagolabor.org/>*

#### **About BIG: Blacks in Green**

*BIG™ is an award-winning sustainable development organization based in Chicago. BIG's vision is self-sustaining black communities everywhere, and the local living economy as greenhouse gas reduction strategy. Through its signature programs – Grannynomics™ and Green-Village-Building™ – they train community members to lead where they live in creating "walkable villages," BIG's emerging rating system for tracking increase in household income via neighbor-owned businesses, community-controlled development, and home economics intelligence. [www.blacksingreen.org](http://www.blacksingreen.org)*

#### **About Green For All**

*Green For All is a national organization dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans through a clean energy economy. The organization works in collaboration with the business, government, labor, and grassroots communities to create and implement programs that increase quality jobs and opportunities in green industry – all while holding the most vulnerable people at the center of its agenda. For more information, please visit [www.greenforall.org](http://www.greenforall.org)*