



# Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

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**Michael Sullivan**  
General Chairman  
Long Island General Committee #102

## Memorandum

**Date:** October 5, 2023

**To:** All BRS Members.

**From:** Michael Sullivan, General Chairman

**Re:** Wages and working conditions.

The following informational sheet captures recent general wage increase (GWI) percentages for numerous railroads and transit systems in the country. Upon review you will see that those GWIs trend higher than the recent TWU 100/MTA agreement which consisted of a 3%, 3% and 3.5% increase over three (3) years.

After suffering for more than two (2) years with record inflation, and with current inflation forecasted to be somewhere around 4.6%, one can see an agreement resembling the above would be a step in the wrong direction. The genuine wage growth we have attained over recent years has evaporated. Future GWIs below current inflation rates will only continue to lower that standard, taking us all into the negative for the first time in decades. Such lost ground will be difficult to recover from.

With this challenging road before us, the BRS, along with its partners in the Long Island Rail Road Bargaining Coalition (LIRRBC), remain steadfast and committed to securing an agreement that is fair and equitable while informing the membership every step of the way. Please take the time to review the material. Your union along with the LIRRBC will continue to provide pertinent information as it develops. Stay tuned, stay informed and stay strong!

**IN FORMING A REASONABLE EXPECTATION FOR WAGE INCREASES DURING THIS ROUND OF BARGAINING WITH LIRR IT IS USEFUL TO EXAMINE CURRENT WAGE DEVELOPMENTS FOR WORKERS ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S.  
THIS IS WHAT WE FOUND**

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- National Class I Freight Railroad Agreement – Covering 115,000 Railroad Employees – **4.4% per year** over 5 years.
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- AMTRAK and BMWED Agreement – Covering 1,450 Employees – **4.1% per year** for 7 years.
  - AMTRAK and BMWED Agreement – Covering 800 Foreman, Welders, Equipment Operators – **6.0% per year** for 7 years.
  - AMTRAK and BMWED Agreement – Covering 450 ET Department Employees – **6.9% per year** for 7 years.
  - AMTRAK and Shopcraft Agreement – Covering 4,500 Employees – **4.3% per year** for 7 years.
  - AMTRAK and TCU Agreement – Covering 3,200 Employees – **4.3% per year** for 7 years.
  - AMTRAK and ARASA-MW Agreement – Covering 220 Supervisors – **5.3% per year** for 7 years.
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- Urban Transit Workers serving the following major metropolitan areas (covering more than 40,000 employees):
    - Washington DC – **5.7% per year** for 4 years.
    - Baltimore – **4.9% per year** for 4 years; 6.2% for Train Operators.
    - Boston – **4.7% per year** for 4 years.
    - San Francisco – **5.0% per year** for 2 years.
    - Los Angeles – **4.8% per year** for 5 years.
    - Houston – **7.6% per year** for 2.3 years.
    - Dallas – **9.3%** for 1 year.
    - Denver – **8.0% per year** for 3 years.
    - Portland – **5.7% per year** for 2 years.
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- Bloomberg Survey of 177 Collective Bargaining Settlements in 2023 – **7.0%** average 1st year wage increase.
  - BLS Employment Cost Index – 12 months ending June 2023 – increase in wages – **4.6%**
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