

Updates for city delivery initiatives



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The last six months have certainly been challenging for letter carriers. The COVID-19 pandemic and occurrences of civil unrest have created increased safety risks for all postal employees. As always, letter carriers have risen to the challenge and continue to provide extraordinary service to the public. While it may not be business as usual for letter carriers, the show must go on and city delivery is ever-changing. I want to use this month's article to give you some updates on new and existing city delivery initiatives.

Consolidated casing

On June 3, NALC and the Postal Service settled a national-level grievance regarding the Postal Service's unilateral testing of consolidated casing. This settlement (M-01923) requires the Postal Service to select 31 of the 62 test sites and return them to their original route structure no later than July 31. USPS provided NALC with the list of test sites which will be returning to their original route structure by the end of July. This list is available in the "Consolidated Casing Grievance Settled" article on page 4 in this edition of *The Postal Record*. Additionally, beginning July 20, the City Delivery Task Force will begin analyzing data from the test sites to determine its application to future testing. The remaining 31 sites will continue through Nov. 27 and, absent joint agreement by the parties to either continue the test or to jointly conduct alternative testing in these sites, the remaining sites will be returned to their original route structure by Jan. 22, 2021. The settlement also provides that there will be no further expansion of the test process and that all routes in the test sites will be evaluated and adjusted, if necessary, beginning in January 2021.

As of June 3, any pending or future grievances related to consolidated casing not resolved at Formal Step A are to be sent directly to the appropriate NALC national business agent (NBA) and USPS area manager of labor relations (AMLR) to determine whether such grievances will be closed as a result of this settlement or processed through the grievance procedure.

For a more detailed explanation of M-01923, visit nalc.org/news/nalc-updates/consolidated-casing-grievance-settled.

Expansion of service

On June 2, USPS announced that a major athletic footwear retailer has elected to resume its ship-from-store

program with USPS. The retailer began shipping outgoing parcels from 1,171 stores nationwide on May 27 using Priority and First-Class Mail services. City carriers will receive a carrier pickup notice and will collect these parcels from retail locations during their regular scheduled delivery times.

Other retail partnerships continue to grow as well. In January, one major retailer introduced same-day parcel pickup and delivery in Florida, resulting in more than 1 million additional parcels delivered so far this year. A current partnership with a retail pharmacy chain has provided nearly 7 million additional parcels for delivery through the end of May.

Amazon parcel delivery continues to be a significant source of revenue for USPS. Through the end of May, more than 74 million Amazon Sunday and holiday parcels had been delivered this year. Overall, the Postal Service has delivered almost 583 million Amazon parcels this calendar year. Also beginning in January, the Postal Service partnered with another courier service for Sunday delivery of parcels. This collaboration has resulted in 11 million additional parcels being delivered on Sundays through the end of May.

Delivery vehicles

In August of 2018, USPS purchased 20 right-hand drive commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) vehicles—10 each of the Mercedes Metris and the Ford Transit Connect vehicles for city delivery testing. Upon conclusion of the testing, USPS determined that the Mercedes Metris would be a suitable addition to the fleet. In May, USPS announced the addition of the Mercedes Metris right-hand drive vehicles into the delivery fleet. USPS will deploy approximately 17,310 vehicles over the next three years. Deployment began in May and will continue through September 2022. Of the 4,092 Metris vehicles scheduled for deployment in 2020, USPS anticipates that approximately 3,392 will be assigned to city delivery routes. In 2021, USPS anticipates that about 3,700 Metris vehicles will be assigned for city delivery. An additional 8,813 vehicles are scheduled for deployment in 2022, but the number designated for city delivery has not yet been determined.

Additionally, USPS will purchase and deploy 7,160 new Promaster vehicles intended to replace the 2008 Chevrolet Uplander and 2009 Dodge Caravan vehicles.

Recent global events may have changed how we deliver the mail, but amidst the uncertainty, the Postal Service and letter carriers persevere. I am proud of city letter carriers and applaud your continued commitment to serve your communities, despite the challenges.