



NEWS

Labor Negotiations Update #5
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA STRIKE CONTINGENCY PLAN WILL DEPLOY MORE THAN 300 BUSES ON FIRST DAY OF WALKOUT

The MTA has reached agreements with two private bus operators which will allow the deployment of more than 300 buses on 30 MTA bus lines if union leaders representing MTA bus and train operators, mechanics and clerks call a strike.

The leadership of the three major unions has set a strike deadline of 12:01 a.m. July 18.

The two private carriers, Laidlaw Transit Services and Mayflower Contract Services, will provide school buses and drivers on 23 lines, in addition to 125 MTA buses on seven lines to be run by MTA supervisory personnel. MTA personnel also will operate the Long Beach to Los Angeles Blue Line and the Red Line Subway in downtown Los Angeles.

The MTA also is in the process of seeking outside firms to assist with the maintenance of MTA equipment.

"We do not want a strike, but the ball is in the unions' court," said Larry Zarian, Glendale City Councilman and MTA Vice Chairman. "Should our unions walk out, we plan to operate as many buses and trains as we can. We want to minimize the hardship to our patrons. We ask for their patience and understanding if there is a labor stoppage."

The three transit unions -- the United Transportation Union, the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transportation Communications Union -- have set the strike deadline.

Negotiations continue, with the MTA seeking a wage freeze and changes in work rules. Currently, full time bus and train operators make an average of \$50,000 annually, plus \$18,000 in benefits.

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Should a strike begin on the 18th, the MTA plans to operate the strike contingency fleet from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. If the strike continues, MTA will deploy additional buses on more lines and will consider other options such as the use of airport shuttles and taxis for service on lower density lines, as feeders to other services or for operations after 6 p.m.

The cost of the contract service is estimated to be approximately \$160,000 per day. The fare on MTA buses and the Metro Blue Line will be 50 cents per boarding, with no transfers. Elderly and disabled fares will be 25 cents. The fare on the Metro Red Line remains unchanged at 25 cents. No fee will be charged to board the private carrier school buses during at least the first week of a walk-out, to allow installation of fare boxes. Once that is accomplished, the private carriers will charge the same fares as the other MTA strike services.

"Driver qualifications and maintenance standards for MTA buses and trains during a strike will not be compromised," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer. "Train and bus supervisors will drive the initial deployment of 125 buses. Maintenance will be performed by supervisory personnel."

Buses provided by Laidlaw and Mayflower will be operated and maintained by employees of the two companies.

For further information regarding LADOT and DASH buses and the local municipal lines, call (800) COMMUTE. This number will be operational 24 hours per day.

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Lines to be operated include:

<u>CARRIER</u>	<u>LINE NO</u>	<u>LINE NAME</u>
MTA	21	Wilshire Blvd.
	30-31	E. First St. - W. Pico Blvd.
	45	Broadway
	180	Hollywood - Glendale Pas.
	204	Vermont Ave.
	251	Soto St.
	560	Van Nuys Blvd. - Westwood
LAIDLAW	1-217	Hollywood Blvd. - Fairfax Ave.
	18	E. Whittier Blvd. - W. Sixth St.
	33	Venice Blvd.
	76	Valley Blvd.
	81	Figuroa Ave.
	92	Glenoaks Blvd. - Brand Blvd.
	115	Manchester Blvd. - Firestone Ave.
	152	Roscoe Blvd.
	163	Sherman Way
	210	Crenshaw Blvd.
	240	Reseda Blvd.
	420	SFV - Hollywood - LA
	424	Ventura Blvd.
	442	Hawthorne - Manchester Exp.
	470	Whittier - Montebello - LA
MAYFLOWER	16	West Third St.
	105	Vernon Ave.
	108	Slauson Ave.
	117	Century Blvd.
	125	Rosecrans Ave.
	207	Western Ave.
	212	La Brea Ave.
	260	Atlantic Ave.

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During the period of limited MTA bus service, transit riders may also use alternative services provided by other regional transit systems, including:

LOS ANGELES:

Metrolink (commuter railway network)
Metro Blue Line and Metro Red Line light rail
LADOT Commuter Express
LADOT DASH

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY:

Foothill Transit
Azusa Transit
Duarte Transit
El Monte Trolley
Rosemead Shuttle
Pomona Valley Transportation Authority
West Covina Shuttle
Monrovia Dial-A-Ride

WESTSIDE:

Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines
Culver City Bus
Beverly Hills Shuttle
West Hollywood City Lines

EASTSIDE:

Montebello Bus Lines
Commerce Municipal Bus Lines
Monterey Park Spirit

SOUTH BAY:

Torrance Transit
Carson Circuit
Gardena Municipal Bus Lines
Inglewood "I" Line
The Wave
Palos Verdes Transit

SOUTHEAST:

Long Beach Transit
Whittier Transit
Norwalk Transit
Cerritos on Wheels
Bellflower Transit
Cudahy Area Rapid Transit
Lynwood Trolley
La Mirada Transit
Santa Fe Springs "Free Tram"
Bell Dial-A-Ride
Bell Gardens Dial-A-Ride
Paramount Neighborhood Shuttle
South Gate Dial-A-Ride
Maywood Dial-A-Ride

GLENDALE: Glendale Beeline

NORTH L.A. COUNTY: Antelope Valley Transit Authority
Santa Clarita Transit
Metrolink commuter railway (to/from Los Angeles)

SAN BERNARDINO: Omnitrans
Inland Empire Connection
Metrolink commuter railway (to/from Los Angeles)

ORANGE COUNTY: Orange County Transportation Authority
Metrolink commuter railway (to/from Los Angeles)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY: Riverside Transit Agency
Metrolink commuter railway (to/from Los Angeles)

VENTURA COUNTY: Simi Valley Transit
Metrolink commuter railway (to/from Los Angeles)

For complete schedule information and transfer connections, MTA customers can call 1-800-COMMUTE (or 1-800-266-6883).