



# NEWS

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**MTA BUS AND TRAIN STRIKE AVERTED;  
MTA OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH UNION LEADERS**

The MTA Board of Directors Saturday, July 16, authorized MTA Chairman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, Vice Chair Larry Zarian, and Board member and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan together with the Authority's negotiator to meet with the leadership of the agency's three principal unions next week to hear their concerns about the issues on the bargaining table.

As a result of the Board commitment to meet next week, the leadership of the MTA's three unions told the MTA's negotiating team that they will not strike Monday, July 18, at 12:01 a.m.

"Mayor Riordan, Larry Zarian and I look forward to meeting with the leadership of the three unions so that we can get their views of the issues that are standing in the way of us reaching an agreement," said Edelman. "We are pleased that the unions have agreed not to strike this coming Monday."

"I think it shows good faith on the part of both the MTA and the unions...especially since the unions have extended their strike deadline for one week," said Mayor Riordan. "I am optimistic, although I cannot be certain we will get the right results."

Contracts expired June 30 with the United Transportation Union (UTU), representing 4,400 bus and train operators, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), representing nearly 2,000 mechanics and maintenance workers, and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU), representing nearly 600 clerks.

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MTA Bus and Train Strike Averted

The main issues at the table include wages and cost of living adjustments (COLA), benefits, work rules, and outside contracting. The MTA seeks to freeze salaries at FY 94 levels, eliminate COLA increases, bring the health plan contribution for union employees more in line with that of non-represented employees, and pay overtime only after 40 hours have been worked.

"The meetings involving our Board members and the union leaders will not be negotiating sessions," said Franklin E. White, MTA's Chief Executive Officer. "This will, however, give the union leaders an opportunity to express their concerns directly to our Board officers. Then, we will seek contract solutions at the bargaining table."

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