



NEWS

JULY 25, 1994

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA STRIKE CONTINGENCY PLAN BEGINS; APPROXIMATELY 300 BUSES, RED AND BLUE LINE TRAINS SCHEDULED FOR SERVICE ON 32 MTA LINES

Approximately 300 buses and Blue and Red Line trains to be driven by substitute operators are scheduled to roll into service Monday, July 25, on 32 heavily-used MTA lines as part of MTA's contingency plan to provide as much bus and train service as possible in response to the work stoppage by the Authority's three principal unions.

"The most important thing we are asking of our riders during this work stoppage is patience," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer. "We have put together the best service package available to us to carry as many people as possible during the strike.

"We remind everyone that service on the 30 bus lines will be 50 percent of normal, and that service will be provided on weekdays only from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. We encourage those who can to rideshare, carpool or consider shifting their work hours to alleviate the traffic congestion that will occur as a result of this work stoppage."

Blue Line and Red Line train frequency will be virtually unaffected, but will also run only on weekdays between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., White said. The Blue Line will operate only between the 7th Street/Metro Center station in downtown Los Angeles and the Willow Station in Long Beach.

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Three-year contract agreements ended June 30 with the United Transportation Union (UTU), which represents MTA's nearly 4,400 bus operators, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), which represents more than 1,900 mechanics and service attendants, and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU), which represents more than 600 clerks.

At approximately 3:15 p.m. Sunday, July 24, the MTA reached agreement with the UTU. However, talks broke down with the ATU later in the day. At midnight, the MTA was close to an agreement with the TCU.

The unions earlier had announced that if an agreement could not be reached by 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 25, a work stoppage would result. The UTU is expected to honor picket lines of either of the other two unions.

MTA has been training hundreds of non-represented employees since last May to operate and maintain trains and buses in the eventuality of a strike. Substitute operators are receiving training required by state law, and are fully licensed to operate MTA buses and trains.

The agency also has reached agreements with two private bus companies -- Laidlaw Transit Services and Mayflower Contract Services -- to provide about 175 school buses and drivers for 23 MTA bus lines. About 125 MTA buses will also be in service.

The 32 lines to be served are as follows:

Lines 1-217 (Hollywood Blvd.-Fairfax Ave.)
Line 16 (West 3rd Street)
Line 18 (E. Whittier Blvd.-West 6th Street)
Line 21 (Wilshire Blvd.-UCLA Branch)
Line 30 (Pico Boulevard)
Line 33 (Venice Blvd.)
Line 45 (Broadway-Mercury Ave.)

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Line 76 (Valley Blvd.)

Line 81 (Figueroa Street)

Line 92 (Glenoaks Blvd.-Brand Blvd.)

Line 105 (Vernon Avenue)

Line 108 (Slauson Avenue)

Line 115 (Manchester Blvd.-Firestone Ave.)

Line 117 (Century Boulevard)

Line 125 (Rosecrans Avenue)

Line 152 (Roscoe Boulevard)

Line 163 (Sherman Way)

Line 180 (Hollywood-Glendale-Pasadena via Colorado Blvd.)

Line 204 (Vermont Avenue)

Line 207 (Western Avenue)

Line 210 (Crenshaw Boulevard)

Line 212 (La Brea-San Fernando Valley)

Line 240 (Reseda Boulevard)

Line 251 (Soto Street)

Line 260 (Wardlow Station-Pasadena-Altadena via Atlantic Blvd.)

Line 420 (L.A.-Van Nuys-Panorama City Express)

Line 424 (L.A.-Ventura Blvd.-Warner Center Express)

Line 442 (Hawthorne-Manchester Express)

Line 470 (Whittier-Montebello-L.A.)

Line 560 (LAX-San Diego Fwy-Van Nuys Blvd. Express)

Metro Blue Line

Metro Red Line

MTA officials also noted that Metrolink commuter train service also will operate.

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