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Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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MTA STATEMENT RE: CURRENT STATUS OF LABOR
NEGOTIATIONS, JULY 7, 1997

The MTA negotiated throughout the weekend with the United Transportation Union (UTU), representing MTA bus and rail operators, in an effort to reach an agreement before current labor contracts expire tonight at midnight. MTA is still hoping to avert a work stoppage, but regrets that it did not see the progress it would have liked.

Negotiations resumed today and MTA officials are continuing to work to reach a settlement.

However, MTA is preparing for a strike. It believes it has an obligation to its riders to advise them to be prepared as well, and begin making alternative plans.

The MTA has a contingency plan ready which will provide limited bus and rail service seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bus service will be offered on 41 of the busiest routes, and Metro Red, Blue and Green Line will offer reduced service as well.

During a work stoppage, fares will be reduced to 50¢ for regular and student riders, and 25¢ for the elderly and disabled. No transfers will be sold or issued. Sale of monthly passes will be suspended, however, tokens will continue to be sold. Passes purchased during month of issue will be honored throughout that month. Metrolink and municipal passes will also be honored. Metrolink service will operate normally.

Contingency plan information is subject to change.

The MTA believes it is proposing a fair and equitable settlement which includes no layoffs of contract employees, and no reduction in wage rates and health benefits for current contract employees.

For updates and additional information, the public should consult the media, call 1-800-COMMUTE or check the MTA web page at <http://www.mta.net>.

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