



# NEWS

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## **MILLIONS OF MTA DISCOUNT TOKENS TO BE AVAILABLE AT 460 OUTLETS THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

MTA is in the process of distributing approximately 25 million of its dual-colored discount tokens to an ever-increasing number of sales outlets throughout Los Angeles County in order to give as many of its bus and train riders as possible convenient access to MTA's best transit bargain.

"Our token will soon represent the best buy in town for MTA transportation services," said Edmund Edelman, MTA Chairman and a Los Angeles County Supervisor. "Because of the anticipated increased demand, our goal is to have 460 locations that have 10-token bags on sale for \$9 by the time our new fares begin."

MTA bus and Blue Line riders who use the system each weekday for one round trip on local routes will be able to save \$4.50 a week -- or one-third off the \$1.35 cash fare -- by using tokens.

"Tokens have been around Los Angeles in various forms for many years to make public transit more convenient," Edelman noted. "For most MTA riders, they will soon represent the best transit deal MTA offers."

Last month, MTA's Board of Directors voted to raise the basic cash fare to \$1.35 and eliminate monthly passes for all but the elderly/disabled, K-12 and vocational students.

To make a discount available, the Board opted to keep the 90-cent token which has been in use for about 1 ½ years, with transfers remaining at 25 cents. Tokens are sold in bags of 10 at a cost of \$9 -- a discount of one-third off the

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MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White said the number of outlets selling tokens will continue to increase as public demand for the tokens rises. "Our long-term goal is to have up to 660 outlets available from which our riders may buy tokens," White said. "I strongly urge our regular riders to make a habit of using them.

"Former regular monthly pass users and cash payers alike will find our tokens very convenient. One coin pays for the base fare without having to worry about finding correct change. Each additional token is good for its purchase price of 90 cents."

White noted that Blue Line ticket-buyers should allow for a couple of extra minutes to purchase their tickets from the machines before boarding the trains.

Information cards detailing how to use tokens for zone fare payment are available from any MTA bus or train operator upon request. The MTA will issue a series of information brochures explaining the use of tokens. They will be available on MTA buses and trains in coming weeks.

MTA's new fare structure is scheduled to be implemented starting Sept. 1. For information about the nearest token sales outlet, call (213) 972-6235.

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