

REPORT

A weekly report
from the office
of the CEO

July 18, 1994



I have two major developments to report this week — the unions' leadership did not call for a strike and the Board, with some minor changes, passed our proposed fare increase and reductions in service.

On Saturday, July 16, the MTA Board authorized Chairman Ed Edelman, Vice Chair Larry Zarian, and Board member and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan to meet with the leadership of the UTU, ATU, and TCU this week to hear their concerns about the issues on the bargaining table.

As a result of the Board's commitment, the leadership of the MTA's three principal unions told the agency's negotiating team that they would postpone a strike. They set a new deadline of Monday, July 25.

The meetings will not be negotiating sessions, but will give the union leaders a chance to express their concerns directly to members Edelman, Zarian, and Riordan.

Where to Report to Work

I understand there are a lot of calls coming in on our internal strike hotline — 244-1799 — asking questions about a possible strike. Employees want to know where to report to work, in the event of a work stoppage. I hope the following message helps:

- If you have not been given a contingency assignment, report to your regular work location. If you have been assigned to work at another locale, report directly to that new job if you hear a strike has been called.
- Those union employees who choose not to strike and wish, instead, to report to work, should go to their regular work location. If you would prefer to work at another location during the strike, contact your manager for assignment to another division.

- All parking locations will be maintained during the work stoppage.
- Should a strike be called, interim personnel policies which I detailed in this report last week will be in effect.
- Locations with more than one entrance will have one or more entrances identified just for employees.

I want to emphasize that every MTA facility will have security to ensure order and protection of agency personnel and property. Do not hesitate to ask for help from security guards and Transit Police in entering and leaving any picketed workplace.

If you have questions or need to report a problem with getting to your workplace, security or anything else, please call the Control Center at (800) 253-9292 or (212) 972-6111.

Board Passes Fare Increase

In other matters, you are aware, I'm sure, that the Board passed our proposed fare increase, which emphasizes the use of cash and tokens, the establishment of a 50-cent zone surcharge on the bus and rail system, and the elimination of the regular monthly pass. Keeping the tokens at 90-cents will cause an \$8.8 million revenue loss, which we'll have to make up somewhere else.

Here is the new fare structure, which goes into effect on September 1:

- Cash fare is \$1.35, tokens 90-cents, transfers 25-cents,

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distance-based zone surcharge of 50-cents.

- Senior and disabled monthly passes are \$12.
- College/vocational student passes are \$30 and are good seven days a week.
- The student (K-12) pass is \$20, valid at all times.
- Both the senior/disabled and student passes are valid for travel on express routes without payment of the zone surcharges.

Blue Line Divided into Three Zones

The cash fare for trips exclusively on the Red Line is 25-cents, until MOS-2 opens. The Blue Line will be divided into three fixed zones of about seven miles in length, with the Red Line included in the most northern Blue Line zone. The boundaries are between the Del Amo and Artesia stations, and between the Firestone and Florence stations. Once the Green Line is completed, zone boundaries will be established between the Crenshaw and Vermont stations and between the Long Beach and Lakewood stations. Travels beyond the zone cost an additional 50-cents per zone.

Spread the Word about Tokens

Each of you is key to making the new fare increase work as we move away from monthly passes and toward the use of tokens. The public needs to know that, with tokens, there are ways to save considerable cash. For example, if a passenger makes one round trip to and from work, a token would save him/her 90-cents a day, \$4.50 a week, or more than \$18 a month.

Board Passes Service Cuts

The Board also approved some bus service cuts, including the reduction of three peak hour express lines, and the elimination of two local service lines.

Express lines to be reduced on a four-month evaluation period are Line 443 (Los Angeles Union Station-North Torrance-Redondo Beach-Palos Verdes), Line 445 (Los Angeles Union Station-West Torrance-Rolling Hills-Rancho Palos Verdes) and Line 457 (Los Angeles-Long Beach Park 'n' Ride Express)

Local service lines to be canceled are Line 208 (Beachwood Shuttle) and the Line 152 Metrolink shuttle.

Portions of Lines 94, 104, 225, and 320, as well as special lines such as Dodger Stadium and racetrack service, will be canceled.

Meantime, the Board has scheduled a special meeting for

today, July 20, to consider adoption of the whole budget.

Search for Federal Dollars

After receiving the House's version of the FY 95 Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, the Senate Committee on Appropriations has recommended its version, which includes the following funding allocations:

- Metro Rail - \$165 million
- Gateway Transit Center, which didn't receive any funding in the House, - \$9.61 million.
- The Advanced Technology Transit Bus (ATTB) continues to receive both Senate and House support for the Federal Transportation Administration's budget request of \$6.5 million.

Operating assistance was reduced nationwide by nine percent by the senate committee. Clearly, it is fast becoming reality that there will, indeed, be a reduction in operating assistance in fiscal year '95. The administration had asked for a 25% reduction of operating assistance due to severe budget reduction restraints.

The full Senate is scheduled to vote on the committee's recommendations this week. Afterwards, a committee made up of members from both houses will propose a final bill. MTA's Arthur Sohikian will be in Washington later this month to try to retain/increase our funding levels.

Social Security Update

Our legal team has met with representatives of the IRS, and is seeking a second meeting with agency policy-makers. Eight members of Congress - our Southern California congressional delegation - have sent a letter to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service urging a favorable response to our ruling request.

- Franklin White

I welcome your comments and questions in response to CEO Report, which is designed to provide employees with direct communication with my office. Please contact either of my Special Assistants, Michael Gonzalez at 244-7476, or Phyllis Tucker at 244-6191. Also, employees can fax comments to 244-6014.

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