

## NO BREAKTHROUGH IN NEGOTIATIONS MTA Still Talking with UTU, TCU

**UPDATE** (Sept. 6) Contract talks were scheduled to continue, Wednesday, between the MTA and negotiators for the UTU and TCU. No further sessions have been scheduled with the ATU. For periodic updates on labor negotiations, call the MTA Strike Emergency HotLine at 213-680-1531.

(Sept. 5) Negotiators for the MTA and its three major unions worked through the Labor Day weekend without achieving a breakthrough. Bargaining talks are continuing.

Two unions - UTU and TCU - have agreed to extend the "cooling off" period through Saturday, Sept. 9. Should talks break down, union leaders pledged to give the public five business days' warning before striking. Meanwhile, Metro Bus and Metro Rail service continues as scheduled.

The ATU, which remained in bargaining talks with the MTA until 3 a.m., Tuesday, has not agreed to that plan. It is believed that a work stoppage by one union would involve all three.

The MTA Board convened at 10:30 a.m., today, for a briefing on progress at the bargaining table.

### **Strike would cripple region**

Prior to the meeting, Board Chair and County Supervisor Yvonne Burke and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky issued a statement warning that a transit strike "would cripple our region" and would cost the Los Angeles area "more than \$2 million a day in lost productivity."

The statement said that, while the MTA must take certain measures to trim operating costs, the agency has assured union employees it "is prepared to provide reasonable wage increases" and does not intend to cut benefits or lay off union workers.

"Our goal must be to find a balance that treats our employees fairly while building a financially stable world-class regional transit system," the statement said.

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