

## **BARGAINING TEAMS COMMUNICATING**

### **Work Expected to Continue Through Monday**

**UPDATE** (Sept. 8) With the "cooling off" period extension due to expire on Saturday, negotiators for the MTA were in communication, Friday, with bargaining teams for the UTU, ATU and TCU. None have indicated they intend to call a strike this weekend.

The MTA will operate weekend service hours on Saturday and Sunday and expects to operate normally on Monday. Employees also should expect to report to their usual work locations on Monday. The MTA Strike Emergency Hotline (213-680-1531) will be updated as appropriate.

Once the cooling off period expires, the UTU and TCU have pledged to give the public five days' warning in advance of a work stoppage. The ATU has not agreed to this plan.

#### **Strike 'would cripple region'**

Earlier this week, 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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