

## STRIKE AVERTED FOR 24 HOURS

- **Bargaining Talks Continue**

(Sept. 15) Negotiators for the MTA and the UTU, which represents bus operators, reached agreement just past midnight, Thursday, to extend bargaining talks for another 24 hours. Bargaining resumed at 11:20 a.m., Friday. The next strike deadline is set for midnight.

Employees with strike duty should be prepared to assume their assignments again tonight. Some assignments begin as early as 11 p.m.

Contract negotiations continued between the MTA and UTU today. Miguel Contreras, executive secretary treasurer of the LA County Federation of Labor, helped broker last night's bargaining talks extension agreement.

Negotiators for the ATU, representing operations maintenance workers, and the TCU, representing clerical employees, aren't due to meet with the MTA until Tuesday, Sept. 19.

In the event of a strike, Metrolink officials said the rail service would honor MTA monthly, semimonthly and weekly passes, as well as passes for seniors, disabled riders and students. LADOT's DASH, Community Connections, Commuter Express, and Smart Shuttles; Foothill Transit; Long Beach Transit; Norwalk Transit; Torrance Transit, and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus also offered to honor MTA passes.

Metrolink plans to add four midday trains to the Antelope Valley Line to Sylmar/San Fernando and four midday trains on the Ventura County Line to Chatsworth. Metrolink also would provide service on "Red Line Special" buses from Union Station to downtown stops.

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