

SEPTEMBER PASSES FOR NON-CONTRACT EMPLOYEES:

MTA Revenue Director Agapito Diaz has announced that September monthly passes will be issued to non-contract employees. These passes will be honored by Metrolink, all LADOT bus lines, Foothill Transit, Long Beach Transit, Norwalk Transit, Torrance Transit and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus. The passes are being issued only for employees, not for dependents. Passes also will be made available to employees working strike duty at outlying locations. To obtain a September pass, contact Wendy Davis at 922-4624 by 3 p.m., each day.



UTU pickets march Saturday outside of Division 18.

PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD



Division 18 Transportation Manager A.J. Taylor shows Kwesi Annan of Equipment Engineering what needs to be done to keep bus batteries charged during the strike.



Division 18 Transportation Manager A.J. Taylor talks with, from left, Kwesi Annan of Equipment Engineering, Jean Belvin of Purchasing and Anthony Chua of ITS, who were on strike duty Saturday.

MTA RETURNS TO BARGAINING TABLE

- **UTU Negotiators are No-Shows**

(Sept. 18) MTA negotiators returned to the bargaining table at 10 a.m., today, in hopes of rekindling negotiations with the UTU, ATU and TCU. By noon, union leaders had not responded, although a state mediator urged them to do so through phone calls to union headquarters. Meantime, picketing continued outside MTA Headquarters and operating divisions.

County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, joined by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and four other Board members, held a news conference Sunday morning at which they called on union leaders to resume negotiations and order their members back to work. The MTA Board scheduled a closed-door meeting at 12:30 p.m., today, the Hall of Administration to discuss the labor situation.

**Link to
MTA Statements**

- [MTA Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke: 9/17](#)
- [MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke: 9/16](#)
- [MTA Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky: 9/17](#)

In two statements issued Sunday, Burke said, "The bus drivers union is doing a terrible disservice to MTA customers, employees and all Los Angeles residents and taxpayers." She said the union should end the strike, return to negotiations "with a new commitment to find solutions and savings," and stop picketing MTA contractors trying to operate "lifeline" services.

In a separate statement, Supervisor and Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky emphasized that the strike "is not simply about overtime" and noted that the MTA "has made more than a dozen proposals on how to reduce our

operating costs...." He added that ..."our negotiators are fully empowered to reach an agreement."

Pickers blocked entrances

With union members blocking entrances at MTA Headquarters and operating divisions, non-contract employees usually had to wait several minutes for the picketers to part so vehicles could enter. Security guards were stationed at entrances and the MTA is coordinating with the LAPD to avoid lengthy backups on city streets around the Gateway Building.

MTA officials appealed for patience and understanding on the part of all employees to avoid any problems at the entrances to agency buildings and facilities.

The strike, which began at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, also has disrupted service on all but two regular Metro Bus lines. Contract Line 96, from Sherman Oaks and Burbank to downtown Los Angeles, was in operation today, along with contract Line 167, from Northridge to Studio City.

Another MTA contractor was running bus service between Union Station and Metro Red Line stops as far west as Westlake/MacArthur Park.

None of the five "lifeline" bus routes the MTA had hoped to operate to serve passengers during the strike were in operation. Union picket lines at the contractor's yard prevented Teamsters union members from driving.

First Transit, a contractor that operates 10 Metro Bus lines in the mostly eastern and southern areas of the county, said it would go to court today to seek an injunction to prevent picketing at its facility. Union drivers for the company have refused to cross the UTU picket lines.

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