

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to news reports, the ATU scheduled a news conference for 4 p.m., Monday, to make an important announcement.

Negotiators Back at Work after Governor Signs SB-1101

(Oct. 2) Counterproposal to counterproposal, negotiators for the MTA and UTU got down to business Monday afternoon following two face-to-face sessions, Sunday. Mayor Richard Riordan - who met with both sides over the weekend - was back at the Pasadena Hilton, today, to see the continuation of bargaining talks.

The new round of talks raised hopes among local media - who were camped out by the dozens in the Hilton lobby - that a settlement of the 17-day work stoppage was just around the corner. However, neither MTA nor UTU officials expect bus or rail service to resume within the next several days.

[READ](#) Gov. Davis' letter on SB-1101.

[READ](#) CEO Burke's statement on governor's action.

The way was reopened for negotiations on Saturday when Governor Gray Davis announced that he had signed SB-1101, a bill that provides protections to MTA employees whose jobs would be affected by creation of a transit zone.

Removed major obstacle

In a letter to members of the California Senate, Davis wrote that he was signing the bill "In the interest of removing one of the major outstanding obstacles to an agreement...I expect both sides to return to the bargaining table immediately to resolve their remaining issues."

Shortly after receiving the news that the bill had been signed, CEO Julian Burke issued a statement noting that the MTA Board in June had "adopted principles specifically designed to protect employees impacted by the transfer of MTA service to any new zone."

"With this legislative matter behind them," Burke urged UTU, ATU and TCU leaders to negotiate with the MTA and to "allow our employees to return to work immediately and end this strike by the UTU...."

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