

New MTA-UTU Contract Covers Wages, Working Hours, Part-Timers

(Oct. 27) The MTA's new labor agreement with the UTU gives "top rate" Metro Bus operators, who had been earning \$20.72 an hour, a 44-cent raise retroactive to July 1, 2000. The contract provides operators a total \$1.32 wage hike over three years, raising their hourly wage to \$22.04 on July 1, 2002. [Read complete summary of MTA/UTU Contract](#)

Other UTU-represented employees gained pro-rata wage increases of 2.1 percent retroactive to July 1, with a 2.05 percent increase on July 1, 2001, and a 2 percent increase on July 1, 2002. The union also accepted a 5-cent quarterly wage hike, beginning July 1, 2001, in lieu of a COLA (cost of living adjustment).

The wage rate for BDOF operators - the system under which new operators are first hired - was set at \$10.30 per hour, effective July 1, 2000, but will rise to \$10.93 per hour on July 1, 2002. The contract permits to hire up to 155 BDOF operators, but all current BDOF operators will be promoted immediately to part-time status.

The MTA can employ a total of 980 part-time operators, who will be permitted to work a maximum 36 hours per week, with a systemwide average of 34 hours per week.

Four-day, 10-hour week

The new contract permits the MTA to schedule four-day, 10-hour work weeks for up to 100 operators, systemwide, beginning with the December shake-up. The schedule will give these operators three consecutive days off - either Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The contract calls for the MTA to pay one percent of the employee contribution to the UTU pension plan. The operators' benefits will be increased by one percent a year for each full year an operator works past 23 years.

Among other contract provisions, the MTA and UTU will jointly implement a workers' compensation campaign which will include training, an ombudsman program and a physician network.

The MTA will increase the bus operators' annual \$200 uniform allowance by \$25 each year to a total of \$250. The MTA also will be permitted to appoint one trustee to the board of directors of the UTU-MTA Health and Welfare Trust Fund.

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