

MTA, Union Negotiators Back at Bargaining Table

See: [MTA, Partners Provide 'Lifeline' Transit Service](#) in Los Angeles County

(Oct. 17, 2003) Although MTA mechanics continued their strike into a fourth day, negotiators for the UTU, representing 4,500 bus and train operators, were at the bargaining table with MTA labor negotiators.

Both sides are hopeful an agreement can be reached within 36 hours. Negotiations are expected to continue through the weekend.

Meanwhile, MTA and negotiators for ATU, representing 2,000 mechanics and maintenance employees, are exchanging proposals through a state mediator.

At a Friday morning news conference, Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky assured the media that MTA negotiators have the Board's full authority to reach an agreement with the unions.

Lifeline bus service

Starting Monday, Oct. 20, MTA will add the following lifeline service:

- Warner Center to Union Station via 101 Freeway
- Metro Green Line Aviation Station to Norwalk Station via 105 Freeway
- Metro Blue Line Artesia Station to Union Station via 110 Freeway
- Pico/Rimpau to Union Station via Pico and Broadway
- Extend Red Line Special Route A from MacArthur Park to Vermont
- Reroute Red Line Special Route B from 7th Street to 5th and Flower

Currently, the following Metro Bus lines are operating: 58, 96, 167, 218, 603, 605, 608, 625, 626, 646. MTA also has two lifeline shuttle service vans from Union Station to East Los Angeles: an express to El Monte Station and a regular route to East Los Angeles College and USC County Medical Center.

All municipal bus lines (DASH, Foothill Transit, Big Blue Bus, etc,) and Metrolink trains are operating normally and accepting MTA passes.

For lifeline bus routing, commuters should use the Trip Planner at www.mta.net or call the carriers directly. Phone lines at 1-800-COMMUTE are extremely busy; help can be obtained much faster via the internet.

Riders can find out about carpools and vanpools near their homes or workplaces by clicking on "Ridesharing" at www.mta.net or by going directly to www.ridematch.info.

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