

MTA LABOR NEWS UPDATE

Friday, October 31, 2003

**MTA Won't Support Binding Arbitration in ATU Contract Talks;
First Transit, Teamsters Reach Tentative Agreement**

- **Also: MTA Working to Clarify Metrolink Agreement**

Friday saw increased activity on the labor front as the region entered the 18th day of the transit strike:

MTA officials said they do not support intervention of an outside arbitrator into its negotiations with the ATU, representing striking mechanics.

First Transit Inc. and Teamsters Local 572 reached a tentative agreement, Thursday. If ratified by union members on Sunday, as expected, all 12 MTA contract bus lines will be back in service Tuesday morning, Nov. 4.

MTA's statement came in response to an announcement by the ATU that its members would return to work if the agency agreed to binding arbitration. MTA welcomed the union's offer to return to work, but said it has given the union a fair and reasonable last, best and final offer that should be presented to union members for a vote.

MTA said it cannot turn over responsibility for negotiating contracts worth hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to an arbitrator who is not accountable to the taxpayers. The agency said use of an arbitrator would only serve to further delay a resolution of the outstanding contract issues.

MTA Working to Clarify Metrolink Agreement

MTA is working to clarify Metrolink's position on acceptance of employee ID badges as fare media on the commuter rail line. MTA says it will reimburse Metrolink for all employee rides to all destinations, regardless of whether MTA buses service those locations.

"Our intent is for badges to be good at all Metrolink stops," said Rod Goldman, deputy executive officer, Operations. "We will reimburse Metrolink for those passengers."

In the meantime, Goldman notes that Transitcheks are again available and that employees who ride Metrolink can use them to purchase a November pass, if they wish.

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