

MTA LABOR NEWS UPDATE

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

## Day 22

### **ATU Calls News Conference for 'Major Announcement' Members Scheduled to Vote Friday on MTA Proposal**

The president of the striking mechanics union has called a news conference for 2 p.m., today, to make a "major announcement." ATU members are scheduled to vote, Friday, on MTA's multi-year last, best and final offer.

ATU has demanded that MTA sign a nine-point agreement that includes binding arbitration, health benefit payments and vacation cash-out provisions in exchange for permitting his union members to vote on the proposal. MTA has repeated its opposition to allowing an outside arbitrator to make a decision that would affect more than 400,000 daily commuters and would involve hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

MTA is urging ATU active and retired members to approve the contract offer in Friday's vote. The last, best and final offer includes wage increases totaling 5 percent over three years, an immediate cash infusion of \$4.7 million to the ATU Health & Welfare Trust Fund, along with increased contributions to the Fund by MTA.

Meanwhile, members of Teamsters Local 572, who drive buses for MTA contractor First Transit, went back to work this morning. The union's 18-day strike had curtailed service on 12 of the 15 bus lines First Transit operates under contract for MTA.

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