

"We owe it to our customers to get out as much service as we possibly can and that's what we're trying to do." -- CEO Roger Snoble



MTA CEO Roger Snoble, at podium, announces expanded service at media briefing on Friday. Television stations 2/9, 4, 5, 7, 11, 34 and 44, KNX and KFVB Radio, the Daily News, Copley News and City News Service covered today's news conference during which CEO Roger Snoble and DCEO John Catoe discussed plans to introduce additional lifeline bus service on heavily traveled streets. Also pictured, front row, from left, Mark Maloney, Director of Transportation Contract Services, and Deputy CEO John Catoe.

MTA Announces Plans to Place 60 Additional Buses into Service in November

- Newest lifeline service will begin operation Monday, Nov. 17 and will run East/West between LAX and Huntington Park

By DAVE SOTERO

(November 14, 2003) MTA today announced that it plans to expand free "Lifeline" bus services within Los Angeles County in the next two weeks to aid commuters stranded by the transit strike. The agency plans to place 60 additional contract buses in service, eventually bringing the total number of Metro Buses running throughout the county to 390.

"While we are working to resolve the strike as soon as possible, we must continue to provide service to our customers, who continue to suffer tremendous hardships getting to school, work, hospitals and other important destinations," said MTA CEO Roger Snoble. "MTA's core function is to provide transportation services. We have an obligation to serve our customers as much as we possibly can while this work stoppage is in progress."

The newest lifeline service will operate along Florence Boulevard between Los Angeles International Airport and Huntington Park starting Monday, Nov. 17.

As with MTA's existing lifeline bus services, commuters will be able to ride buses free of charge.

Primetime, a private bus operator, will provide 15 shuttle buses capable of carrying 25 passengers each on the route, which

emulates Metro Rapid Bus Line 711. Buses will run every 8-10 minutes from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The new service is designed to make connections with currently operating municipal bus lines and provide new east to west links through the city. Bus service will run through the cities of Los Angeles, Culver City, Inglewood, and Huntington Park.

Three additional contracted bus lines will go into operation within the next two weeks: Line 21 on Wilshire Boulevard from UCLA to Alvarado operating every six minutes; Line 180/181 from Pasadena to Hollywood via Fair Oaks/Colorado to Vermont/Sunset, operating every 15 minutes; and Line 761 on Van Nuys Boulevard from Foothill to the Federal Building in Westwood operating every 10 minutes. All three new lines listed above will operate from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday - Friday and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekends.

A network of lifeline bus lines are currently in the planning stages for implementation should the strike continue that will involve the deployment of 600 contracted buses expected to carry more than 250,000 riders.

Since the strike began Oct. 14, MTA has increased municipal bus services, added point-to-point shuttles, created a free emergency vanpool program for employers, created an exclusive carpool program for schools, and implemented online ridematching via the regionwide www.ridematch.info web site.

For a complete listing of lifeline bus services in Los Angeles County, visit MTA's web site at www.mta.net and click on "Transit Service Update" link.

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