

North
Los
Angeles
Division
3 fleet
was
ready
for
rollout.



Riders Applaud MTA's Return to Regular Service

By LISA HUYNH

(Nov. 25, 2003) Many passengers, relieved to see Metro service rolling again, welcomed operators back with open arms – and even some applause.

Central City Division 1's Juan Herrera, who has been an operator for more than three years, said his passengers were happy and thankful to see him.

Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens said the operators received good reactions from the riders.

"I went out to some of the bus stops Monday night and didn't hear anything negative," said Owens. "One operator said his passengers started clapping when they saw him. So, it's been good."

Crossroads Division 2's Jose Ramos, who was the first operator to report back to work at his division, said the passenger turnout has decreased significantly. "Before the strike, I had bus loads of people."

99 percent rollout

North Los Angeles Division 3 had a 99 percent rollout on the second day back from the strike and a 100 percent rollout on Thursday.

"The strike was longer than anyone anticipated it would be, but morale is high," said Transportation Manager Dan Frawley. "Operators say most of our customers are happy to see the buses out there again. It's great to be back in business."

Meanwhile mechanics and service attendance had plenty of catch-up work to do.

"There's a lot more work to be done because these buses have been sitting idle for long time, said Division 1 Mechanic Gilbert Hernandez. "These CNG buses are real particular. They have to be maintained properly."

Crossroads Division 2 was only able to run 72 percent of its service on Tuesday.

"We have a lot of buses that aren't working right now, said Maintenance Manager Donell Harris. "It'll probably take two to three weeks to get caught up in inspections and regular repairs."

[Back to MTA Report](#)