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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA URGES MONTHLY PASS HOLDERS TO PURCHASE
TOKENS TO GET BEST POSSIBLE FARE DISCOUNT**

When regular monthly passes are discontinued on September 1 as part of the MTA's new fare structure, Los Angeles County's 1.2 million daily bus and train riders will still have 90-cent discount tokens as a practical, money-saving option for transit fares.

One 90-cent token can be used to pay the MTA's new base fare of \$1.35, and each additional token used thereafter is valued at its 90-cent purchase price. Individual tokens are sold in bags of 10 for \$9, and token holders that can hold up to 10 tokens, will soon be made available.

Transfers will continue to cost 25 cents for each use. Monthly passes will still be available for the elderly and disabled, and K-12 and college and vocational students. Red Line fares remain 25 cents.

"Our goal is to have discount tokens on sale in more than 460 outlets," said Edmund D. Edelman, MTA Chairman and a Los Angeles County Supervisor. "We continue to seek additional outlets as we go along to distribute the 25 million tokens we will have in circulation."

"Our long-term plan is to have up to 660 outlets available where riders may buy tokens," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White. "I strongly urge both regular cash payers, and former monthly pass users alike, to use the convenient tokens."

(MORE)

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Tokens will be the best transportation bargain available to low-income, transit-dependent families, who traditionally used regular monthly passes. Patrons can save as much as one third off the regular cash fare price by using the tokens.

"It will soon be possible for MTA patrons to obtain a discount anytime, simply by picking up the tokens on a weekly basis," said Edelman. "In fact, we've calculated that as much as \$4.50 a week can be saved this way for those who take one round trip each weekday."

The MTA has issued a series of information brochures explaining the use of tokens and how they can be purchased. They are available on MTA buses and trains in coming weeks. The public also can write for the brochures to MTA Customer Relations, P.O. Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

For information on the nearest token sales outlet, riders can call (213) 972-6235 or (800) COMMUTE.

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