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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA TO BEGIN SELLING REGULAR MONTHLY PASSES FOR
SEPTEMBER FRIDAY, SEPT. 9, AT ALL TOKEN SALES OUTLETS**

As a result of a federal district court order, MTA will reinstitute sales of regular monthly passes for the month of September on Friday, Sept. 9, at all 460 MTA token sales outlets throughout Los Angeles County.

The MTA cash price on buses and the Blue Line trains has been lowered to \$1.10. This action has required MTA bus operators to manually override the fareboxes which were electronically programmed to accept the new cash price of \$1.35. The fareboxes are in the process of being reprogrammed.

The regular monthly pass will be sold for two days -- Friday, Sept. 9, and Saturday, Sept. 10 -- for \$42. Semi-monthly passes, at a cost of \$23, will be available starting Monday, Sept. 12, at all outlets, and will be good for unlimited travel on MTA buses and trains through the end of September.

"Multi-language brochures will be distributed throughout the system starting Friday to alert our passengers to the availability of the passes," said Kim Kimball, MTA's deputy chief executive officer. "In addition, we will place informational ads on various radio stations to alert the public."

On September 1, the same day MTA's new fare structure went into effect, U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter issued a temporary restraining order, ordering the MTA to roll back fares. Since then, MTA has been in the process of fully complying with the court order.

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"It took many weeks to properly prepare for, and inform the public about, the new fare structure," Kimball said. "Our goal has been to ensure that regular monthly passes were equitably distributed throughout our network of pass sales outlets so that everyone would have an equal chance to buy them. Fortunately, we do have a supply on hand and will not have to wait to have new passes printed."

Pending the outcome of legal issues, the base bus and rail fare will remain \$1.10, with transfers priced at 25 cents.

On Friday, Sept. 2, MTA requested Judge Hatter to stay his order forcing the rollback of MTA fares. The agency also separately submitted a writ of mandate requesting the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco for a review and stay of Judge Hatter's temporary restraining order.

MTA officials have noted in their legal briefs that the fare increase was approved by the Board following a lengthy public review process which included two public hearings. As part of the Authority's efforts to balance its budget, the MTA also reduced its workforce by some 600 positions, cut in half the number of contracts awarded for outside services, endured a nine-day strike to reduce labor costs by \$20 million, reallocated capital funds to make more monies available for operating costs and instituted some service cuts.

"We ask the public's patience as we move forward to comply with the federal court order to roll back fares," Kimball said.

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