

STATEMENT BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BURKE
MTA BOARD FIRST VICE-CHAIR

We have very good news for the bus and train riders of this region – their service continues uninterrupted today, as a result of a tentative contract agreement reached this morning at about 4 a.m. between the MTA and the United Transportation Union, which represents 4,000 MTA bus and train operators.

I know that many of you want to know the details, but under our agreement with the union leadership, we will not discuss the settlement terms until union leaders present the tentative agreement to their membership for ratification and the MTA Board has approved it.

What I can tell you is this agreement is very good news for the MTA, its employees and the taxpayers. The agreement will result in important savings for the MTA, while ensuring fair and equitable contracts that will enhance the MTA's flexibility, competitiveness and efficiency. Ultimately, this will result in more and better transportation services to our customers.

We congratulate all the negotiators – from both sides – for their hard work and incredible diligence. Our work is not completed because we are still in negotiations with the ATU, representing MTA's mechanic and TCU, representing MTA's clerical staff, but we hope to be back to you soon with the same good news – that settlements have been reached and the MTA is moving forward to bring increased and improved service to all our customers.

Now, Linda Bohlinger has a few thoughts to add...

STATEMENT BY LINDA H. BOHLINGER
MTA INTERIM CEO

The announcement this morning of the settlement agreement between the MTA and the United Transportation Union Comes after months of hard negotiation and represents a successful, equitable deal in which both sides compromised and everyone is a winner.

The MTA's goals all along have been to achieve a contract that would help the agency achieve new efficiencies, become more competitive and use taxpayers' monies in the wisest, most fiscally responsible manner possible. We said we'd do this without layoffs, without wage reductions for current employees and without reductions in benefits. We've kept our word.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of MTA's customers will board their buses or trains today on time and without interruption.

UTU is planning to present this agreement to its membership for ratification this week, and we are confident that our employees will be very pleased with the terms of the new three-year contract.

One down, two to go. Our negotiators will be back at the bargaining table later today to try to reach fair and equitable agreements with the MTA's mechanics' union, the Amalgamated Transit Union, and the Transportation Communications Union, which represents some of the MTA's clerical employees. We are hopeful that these negotiations will be completed as soon as possible, so that we can return our focus to providing quality, customer-oriented transportation services to Southern California.