



NEWS

JULY 8, 1997

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MTA SETTLES CONTRACT WITH UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION; TRANSIT STRIKE AVERTED

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the United Transportation Union (UTU), which represents 4,000 MTA bus and train operators, today announced agreement on terms for a new three-year contract. The union's contract had expired at midnight, June 30, but a one-week contract extension to July 8 had been negotiated. The agreement thus avoids a strike that could have stranded up to 1.1 million daily boarding passengers in Los Angeles county. Full MTA bus and rail service continues normally.

Talks continue with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), representing approximately 1,700 MTA mechanics, and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU), representing approximately 600 MTA clerical staff. The contracts of both these unions also expired at midnight, June 30.

"This is a victory for our riders. MTA management and union leadership have reached a win-win agreement," said MTA Interim CEO Linda Bohlinger. "We hope we reach agreement with the ATU and the TCU very soon," she added.

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“The proposed agreement achieves our goals of no layoffs, no reduction in employee health and welfare benefits and no decreases in wage rates for current employees,” said Bohlinger.

“Savings anticipated under this new contract will go to increase and improve customer service,” said Bohlinger, “which is a primary goal of the MTA and its board of directors.”

Because UTU members still have to ratify the contract terms and the MTA Board must approve the agreement, no details of the agreement were announced.

The last MTA contract negotiations in 1994 resulted in a nine-day work stoppage that cost the Los Angeles economy \$2 million a day. With the current negotiations, however, the Authority created an extensive, system-wide contingency plan that would have continued MTA service on a limited daily basis along key bus and rail lines.

One of the nation’s largest public transit agencies, the MTA transports more than 1.1 million Metro Bus and Metro Rail boarding passengers each weekday in a service area that encompasses more than 1,400 square miles. On an average weekday, the MTA operates approximately 1,750 busses and 100 rail cars.

With a budget totaling \$2.8 billion, the MTA is unique among major transit agencies in that it is responsible for three major functions: bus and rail operations, rail construction, and all transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County.