



NEWS

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NEW AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION CONTRACT APPROVED BY MTA BOARD

The MTA Board today approved a new three-year contract with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), which represents 1,750 MTA mechanics and maintenance employees. ATU is the last of the MTA's three major labor unions to settle on a new contract. Unions representing MTA bus and train operators and clerks reached new contract agreements last summer.

ATU members earlier this fall ratified their new contract by an overwhelming margin. Ninety-four percent of the members who voted approved the pact.

The MTA and the ATU settled on terms similar to the previously concluded agreements with the drivers' and clerks' unions. The ATU contract will provide the MTA with reduced costs and additional flexibility resulting in greater efficiencies and improved customer service. The union also achieved its goals of securing a pay raise for its members and protection of jobs, wages, and benefits of current members.

The three-year contract is expected to save the Authority at least \$2.8 million over the next three years. Most of the savings will be realized by reducing the number of payments made to the union's health and trust fund while maintaining the coverage workers receive. The MTA also won work rule concessions, lower wage rates for new employees, and the right to subcontract additional work, resulting in further cost savings.

The pact provides ATU employees a yearly base pay increase of 1-1/2 percent, quarterly wage adjustments of six cents an hour, the option of

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compensation time in lieu of overtime, and the establishment of a 401K savings plan.

"Today's approval by the MTA Board of the ATU contract caps a successful chapter in MTA labor negotiations history," said Los Angeles Mayor and MTA Board Chairman Richard J. Riordan. "It will be remembered as a cooperative effort since customer service provided to the 1.2 million people who use the Metro System will be better and that the MTA will be providing its employees with improved wage and job security packages. I am also pleased that we concluded these agreements without any interruptions in service."

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