



# NEWS

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## MTA, BUS RIDERS UNION AGREE ON METRO BUS OWL SERVICE MITIGATION PLAN

The MTA and the Bus Riders Union (BRU) have agreed on actions MTA will take to reduce the impact of changes in early morning (owl) service on 14 Metro Bus lines.

The agreement preserves annual savings to MTA of approximately \$1.5 million while meeting a directive to ease the impact to transit dependent bus riders of changes in owl service made last December. The directive was issued on February 24, 1998 by Donald T. Bliss, the Special Master appointed to oversee improvements in bus service outlined in the October 1996 Consent Decree.

The agreement will be submitted to Bliss on April 10, 1998 for his review and approval.

"Negotiations between MTA and the BRU have been productive," said MTA Deputy Assistant CEO Habib Balian, co-chairman of the joint working group. "More of our transit dependent riders will be served, and at a lower cost. This is an important step in improving service to a greater number of bus patrons while recognizing our need to cut expenses."

Under the agreement, owl service would be restored on nine of the lines. Restored service would be phased in beginning April 13, 1998.

Owl service would not be restored on lines 26, 30 and 53 because alternative bus service still exists within a quarter mile.

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Owl service on Line 40 would be partially restored while retaining a connection to LAX that was initiated in December 1997. Service on Line 38 along Jefferson Boulevard would be restored through the operation of a one-way loop in combination with Line 37 on West Adams Boulevard.

The following is a list of the 11 lines to undergo service restoration and the proposed mitigation on each line:

<b>Line/Route</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
10	Restore service on Melrose Avenue with a timed connection to Line 14 at Vermont Ave. and Beverly Blvd.
18	Restore service on Whittier Blvd.
20	Reroute to extend service into Santa Monica Central Business District
38	Restructured to operate in a one-way loop with Line 37
40	Reroute south to Imperial Hwy., west to Aviation Blvd., north to Century Blvd., then connect to LAX Transit Center
55	Restore service on Compton Ave.
60	Restore service on Long Beach Blvd. and provide a connection to Line 55 via Rosecrans Ave. to the MLK Transit Center in Compton

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Line/Route	Mitigation
70/76	Restore bi-directional service on both routes while maintaining Line 76 access to USC Medical Center
84	Restore service
252	Institute Line 252 bus shuttle with timed connection to owl line 111/251 at Florence Ave. and Pacific Blvd.

The mitigation plan would restore nine buses to owl service that were removed in the December 1997 service changes.

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