



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA BOARD WELCOMES BACK METRO CUSTOMERS WITH FREE FARE

To show its appreciation for the public's patience during the 32-day transit strike which ended earlier today, the MTA Board today approved free rides on the Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, October 18 through Sunday, October 22.

Metro Rail service, however, is not expected to resume until Thursday due to the required re-powering of 59.4 miles of track, testing of all safety systems and maintenance of the stations.

The MTA Board of Directors authorized the five days of free fare following its endorsement of a new three-year labor contract with the union representing 4,300 bus and rail operators, the United Transportation Union (UTU), this afternoon.

Service is expected resume on the Metro Bus System by early tomorrow morning if the rank-and-file of the union ratify the tentative agreement this evening.

Service on the Metro Rail System, which includes the Metro Red Line subway and light rail Metro Blue and Green lines, will commence Thursday morning. The first trains on the Blue and Green lines will depart at approximately 4 a.m. and on the Red Line at 4:30 a.m.

The MTA also announced that September passes will be accepted through the end of October. November passes will be on sale October 25.

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