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MTA AND UTU REACH TENTATIVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced early this morning that it has reached a tentative contract agreement with representatives of the bus and train operator's union, the United Transportation Union (UTU). Negotiations with the Amalgamated Transportation Union (ATU) and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) are continuing. Together, these three unions represent over 6,700 bus drivers, train operators, mechanics and clerks. A labor dispute between the MTA and these unions has resulted into a transit strike that has continued for 32 days.

"We regret the hardship and inconvenience that this strike has caused to so many transit dependent citizens of Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "But I can assure you, our bargaining with the UTU was necessary to protect the long-term financial interests of the MTA and continue to maintain and expand service to our customers."

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MTA/UTU Reach Tentative Agreement
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Terms of the tentative agreement have not been made public pending ratification by union membership and approval by the MTA Board.

"This settlement signifies a critical milestone for the MTA, its represented employees, the taxpayers and, most importantly, for the transit dependent citizens of Los Angeles County," said Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan. "We are optimistic that we can conclude talks with the other unions as soon as possible."

Members of the UTU must still ratify the tentative agreement reached this morning. The MTA expects to resume Metro bus service by Wednesday morning and Metro rail by Thursday.

"We will work to return service to its full capacity as soon as possible," said Julian Burke, MTA's Chief Executive Officer. "We thank our customers for their support and ask for their continued patience as our employees return to work and put our bus and rail service back on line."

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