



MTA STATEMENT RE: UTU STRIKE AUTHORIZATION
JUNE 24, 1997

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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Contracts between the MTA and its three major labor unions representing bus and train operators, mechanics, and clerical staff do not expire until midnight June 30. Although the union representing MTA bus operators has taken a strike authorization vote, this doesn't mean there will be a work stoppage. Union leaders customarily seek approval from their members to call a strike should negotiators fail to reach agreement on new labor contracts before the current contracts expire.

The MTA remains hopeful that it can reach new contract agreements by the end of the month. However, talks can continue beyond June 30 without a work stoppage as long as progress is being made at the bargaining table.

The current negotiations are part of MTA's ongoing efforts to serve our customers better, operate more competitively, and use public funds more efficiently. We believe we can accomplish these aims without laying off any contract employee and without cutting wage rates or benefits of any current MTA contract employee.

If there is a strike, the MTA has developed a contingency plan that will deploy service on key Metro Bus lines as well as service on the Metro Red, Blue and Green lines. Service will operate daily from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We will know more about the possibility of a work stoppage later this month. In the meantime, we will provide updates to the media and the public can call 1-800-COMMUTE for any schedule and route changes that might occur or check the MTA Internet site at www.mta.net.

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