



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA FIELDS 345 BUSES ON THIRD DAY OF STRIKE; ANOTHER TOLL-FREE BUS INFORMATION NUMBER ACTIVATED

A total of 345 MTA, Laidlaw and Mayflower buses rolled into service on 30 bus lines Wednesday, July 27, the third day of a work stoppage by MTA's three principal unions.

The state mediator, Tom McCarthy, met with officials of the MTA and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Tuesday night. He called for another meeting Friday, July 29.

"We will send our negotiators to meet with the ATU leadership at that time," said Edmund Edelman, MTA chairman and a Los Angeles County Supervisor. "We are working as hard as we can to solve this most unfortunate situation and we'll continue to work with the state mediator to get a fair agreement."

MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White reported that 132 MTA buses driven by substitute bus operators, 68 Mayflower school buses and 145 Laidlaw school buses comprised the fleet that went into service Wednesday.

MTA also has activated a second toll-free telephone information number to assist its riders in getting bus route information. The number, (800) 8700-MTA, has recorded information regarding the bus and train lines operating during the strike, and the hours they are operating.

"This new number is to supplement the (800) COMMUTE number, which is answered by one of our telephone information operators," said White. "Because of the high volume of information calls we are experiencing, we felt the addition of this second information number would help people get the information they needed without having to wait to speak with one of our representatives."

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White stressed, however, that the (800) COMMUTE number (266-6883) is still available to those who have specific questions about their bus and train service. The new number also gives callers the option of requesting a telephone information operator if the recorded information is not sufficient.

The public also may use any of the three normal MTA telephone information numbers, depending on their geographical location: (213) 626-4455, (310) 273-0910 or (818) 443-1307.

"We continue to ask our riders for their patience during this work stoppage," White said. "We are doing everything we can to put as much service on the road and to answer as many calls as possible." White added that, as of July 27, the telephone information operator workforce was once again at full strength with 65 operators working 166 lines handling between 10,000 and 12,000 calls a day. The wait for information has become significantly shorter, White said.

In other developments, training of non-contract employees continued in an effort to prepare them to operate MTA buses in case of a prolonged strike. Trainees are receiving up to 65 hours of instruction, including 15 classroom hours, 20 mandatory behind-the-wheel hours and up to 30 additional hours of line qualification training, in which they practice actually driving the route they will serve. All trainees are receiving state-mandated instruction, making them fully qualified to operate a public transportation vehicle.

Also, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge William Huss today granted a temporary restraining order requested by MTA that prevents blockading of any the MTA's operating divisions or other facilities and establishes picketing guidelines.

The attached list is of the 30 bus lines being served, and further specifies the portion of the line being served. The Metro Red Line and Blue Line trains also are operating.

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"We're constantly refining this temporary schedule, adding buses as we go along," White said. "We ask the public to read their newspapers, watch their TVs and listen to their radios for updated information."

White reminded MTA riders that bus and train service will not be available on weekend days, and that service on weekdays will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Let me again encourage carpooling and ridesharing whenever possible, and that employers consider shifting working hours to help alleviate congestion," White said.

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BUS/TRAIN UNION STRIKE: MTA SERVICE PLAN

MTA's mechanics are on strike. The MTA offers service on the following routes, Monday through Friday only, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Many of the routes are using schoolbuses and other types of vehicles. All vehicles are identified with the MTA line number in the windshield and with the "M" logo on the outside.

FARES DURING THE STRIKE -- All regular fares: 50¢ one-way. No Transfers. Senior citizens or disabled riders: 25¢ one-way. Emergency buses (schoolbuses): FREE

Line Segments In Service			Line Segments In Service		
Line No	From	To	Line No	From	To
1-217	Hollywood B-Fairfax Av.	Olympic Bl. Hill St.	152	Roscoe Bl.	Topanga Cyn. Bl. Roscoe Bl.
16	West 3rd St.	3rd St. Wilton Pl.	163	Sherman Way	West Hills Hospital
18	E. Whittier Bl.-West 6th St.	Lafayette Park Pl. 6th St.	180	Hollywood-Glendale-Pasadena	Hollywood Bl. LaBrea Av.
21	Wilshire Bl.	UCLA	204	Vermont Av.	REGULARSERVICE
30	East 1st St.	Dozier Av. Rowan Av.	207	Western Av.	Western Av. Franklin Av.
31	Pico Bl.	Rimpau Bl. Pico Bl.	210	Crenshaw Bl.	Hawthorne Av. Orange Dr.
33	Venice Bl.	Main St. Sunset Av.	212	La Brea Av. SF Valley	Selma Av. El Centro Av.
45	Broadway	Huntington Dr. N Monterey Rd.	240	Reseda Bl.	REGULARSERVICE
76	Valley Bl.	Union Station	251	Soto St.	Seville Av. Paim Pl.
81	Figueroa St.	Colorado Bl. N. Figueroa St.	260	Atlantic Av.	Atlantic Av. Hardins St.
92	Glenn Oaks Bl.-Brand Bl.	Sylmar/SF METROLINK	420	SF Valley-Hollywood-LA	Van Nuys METROLINK
105	Vernon Av.	Washington Bl. Adams Bl.	424	Ventura Bl.-LA	REGULARSERVICE
108	Slauson Av.	Mesmer Av. Jefferson Bl.	442	Hawthorne-Manchester-Express	REGULARSERVICE
115	Manchester Bl.-Firestone Av.	Manchester Bl. Sepulveda Bl.	470	Whittier-Montebello-LA	Beaudry St. 5th St.
117	Century Bl.	LAX City Bus Center	560	Van Nuys Bl.-Westwood	Veteran Ave. Sepulveda Bl.
125	Rosecrans Av.	Rosecrans Av. Sepulveda Bl.		Metro Blue Line	7th/Metro Station
				Metro Red Line	REGULARSERVICE

***Connections**

AV=Antelope Valley Transit Authority BL= Metro Blue Line CA= Carson Circuit CB= Commerce Bus Line CC = Culver City Bus Lines CE= Commuter Express DA= DASH
 FT= Foothill Transit GB= Gardena Bus Lines LB= Long Beach Transit MB= Montebello Bus Lines MI= Metrolink OC= Orange County Transit NT= Norwalk Transit
 RL= Metro Red Line SC= Santa Clarita Transit SM=Santa Monica Municipal Bus TT= Torrance Transit WT= Whittier Transit

Metrolink trips will also continue to operate their routes. Schedules and other route information may be obtained by calling **1-800-COMMUTE (1-800-266-6883)**. **All information is subject to change.**



