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IN ORDER TO ENSURE RIDERS CONTINUED SERVICE, MTA CHALLENGES UNIONS TO SETTLE CONTRACTS BY NEXT WEDNESDAY

At 10:00 a.m. today, MTA's Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky made the following statement at MTA's Gateway Headquarters:

"Yesterday one of our unions, the bus drivers union (UTU), delivered a notice of intent to strike at the end of next week, and of course we are still operating day to day with the mechanics union (ATU). We are disappointed that the unions are again leaving our passengers, most of whom totally depend on our busses and trains to reach to their jobs, schools and medical providers – worried and angry.

"But we are not surprised.

"MTA unions have always waited to the last minute to make a deal. At the eleventh hour, the MTA has to consider the welfare of its riders and the public, while the unions only have to consider improvements for their already well-paid members. So there is always time at the last minute to address the benefits the union wants to add to its contracts, but never time to address the MTA's issues. We cannot allow that to happen in this round of negotiations – too much is at stake.

"So I am issuing this challenge to the union leaders. Let's set a goal of reaching agreement by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 13th. I believe all we need is 48 hours of intensive bargaining to resolve all of the outstanding issues. So if we begin meeting again on Tuesday, we will have enough time. But the MTA negotiators are ready to get back to the table as early as 6 PM tonight.

"While I do not want to address any of the details of bargaining, which is going on behind closed doors, we are also prepared to demonstrate our good faith by immediately addressing one of the unions' most important issues – health care costs.

"Our unions already have some of the most expensive health care benefits in the country, with no employee contribution, no deductible, and no co-pay. The unions are asking the MTA to increase its payments by up to 20%. We agree the health care costs are rising and we are prepared to increase our payments if necessary. Union members do not have to worry about continued health care coverage as long as they remain at work.

"But we are entitled to accountability and we are entitled to responsibility. We want an accounting of the union trust funds, into which we pay over \$40 million of taxpayer money each year – an accounting we are entitled to under the union contracts, and which the union leaders refuse to provide, so that we can see how much of an increase is really necessary. And we want responsible management of health care costs to keep us competitive with other transit agencies.

"If we address this important union issue, we expect responses to fourteen productivity improvement proposals, which the unions still have not seriously considered.

"We welcome the assistance of the state mediators in this process. We hope that their presence will encourage the parties to reach a settlement as soon as possible.

"Unions: Let's get back to the table. Let's be professional. Let's be responsible. Let's be respectful of each other, but most of all our riders."

WILSHIRE-WHITTIER CORRIDOR SERVICE REFINEMENTS

In the Wilshire-Whittier Corridor, the following services are proposed to be restructured and/or cancelled to reduce service duplication and better match service to customer demand.

<u>Line</u>	<u>Line Name</u>	<u>Proposed Change</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
18	W. Sixth St.-Whittier Blvd.	Extend line to Orange County border; or Shorten line to uptown Whittier or Montebello Metrolink Station if other service is available; adjust service frequencies and span of service.....	December, 2000 or later
20-21	Wilshire Blvd-UCLA Santa Monica	Adjust service frequencies and span of service.....	December, 2000 or later
22	Wilshire Blvd.-Century City-Brentwood	Cancel line; alternative service available by Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines	December, 2000 or later
471	Puente Hills Mall-Brea Mall	Shorten line to Whittier Blvd. and Colima Rd. or cancel line if other service is available	December, 2000 or later
720	Wilshire-Whittier Metro Rapid Bus	Adjust service frequencies, span of service, stop locations	December, 2000 or later

VENTURA CORRIDOR SERVICE REFINEMENTS

In the Ventura Corridor, the following services are proposed to be restructured to better match service to customer demand.

<u>Line</u>	<u>Line Name</u>	<u>Proposed Change</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
150	Ventura Blvd.	Adjust service frequencies and span of service.....	December, 2000 or later
240	Reseda Blvd-Ventura Blvd.	Adjust service frequencies and span of service.....	December, 2000 or later
750	Ventura Blvd. Metro Rapid Bus	Adjust service frequencies, span of service, stop locations	December, 2000 or later

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OTHER SERVICE CHANGES

Other miscellaneous service change proposals designed to improve the operation of bus service are listed below.

<u>Line</u>	<u>Line Name</u>	<u>Proposed Change</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
40	Hawthorne Blvd.-LA-Union Station	New Limited Stop service.....	December, 2000 or later
42	LA-Westchester-LAX	Restructure service, reroute to Exposition Blvd.	December, 2000 or later
102	E. Jefferson Blvd.-Coliseum St.	Shorten line to Exposition Blvd. and Figueroa St; alternative service provided by restructured Line 42	December, 2000 or later
107	54th Street-Fairview Blvd.-Santa Ana St.	Reroute over a portion of Clara Street and to Slauson Metro Blue Line Station	December, 2000 or later
114	Florence Station-Santa Ana St.-Clara St.	Cancel line; alternative service provided by rerouted Line 107	December, 2000 or later
220	Robertson Blvd.-Culver Blvd.	Shorten line to Fisherman's Village; alternative service provided by restructured Line 625.	December, 2000 or later
250	Boyle Ave.-State St.	Cancel line; alternative service provided by restructured Line 620	December, 2000 or later
253	Euclid Ave.-Evergreen Ave.	Cancel line; alternative service provided by restructured Line 620	December, 2000 or later
<u>Line</u>	<u>Line Name</u>	<u>Proposed Change</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
340	Hawthorne Blvd.-Limited	New Limited Stop service.....	December, 2000 or later
402	LA-Pasadena-Park-n-Ride Express	Cancel line; alternative service available.....	December, 2000 or later
436	LA-Venice Blvd.-Ocean Park Express	Cancel line; alternative service available	December, 2000 or later
442	LA-Hawthorne-Express	Cancel line; convert to Limited Stop service	December, 2000 or later

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Service Changes...

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| 466 | LA-Downey-La Mirada
Park-n-Ride-Express | Cancel line; alternative
service availableDecember, 2000 or later |
| 484 | LA-El Monte-La Puente-
Pomona-Express | Shorten line to operate between
El Monte Busway Station and
Pomona Transcenter;
alternative service available.....December, 2000 or later |
| 490 | LA-El Monte-Covina-
Diamond Bar-Brea Express | Shorten line to terminate at
El Monte Busway Station;
alternative service available.....December, 2000 or later |
| 491 | LA-Sierra Madre via Santa
Anita Express | Shorten line to terminate at
El Monte Busway Station;
alternative service available.....December, 2000 or later |
| 497 | LA-Pomona-Montclair
Park-n-Ride-Express | Cancel line; alternative
service availableDecember, 2000 or later |
| 620 | Boyle Heights Shuttle | Restructure line to replace
segments of Lines 250-253;
provide weekend service.....December, 2000 or later |
| 625 | Green Line Shuttle | Restructure line to provide
alternative service to
Fisherman's Village.....December, 2000 or later |

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