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CONTACT:

Marc Littman

MTA MEDIA RELATIONS

(213) 922-4609

BUS AND RAIL OPERATORS APPROVE LABOR CONTRACT

MTA Turns its Focus Toward Reaching Agreement with Mechanics and Clerks Unions

(LOS ANGELES) The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is pleased that the members of the bus and rail operators' union, the United Transportation Union (UTU), voted to ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement.

"It is extremely good news that our employees approve of the fair deal we reached with the UTU leadership earlier today, and I thank our employees for their support," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Julian Burke. "This agreement will go a long way toward ensuring the long-term financial viability of the MTA. By the end of this three-year agreement, combined with future administrative cost-cutting measures being implemented by management, this agency will be much closer toward being competitive with other local transportation providers," continued CEO Burke.

The agreement reached between the MTA and the UTU came early this morning after six months of negotiations, a 32-day strike and an around-the-clock bargaining session last night. Earlier today the MTA Board of Directors unanimously ratified the tentative agreement. The contract includes some of the following terms:

- An increase in base wages over three years, including quarterly wage adjustments
- A 1% increase in take-home pay resulting from increased MTA pension contributions
- Maintenance of health and welfare benefits, with increased MTA contributions if necessary