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NEWS RELEASE

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Big Blue Bus Continues Service During MTA Strike

Minor service changes planned to help accommodate passengers

Santa Monica – The City of Santa Monica’s Big Blue Bus will continue with its regular service during the current MTA Strike. The Big Blue Bus is an independent municipal transit agency and not part of the MTA. Buses will operate on regular schedules on all 16 lines, but may be delayed due to increased traffic and higher passenger loads.

“We will do everything we can to accommodate the people inconvenienced by the MTA strike, with our primary goal of providing quality service to our passengers”, says Stephanie Negriff, Director of Transit Services. “We are currently operating near capacity with the number of buses and drivers available to us. We will not be able to add much additional service on the road, but we will be shifting resources to those lines most likely to receive the heaviest increases in passengers”. The Big Blue Bus will honor all MTA Passes during the strike, and as always will accept MTA tokens.

Line 10, the Downtown LA Freeway Express, which moves people between downtown Los Angeles and West LA and Santa Monica is expected to be most heavily affected during the strike. Extra buses will be added to this line as available to carry the increased passengers. Starting today, one new trip leaving Patsaouras Plaza in Downtown LA was added at 5:30 AM, and additional buses may be added later in the week.

Line 7 and Super 7 limited stop services move people west from the Rimpau Transit Center near the intersections of Pico, San Vicente and Venice Blvd. along Pico Blvd. and serve Westside Pavilion Mall the transfer point (on other Big Blue Buses) for Westwood and UCLA, West LA, and Santa Monica. This line has already seen heavier than normal passenger loads. Today, a new trip leaving Rimpau Transit Center was added 5:15 AM was added, and additional buses may be added later this week.

Many MTA passengers can find alternate routes to get around using the Big Blue Bus and the other municipal bus lines around Los Angeles County. Passengers traveling to Century City and the Westside should consider taking the Big Blue Bus Line 5 from the Rimpau Transit Center. Big Blue Bus line 3 will continue to connect LAX, Santa Monica and Westwood.

“We want to encourage our passengers to be patient and perhaps leave a little earlier than normal while the strike is on as some buses may be full or running a little late due to increased road traffic”, says Janeene De Martinez, Assistant Director. Passengers needing more information can call Big Blue Bus customer service at 310-451-5444, TDD 310-395-6024. All schedule and route information is also available at www.BigBlueBus.com.

The Big Blue Bus operates a fleet of 200 vehicles transporting more than 80,000 passengers daily across a 51.4 square mile service area. Providing award-winning service to Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area since 1928. 2003 marks the Big Blue Bus’ 75th anniversary of moving people. The Big Blue Bus has won awards for everything from its website to customer service orientation and has operated with a 97% on-time performance record. The Big Blue Bus also operates paratransit services and the electric TIDE Shuttle.

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