Commuter talks enter into 16th day

A strike by 700 conductors and the versatility of the trains of the United Transportation Union is expected to cost M.T.A. $10 million by day's end.

The strike, which began Monday, entered its 16th day today.

At the state Board of Mediation offices here, the last formal talks took place on Thursday and the parties met for four hours on Friday and today.

A major obstacle to a settlement and opposi-
tion of the futility of the rail contracts concerns an internal dispute over seniority and the state transportation agency's proposal to cut railroad workers' annual salaries by $8,000 and to restructure the work force.

Under the prevailing proposals, rail workers would be paid for the four busiest hours in the afternoon, but not for the hours in between.

Three strike dates have been set by the rail unions but none have been called as yet. This was an attempt to allow American Express and the New York Times to present their offers.

New Jersey Transit, however, has never been heavily involved in these negotiations.

The talks have been fairly informal, with both parties courted.

The buses have been running 22,000 New York-based morning commuters daily, according to Jerome C. Prose, NJ Transit's executive director.

Metro-North fears loss of ridership from strike

NEW YORK – Officials of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority are concerned that the strike on its rail system will have a significant effect on ridership. The Authority said Tuesday it was working with the transit industry to develop a plan to restructure the work force and to restructure the work force. The Authority said Tuesday it was working with the transit industry to develop a plan to restructure the work force and to restructure the work force. The Authority said Tuesday it was working with the transit industry to develop a plan to restructure the work force and to restructure the work force. The Authority said Tuesday it was working with the transit industry to develop a plan to restructure the work force and to restructure the work force. The Authority said Tuesday it was working with the transit industry to develop a plan to restructure the work force and to restructure the work force.

By The Associated Press

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