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If MTA has Money to Appeal Buy More Buses Instead

*Korean Grandmother Points Out Problems with MTA at
City Council Meeting*

On February 10, LA City Council unanimously passed a resolution that publicly criticizes the MTA for making an appeal to the court's decision that ordered the revamping of the currently crowded bus system.

In particular, a Korean Grandmother in her 80s who is an active member of the Bus Rider's Union, gained attention by making a speech, with the help of a Korean translator, in front of the City Council, criticizing the MTA's management of the buses and urging the members to pass the resolution. Kim Hee Bok (81) demanded, "With the money that the MTA has to appeal, buy additional buses to solve the problem of crowded buses."

Jointly sponsored by Martin Ludlow, 10th District Councilmember and Antonio Villaraigosa, 14th District Councilmember, the resolution demanded that the MTA revoke its decision to make an appeal to the Consent Decree and improve the bus service. Moreover, the resolution called upon MTA to submit the budget that would be used for the appeal.



Yung Soo Kim, Korea Times

Although the resolution does not carry a legal binding force, it is a meaningful document that holds the good intentions of prominent politicians who can change local politics. It is predicted that LA Council's decision on the resolution that was co-sponsored by Councilmember Villaraigosa, who is also a member of the MTA Board of Directors, could heavily influence MTA's plans to appeal.

Last month, the MTA refused to follow the Supreme Court's order to buy 145 additional buses

and to increase bus services by 370,000 hours, and instead decided to make an appeal to a higher court. The MTA estimates that it will cost \$40 million to buy additional buses, and claims that it is financially difficult to implement the Consent Decree.

Councilmember Ludlow, who co-sponsored the resolution said, "I cannot watch the MTA thoughtlessly wasting the people's tax money on legal attacks... Tolerating this kind of situation is a morally unacceptable act."

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