



(Photos: JOSE UBALDO)

Rollout of MTA's 1,000th CNG Bus Called a 'Milestone for Transit Users'

(June 2) Calling it a "milestone for transit users," Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke announced the MTA's 1,000th CNG bus during Friday morning ceremonies. And, with TV cameras rolling, the big white and gold coach burst through a huge banner to welcoming applause at the Arthur Winston Division.



"Within four years, the MTA will have one of the youngest bus fleets in the country," Burke, a Los Angeles County supervisor, said. "Our average bus will be under five years old."

She said more than 500 new buses will arrive this fiscal year. Between today and 2004, the MTA will accept delivery of a total of 1,400 new buses.

First-class bus system

"Add it all up and it means better service and the emergence of a first-class bus system we all can be proud of," Burke



said.

Division 5 Manager Dana Coffey noted that the division serves some 7 million customers annually with a fleet of 228 buses, 475 operators, 79 mechanics and 40 service attendants.



She reminded the audience that the division has served the community for 89 years – not much longer than division namesake 93-year-old Arthur Winston, employed by the MTA for 70 years, has been working.

Winston, a service attendant leadman, was aboard the 1,000th bus as it rolled into the yard. He was greeted at the podium by Supervisor Burke and joined her for a tour of the division.

Customers are pleased Operator/Mentor William Brinson told the crowd that customers have said "...it is about time that we have new buses and that they are clean,

operating properly and have air conditioning."

"This type of bus improvement has created a positive climate for operators and customers of the diverse communities we serve," Brinson said.

On hand for the event were Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky, Chief Financial Officer Dick Brumbaugh, Transportation Chief Tom Conner with

his Bus Operations Deputy Dan Ibarra and Bus Maintenance Deputy Richard Hunt, Human Resources Executive Officer Ray Inge, Randy and Kimberly Horton of the MTA's Access Advisory Committee and Bishop George Reid of the MTA's Passenger Advisory Committee.

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