



# NEWS

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CONTACT: RICK JAGER/JIM SMART  
MTA PRESS RELATIONS  
(213) 244-6165, 244-6347  
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## **MTA BOARD APPROVES PURCHASE OF 196 COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS POWERED BUSES**

In keeping with its commitment to purchase only alternate-fuel buses in the future, the MTA Board of Directors, July 27, approved the purchase of 196 new buses powered by clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG) to replace aging diesel-powered buses.

"This purchase sends a strong message to Southern California and the rest of the transit industry that we are serious about leading the quest for cleaner air," said Board Chairman Edmund Edelman, an L.A. County Supervisor. "Our alternative fuels research facility here is second to none in the nation, and we will continue to use it to find viable clean-burning fuels to use in our bus fleet."

After a careful analysis of all existing alternative fuels, MTA staff concluded that CNG is the most cost-efficient and best-performing one available on the market today. In its study, staff reviewed recent industry purchases of CNG powered buses, measured the cost of the fuel, looked at vehicle maintenance records of other properties using CNG, and estimated equipment longevity.

"We look forward to replacing our fleet with buses that will serve our riders economically while at the same time conforming to local and state clean air regulations," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer.

It is estimated that the operating cost of a modern-day CNG bus is about 2 percent higher than a diesel bus.

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The new buses will be manufactured by Neoplan USA Corporation at a cost of \$64.4 million. The buses will feature light grey flooring and upholstery on stainless seats similar in appearance to those on Metro Blue Line trains.

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