



NEWS

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CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

SCHOOL KIDS TO MEET SPACE-AGE MTA BUS PAINT SHOP ROBOTS; CHILDREN TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON REFURBISHED COACHES

WHAT: As part of the MTA's Adopt A Class outreach program, 30 fifth grade students from Hoover Street Elementary School near downtown Los Angeles will visit the MTA's Regional Rebuild Center and be taken on a guided tour of the Paint Shop hangar. The MTA will pick the children up at their school and transport them to the RRC via the Advanced Technology Transit Bus, dubbed by some as the *Stealth Bus* because it is built with materials similar to that used in the construction of the B-2 Stealth Bomber. A total of 350 buses are expected to be painted and re-conditioned in fiscal year 1999 compared to 214 last year and nearly twice as many as in 1997. A highlight of the trip will be the children being shown swirling serpentine-like robots applying steady streams of paint. Before that, they will watch the buses undergo various stages of bodywork. Finally, the children will affix decals onto a freshly paint Metro bus before heading off on the ATTB to an MTA bus division where buses are washed.

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: MTA's Regional Rebuild Center (across the street from the MTA)
900 Lyon Street (between Vignes Street and L.A. River)
Enter on Lyon which is off Ceasar Chavez (Thomas Guide 634-H3)
stop at security booth, personnel will direct media to site

HISTORY: In addition to the MTA Board's recent decision to purchase nearly 2,100 buses between fiscal year 1998 to fiscal year 2004 as part of an accelerated bus procurement plan, the MTA also is increasing the number of buses it is painting and re-conditioning for the benefit of Metro riders. The buses are becoming more reliable and more attractive.

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MTA-119

PAINT SHOP FACT SHEETS
The Eight Stages of Painting An MTA Bus

STEP 1: Trim down bus: remove lights, chrome and decals; remove dirt and grease with steam.

STEP 2: Light bodywork: repair small dents and loose doors

STEP 3: Sanding

STEP 4: Mask-off: affix paper to areas not to be painted; apply primer; sand one more time.

STEP 5: Smooth surfaces with primer in paint room.

STEP 6: Bus is painted either by robots or manually by human beings

STEP 7: Placement of bus striping

STEP 8: Additional trimming; put on decals

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General Questions & Answers about MTA Paint Shop

- Q: How often does a bus get painted?
A: The goal is every four years but sooner if a bus is involved in a fender-bender
- Q: From the time bus arrives at paint shop how many days does it take to complete the job?
A: Five days or 150 hours
- Q: How many buses are painted each week?
A: 7
- Q: How many buses will be painted in FY '99?
A: The target goal is 350
- Q: How many buses were painted in fiscal years 1996 and 1997?
A: 188 in 1997, 128 in 1996
- Q: How many buses have been painted so far in fiscal year 1999?
A: 101
- Q: How much does it cost to paint one bus?
A: Approximately \$6,500
- Q: How much paint is required for one bus?
A: 3-1/2 gallons white, 2 quarts gold, 1 quart black
- Q: How much paint is used on annual basis?
A: 700 gallons white, 125 gallons gold, 80 gallons black. Nearly 1,500 automobiles could be painted with this much paint
- Q: At any one time, how many buses are being worked on at Paint Shop?
A: 21
- Q: How many people work at Paint Shop?
A: 22 (also sand), 14 body men

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