



# NEWS

February 18, 1998

**CONTACT: MARION MACKENZIE/JIM SMART  
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS  
(213) 922-5621/922-2700  
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## **MTA MOVES FORWARD WITH PURCHASE OF 215 NEW BUSES**

The MTA is moving forward to upgrade its bus fleet with the purchase of 215 new clean burning compressed natural gas buses (CNG) that will feature low floors which seniors and the physically challenged will find easier to use.

The estimated cost of the buses is approximately \$80 million. Each will have a seating capacity for 40 passengers. The new buses will begin arriving within 18 months after a contract has been awarded.

The low floor feature on this model of CNG bus includes a fold out ramp which lies only inches above the curb and will provide easier access for the disabled and elderly.

A pre-bid conference for companies competing to manufacture the bus will take place March 3 at 10 a.m. at MTA's Regional Rebuild Facility across from Gateway Plaza. Final bids are due May 29 at 2 p.m.

In addition to this latest authorization for new buses, the MTA Board last December approved the purchase of 223 standard-floor CNG buses from New Flyer. Production of the buses will begin in Toronto in April of 1999. Delivery is scheduled to start May 1999 and will be complete by December 1999.

The MTA is currently receiving up to four new CNG buses each week from Neoplan as part of a purchase of 250 buses. Delivery of those new coaches began in September 1997 and will be complete in August 1998.

The MTA's long range capital plan calls for the purchase of hundreds of new buses over the next 10 years at a cost of about \$1 billion.

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