



NEWS

August 7, 1998

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MEDIA ADVISORY

GOOD NEWS FOR BUS RIDERS

MAYOR RIORDAN, MTA CEO TO SHOW OFF NEW BUSES, DISCUSS ACTIONS FOR OVERHAULING METRO BUS SYSTEM

WHAT: While acknowledging the Metro Bus System needs a major overhaul, Los Angeles Mayor and MTA Board Chairman Richard Riordan and MTA CEO Julian Burke will invite the media to see some of the hundreds of new buses that will be arriving during the next 16 months and to ride along with them on a new Compressed Natural Gas bus. Up to five new buses are arriving weekly. They also will talk candidly about the state of the bus fleet and service and positive steps the MTA is taking to improve the system. There will be at least a dozen buses on display along with bus operators and MTA Transit Operations staff ready for roll out.

WHEN: Monday, August 10, 1998, 8 a.m.

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

BACKGROUND: The Metro Bus System is the backbone of public transportation in Los Angeles County. On an average weekday, 1.1 million boarding passengers ride on a fleet of nearly 2,000 buses. Over the past decade, the system has been run down. Now under new CEO Julian Burke, a corporate turnaround specialist, and the MTA Board leadership of Mayor Riordan, the MTA is moving aggressively to revamp the fleet. Improved fleet reliability and better adherence to schedules once the buses are on the street should significantly reduce overcrowding. Toward that end, MTA reports:

- Between FY 98 and FY 2004, the MTA will spend more than \$500 million to buy 1,313 new buses and is moving aggressively to do even more.
- Three-hundred failing alcohol fueled buses are being converted to diesel at a rate of 15 a month. The buses run 2-3 times cleaner than old diesel buses.
- By October MTA will have 46 more mechanics assigned to MTA bus divisions to concentrate on preventive maintenance.
- MTA is doubling the number of road supervisors to make sure the buses on the street adhere to schedules.