



# NEWS

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## **MTA TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL 50 CLEAN BURNING BUSES**

Acting on a recommendation by CEO Julian Burke, the MTA Board of Directors February 27 voted to purchase 50 additional CNG-fueled buses. When the buses arrive in about two years, the MTA will have one of the largest CNG fleets in the nations, with more than 980 coaches.

The Board decision comes on the heels of another action designed to put back into service more than 125 alcohol fueled buses which have been inoperative. The coaches will be converted to run on diesel at a cost of about \$15,000 per vehicle.

"These two actions along with other bus purchases now underway will greatly reduce the average age of the MTA bus fleet," said Ellen Levine, Executive Officer of Transit Operations. "We will achieve a six year average age within six years."

Levine noted that more new buses are arriving every day. She said that each week the MTA currently is receiving four CNG buses as part of an order of 250 coaches with Neoplan USA. The 50 buses ordered Thursday were part of an option to buy additional buses under that original Neoplan contract. The cost of each new coach will be \$324,000.

The MTA is expected to begin receiving the first of 223 new Flyer buses in little more than a year and has issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for 215 low floor CNG buses.

"Our riders are already seeing new buses on the street, and this translates into better, more convenient service for our patrons—something we are committed to achieving," Levine said.

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