



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATEMENT BY MTA CEO JULIAN BURKE RE: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
ISSUED BY THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT CONCERNING OPERATIONAL
STATUS OF WHEELCHAIR LIFTS ON METRO BUSES**

The MTA has begun reviewing the court order issued by U.S. District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall to determine what implementation of the order would entail.

We take our responsibility to fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act very seriously. In light of the ongoing replacement of our oldest buses with new buses, particularly buses with low floor features, we are confident the overall reliability of the wheelchair lifts in our fleet will continue to improve.

Moreover, we have stepped up our oversight of the three carriers who provide contract services on a small number of Metro bus lines in an effort to improve the reliability of the wheelchair lifts on their buses.

In addition, in this fiscal year the MTA has budgeted more than \$33 million for Access Services Inc. (ASI) which contracts for paratransit services on behalf of the MTA and other transit agencies in the county. ASI provides transportation for MTA's wheelchair patrons who cannot be accommodated on Metro buses.

The MTA is examining how ASI can augment our service to the disabled while the introduction of new buses into the fleet continues and until equipment maintenance issues are fully resolved.

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