



# NEWS

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## **MTA BOARD VOTES TO BUY 297 NEW BUSES IN COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER**

Complying with a federal court order, the MTA will immediately initiate the purchase of 297 new buses on top of the 2,095 buses the transportation agency is already purchasing to improve Metro Bus service and reduce overcrowding.

The MTA Board of Directors approved the action Sept. 29 in response to an order issued last week by Chief United States District Judge Terry Hatter, Jr.

It will cost \$116 million to buy the 297 new buses and \$97 million during the next five years to operate additional buses beyond the service expansion MTA already is implementing to overhaul the Metro Bus system and improve the quality of its service. In 1999 MTA already planned to deploy 160 additional buses during weekday rush hours.

MTA directors instructed MTA CEO Julian Burke to develop a financial plan for operating additional service. Burke will report back to the MTA Board in October on his progress in identifying those funds.

Since it is impossible for MTA to meet the judge's 30 day deadline to obtain 248 temporary buses while the new coaches are being ordered and built, the MTA Board authorized the MTA CEO to take appropriate legal actions to request a stay of the September 23 court order. The CEO and legal counsel also will file an appropriate notice with the court while determining whether to appeal other aspects of the judge's order.

MTA Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke said after the Board vote that MTA "is trying our best" to provide the best, safest and most efficient bus service for Metro riders.

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