



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Most new Metro buses shipped in 20 years

SUP. BURKE GIVES MEDIA TOUR OF NEW MTA BUSES

More new buses are arriving in Los Angeles than at any time in the past 20 years. Today, Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and other MTA officials led reporters on a tour of the agency's high-tech central maintenance facility where some of the new buses were being readied for service.

In a 15 month period from April 2001 forward, MTA will receive 750 new buses. The new buses are being manufactured by North American Bus Industries of Anniston, Ala. and New Flyer of America based in Crookston, Minn.

All the buses are powered by clean burning compressed natural gas and also are low-floor vehicles, which makes boarding and exiting easier for the elderly and disabled. They also come equipped with on board surveillance cameras to deter crime.

"With MTA taking delivery of so many new buses, it's no wonder that MTA has been cited as one of the 10 most improved public transit systems in North America," said Sup. Burke. "Besides replacing older, less reliable buses, MTA also is expanding service. You can see the difference on the street," she added.

Burke referred to an April 2001 article by Metro Magazine, which covers the public transportation industry as well as private bus companies. The magazine cited MTA as one of the most improved transit systems in North America.

More...

1st Add/New Metro Buses

MTA is completely revamping its bus fleet. It has already taken delivery of more than 1,200 new compressed natural gas buses. While many of these buses replace older coaches, MTA also has greatly expanded Metro Bus service. In the past five years the number of buses in service has increased by 377. In the next fiscal year which starts July 1, 2001, MTA's peak hour fleet will increase to a new record 2,129 buses compared with 2,012 today. Moreover, MTA revenue service hours will be 7.485 million in the next fiscal year compared with 7.312 million this fiscal year and nearly 1 million more service hours than MTA delivered just three years ago.

MTA also has inaugurated the popular new Metro Rapid bus service on selected lines. The special red and white painted buses make fewer stops and are equipped with special transmitters that extend green lights to speed up travel time compared to local bus lines.

Currently, between 20 to 30 new buses are being delivered to MTA every week. Before going into service, the buses are outfitted with radios, fare boxes and other equipment.

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