

## Metro Report Archives

### September

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#### **UPDATE**

##### [Transit Zone Bill Passes](#)

##### **Senate, Sent to Governor**

(September 10) The bill requiring newly created transit zones to honor labor agreements between the MTA and its unions passed the State Senate, Friday, by a vote of 22-13 and was sent to Governor Davis for signature. Davis has 30 days to act on the measure, now called SB-372.

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By Jose Ubaldo

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By Bill Heard, Editor

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### **FTA Administrator [Linton Visits](#) TCAP Program, MTA Headquarters**

(September 13) FTA Administrator Gordon Linton visited North Hollywood High School's Transportation Careers Academy Program (TCAP) classes, today, during site visits to two federally funded programs.

### **[Bus Order Status Report](#) MTA Adds 22 [New CNG Buses](#), 22 Converted Buses in September**

(September 14) The MTA – operator of the world's largest CNG bus fleet -- added 22 new Neoplan CNG buses into revenue service as of Sept. 1. The agency also returned 22 newly converted clean diesel buses to active service.

### **[Employee-Supportive](#) [HR Revises Recruitment](#), Selection Policy to Include Morale Report Recommendations**

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### **Long Arm of [Law Snags Violators](#) at Busy Metro Blue Line Grade Crossing**

(September 15) The Sheriff's Department motorcycle team assigned to patrol the 101 grade crossings on the Metro Blue Line handed out a fistful of citations, today, on Imperial Highway at the Rosa Parks Station.

### **MTA, City of Glendale Dedicate [Historic Depot](#), Transportation Center**

By Jose Ubaldo

(September 16) The MTA and the City of Glendale celebrated the restoration and rededication, Wednesday, of a historic train depot and the creation of the Glendale Transportation Center (GTC).

### **LASD, LAPD want Metro Bus Operators to go '[S-L-O-W](#)'**

(September 16) Every Metro Bus operator should go **S-L-O-W** if an

emergency incident occurs on a bus.

**Transit System 'Virtually Crime-Free,'  
LASD, LAPD Officers tell Committee**

(September 16) – "Your transit system is virtually crime-free," LA County Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman declared Wednesday in a statement to the MTA Board's Operations Committee.

**Congress Passes Transportation Bill  
With No Limit on Funds for CA, NY**

(September 17) Both houses of Congress have now passed versions of a bill - HR-2084 - that would provide \$49.5 billion for the nation's transportation agencies.

**Rail Crossing Violations Show Why  
California Leads US in Track Deaths**

(September 20) Every day, Sheriff's deputies write dozens of citations for pedestrian and vehicle violations at grade crossings of Metro Blue Line and Union Pacific tracks – on some busy days, one every 15 minutes.

**Acting on Customer Relations Report,  
LAPD Officers Arrest Stalker Suspect**

(September 22) Acting on a report received by an MTA Customer Relations representative, LAPD Transit Bus Division officers have arrested a man suspected of stalking an elementary school pupil at a Metro Bus stop.

**MTA Shows Progress During  
FY '99 Fourth Quarter Review**

(September 21) "We had a lot to be proud of during the fourth quarter," Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky declared, Tuesday, as he opened a review of the MTA's financial and operational performance last April, May and June.

**MTA Staff Preparing Analysis for Board  
Following Judge's Consent Decree Ruling**

(September 24) In the wake of a U.S. District Court decision, Thursday, ordering the MTA to immediately obtain 248 buses to reduce bus overcrowding, the MTA staff will begin work on an operational and financial analysis of the decision for discussion at a special Board meeting, Sept. 29.

**Gwen Williams to Head Procurement  
Following Top Management Changes**

(September 24) Gwendolyn W. Williams, a procurement professional with more than 15 years' experience, was named acting executive officer of the MTA's Procurement department following a management change effective Friday.

**Battalion Chief Bob Aaron Retires after  
37 Years with City Fire Dept., 12 with MTA**

(September 27) In the 12 years he has been assigned to the MTA, LA City Fire Battalion Chief Bob Aaron, 57, has seen the county's Metro Rail system grow from an idea to a reality.

**New Board Secretary Michelle Jackson  
Plans High-Tech Upgrade of Office**

(September 28) MTA Board Secretary Michelle Jackson knows that her position has always been a hands-on job, but giving it a high-tech

capability will improve service to Board members, agency staff and the public.

**Jury Awards Former MTA Treasurer \$837,040;  
County Counsel to Pursue New Trial, Possible Appeal**

(September 29) A Los Angeles Superior Court jury, Tuesday, awarded a former MTA treasurer \$837,040 in a wrongful termination suit against the MTA.

**MTA Board Votes to Buy 297 Buses to Comply with Federal Court Order**

(September 30) 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 already is buying to improve Metro Bus service and reduce overcrowding.

**Pay with Plastic Starting Monday at MTA Café**

(September 30) Starting Monday, MTA Café patrons at MTA Headquarters can buy their meals with cash or credit cards.

## **Read All About It!**

[Industry News Page](#) Offers List of Current Features and Latest Books on Transportation Available at MTA Library

Industry News Capsules, a new feature of Metro.Net on the Industry News Page, provides synopses of articles in professional transportation publications currently available in the MTA Library. This new feature also includes Select Library Acquisitions, a listing of new transportation-related books recently acquired by the library. The summaries are compiled by Dorothy Gray, Library Services Manager.

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## **Appeals Court Rules for MTA on Injunction Requiring Extra Service to Wheelchair Patrons**

(September 1) The Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has reversed portions of a preliminary injunction that required the MTA to provide service to wheelchair patrons that exceeded requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In a ruling handed down Tuesday, a three-judge panel agreed with MTA that "several of the injunction's directives exceed standards established by federal law (and) go beyond preserving the status quo."

"We are satisfied with the ruling and have always intended to comply with federal regulations," said MTA Principal Deputy County Counsel Alan Terakawa.

The injunction, issued in September 1998, forced the MTA to take out of service at the end of a run any bus whose wheelchair lift, or other accessibility or safety equipment, becomes inoperable in service, and to substitute an available bus with operable equipment.

The injunction also required that radios, lifts, doors, wheelchair clamps and safety straps be in working order at the time a bus began its route. The ADA allows a transit agency 72 hours to repair inoperable equipment.

As a result of Tuesday's ruling, radios will be eliminated from inspection and reporting requirements. In addition, the MTA no longer will be required to ensure that its contractors comply with any terms in the preliminary injunction which exceed Department of Transportation regulations.

The injunction stemmed from a class action lawsuit filed earlier by the ACLU which seeks \$8.8 million in damages for alleged violations by MTA and Ryder/ATE of requirements spelled out in the ADA.

In seeking the injunction, attorneys for the ACLU argued that immediate relief was needed. The appeals panel determined, however, that "without expressing any opinion on the relief that might be available after trial on the merits, we cannot uphold preliminary relief that is so overbroad."

Trial on the ACLU lawsuit could begin in March 2000.

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## Sears TV Commercial, 4 Other MTA Shoots Set in September



**LIGHT THE SET!-- A lighting man atop a boom directs a powerful beam on workers preparing the set of a Sears commercial at MTA Headquarters Plaza entrance.**

(September 1) A film production company hung a huge black curtain across the entrance to MTA Headquarters, Wednesday, in preparation for filming a Sears TV commercial – the first of five film shoots scheduled on MTA property in September.



Cucoloris Films of Venice, headed by Danny Duchovny – brother of "X-Files" star David Duchovny – also planned to film part of the commercial in the East Portal before the day's shoot ended, according to Herman Hagan, MTA Marketing manager and film industry liaison.

**A DOG'S LIFE-- Director Danny Duchovny's dog, Bear, attends all his film shoots.**

On Sept. 11-12, a crew will film portions of a TV commercial for Sony Pictures at the Metro Green Line yard in Hawthorne. Filming for an untitled movie is scheduled mid-month at the North Hollywood subway station. On Sept. 22, a commercial for Xircom, Inc., will be shot on Patsaouras Plaza, while on Sept. 24, a TV pilot for Touchstone Pictures will be filmed in the Board Room.

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## **MTA Employee Count Up 3.4 Percent Since July '98**

(September 2) The number of active MTA employees has risen by 3.4 percent since July 1, 1998, to a total of 8,106, according to the latest figures released by Human Resources.

In a report issued July 1, 1999, HR said there are 158 more Metro Bus and Metro Rail operators this year than there were a year ago -- a 4.16 percent increase. The number of bus and rail mechanics, maintenance assistants, electricians, maintenance and technical staff rose by 78 during the past year -- a 4.56 percent increase.

Employee counts indicate that, as of July 1, there were 25 more management, professional and administrative employees and 13 additional clerical staff and Customer Service Agents, but seven fewer security guards than last year.

As of July 1, there were 3,956 UTU-represented employees, 1,790 ATU-represented personnel, 1,163 non-represented employees, 627 employees represented by TCU, 517 represented by AFSCME and 53 Teamster-represented workers. These figures do not include employees on leaves of absence.

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### **Update -- SB1101**

#### **Transit Zone Unit Bill Advances in Assembly**

(September 2) The Assembly Appropriations Committee on Wednesday approved and sent forward to the full Assembly SB-1101, a bill that will require transit zones to honor labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

On a party-line vote that skirted Republican objections, committee Democrats substituted the language of SB-1101 for the text of an unrelated measure, SB-372. In its new form, SB-372 is expected to be considered on the Assembly floor early next week.

Supporters of the measure say the pay and benefits of MTA employees transferred to a transit zone must be protected. The MTA Board, which opposes the bill, has told lawmakers that the formation of transit zones is a local matter and that the legislature should not place conditions on how zones are formed.

The Board has adopted Local Transportation Zone Guidelines that require "adequate provision" for employees "who may be displaced, or whose wages, hours, place or conditions of employment are or may be adversely affected by zone implementation." The guidelines also cite state Public Utility Codes requiring protection for workers and labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

Proposed transit zones in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys want to operate a total of 27 MTA bus lines – almost a third of the MTA's peak hour buses. In late May, the MTA Board approved pre-applications filed by the Greater San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone and Foothill Transit.

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## CEO Burke Tours RRC; Plans Visits to Other Operations Sites



**TCU President Olivia Nelson received a 20-year service pin from CEO Julian Burke**

(September 3) CEO Julian Burke toured the Regional Rebuild Center on Friday, meeting employees and asking questions about their work. It was one in a series of visits to Transit Operations divisions and facilities that will be scheduled at intervals for the remainder of 1999 and into 2000.



During a two-and-a-half-hour tour of the Regional Rebuild Center on Friday, Burke spoke with employees in the support shops, paint shop, quality and reliability office, central warehouse and many other shops.

Burke, accompanied by Transit Operations Exexecutive Officer Tom Conner, was shown the step-by-step through the process of refurbishing buses – from engine rebuilding through final painting. The work employees perform at each location was explained as the tour proceeded around the 23-acre facility.

At one point, the CEO took a moment to present a 20-year service pin to Olivia Nelson, president of TCU, Local 1315. At every location, he shook hands and asked questions.

"Among many other aspects of the RRC operation, I was particularly impressed with the way the work flows through the shops and with the computized perpetual inventory system," Burke said. "As I meet more and more Operations employees, I'm astounded by the experience and talent I've seen at the divisions and here at the RRC."

"These visits are an opportunity for the CEO to meet the members of the staff whose work puts our buses on the streets and keeps our rail cars in service," said Conner. "As a new MTA employee, these tours also are teaching me a lot about the operation."

Burke also visited with employees at Division 3, Aug. 12; Division 2, Aug. 31, and at Division 5, Sept. 2. In coming months, he'll tour all the remaining Metro Bus and Metro Rail divisions, as well as the Bus Operations Control Center and the Rail Operations Center.

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## **Last FY '99 MAP, Budget Meetings Set Sept. 7-14**

(September 7) The final FY '99 quarterly meetings to review departmental Management Action Plans (MAP) progress and budget variances will be conducted Sept. 7-14.

The meetings are intended to monitor department progress toward achieving their goals, to keep the agency on budget and to encourage communication within departments and across the agency. Any employee responsible for MAP objectives within a department is invited to attend the review sessions.

All employees are invited to attend an agency-wide meeting Sept. 21. At this meeting, executive officers and department heads will give an overview of their departments' progress. The meeting is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the Board room. Third floor overflow rooms also will be available for seating.

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## **MTA Receives Unprecedented Grants for its Continuing Commitment to Improve Air Quality**

By Jose Ubaldo

(September 10) The MTA has received two landmark clean air grants totaling \$8.4 million to help purchase new CNG buses that will be in service by spring 2000.

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) -- a regional clean air funding group -- provided \$6.4 million to help purchase 277 CNG buses. This is the largest single clean air award of its type ever in Southern California.

The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) approved more than \$2 million to assist the MTA in purchasing 73 additional CNG buses. This award is funded by the State Air Resources Board.

"Thanks to the MSRC and the AQMD, these awards will help us to maintain our commitment to clean air and provide better bus service for the citizens of Los Angeles County," said CEO Julian Burke. "In a time of budget challenges, this assistance is welcome news."

The \$8.4 million in funding will help offset the difference between the cost of a CNG bus and a diesel bus. The average cost of a CNG bus is \$325,000 -- approximately \$40,000 more than a comparable diesel bus.

The buses will be built by North America Bus Industries (NABI), New Flyer of America and Neoplan. The MTA will begin receiving funding on a schedule matching the delivery of the new buses, to be completed by spring 2000.

"The financial assistance by the MSRC and AQMD are significant because they recognize the dedication and hard work MTA provides to improve air quality and bus service in the Greater Los Angeles area," said Tom Conner, executive officer, Transit Operations. "This should set a precedent for clean air funding programs in the future."

The MTA competed against other transit agencies in Southern California and submitted a cost effective proposal. The MTA awards are the result of months of work by the agency's staff and elected officials.

Instrumental in obtaining the clean air grants for the MTA were Douglas Kim, MTA Air Quality Program manager and a member of the MSRP's Technical Advisory Committee; George Karbowski, Equipment Engineering supervisor and an alternate on the committee; Charlene Lee, MTA Transportation planner and grant writer; and Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, the MTA's representative on the MSRP.

The MTA already has 696 Neoplan CNG buses and will soon begin receiving 223 CNG buses manufactured by New Flyer. In January, 2000, the MTA also will begin deploying 215 low-floor CNG buses manufactured by NABI.

The MSRC is an eight member committee consisting of representatives of Southern California county transportation commissions along with other state and local officials. The MSRC funds clean air projects from part of a \$4 fee paid through annual vehicle registrations.

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## **MTA Would Receive \$875,000 in Revenue from Ads on Metro Rail**

(September 10, 1999) The MTA would receive \$875,000 in revenues over the next two years under a proposal to sell ad space on Metro Rail trains and in stations. The Operations Committee will consider the proposal during its Sept. 15 meeting.

If the proposal gains committee approval, the Board will be asked to approve a staff recommendation to award a contract to Transportation Displays Inc. (TDI) The MTA currently receives about \$13 million annually from the sale of advertising space on Metro Buses. TDI also handles the Metro Bus advertising contract.

The proposed contract specifies that ads – including full-car wraps and king ads - can be placed on the exteriors of Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line cars. The agreement does not permit wraps and king ads on Metro Red Line cars.

The contract would permit the ad agency to place car cards in about 50 percent of interior display frames on all Metro Rail cars. The other 50 percent would be reserved for MTA transit information. The vendor also can place ads in about 50 percent of all Metro Rail station display cases, reserving the rest for transit information.

The ad agency would not be permitted to place ads for alcohol or tobacco products, or for any advertiser who does not offer a commercial product or service for sale. As in its current Metro Bus ad contract, the MTA reserves the right to reject any ad it finds unsuitable for display.

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## **UPDATE**

### **Transit Zone Bill Passes Senate, Sent to Governor**

(September 10) The bill requiring newly created transit zones to honor labor agreements between the MTA and its unions passed the State Senate, Friday, by a vote of 22-13 and was sent to Governor Davis for signature. Davis has 30 days to act on the measure, now called SB-372.

Supporters of the transit zone union bill say the pay and benefits of MTA employees transferred to a transit zone must be protected. The MTA Board, which opposes the bill, has told lawmakers that the formation of transit zones is a local matter and that the legislature should not place conditions on how zones are formed.

The Board has adopted Local Transportation Zone Guidelines that require "adequate provision" for employees "who may be displaced, or whose wages, hours, place or conditions of employment are or may be adversely affected by zone implementation." The guidelines also cite state Public Utility Codes requiring protection for workers and labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

Proposed transit zones in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys want to operate a total of 27 percent of MTA service hours and 28 percent of peak hour buses. In late May, the MTA Board approved pre-applications filed by the Greater San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone and Foothill Transit.

#### **In Other Assembly Action**

Earlier, the Senate passed AB-923 a bill that would increase fines for violation of rail rights-of-way from the current \$101 to \$271. Sponsored by the MTA and SCRRA, the measure would direct a portion of the increased fines to rail transportation agencies for educational and safety purposes. The bill now must be approved by the Assembly before being sent to the governor.

Meanwhile, Assembly Republicans acted together to defeat a constitutional amendment proposed by Democrats that would have allowed many California counties to add a half-cent sales tax that would provide funds for transportation projects. It also would have extended existing transportation sales taxes for 20 years. The measure would not have affected Los Angeles County, which already has a permanent one-cent transportation sales tax.

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## FTA Administrator Linton Visits TCAP Program, MTA Headquarters



**TCAP Showcase:** FTA Administrator Gordon Linton, center, visited with TCAP students from five local high schools. From left, Gladys Rivas, North Hollywood High; Keith Callahan, Locke High; Hung Khanh Tran, Wilson High; and Clementine Ramirez, John Glenn High. Also attending was Sandy Ramos, Franklin High, (not pictured).

(September 13) FTA Administrator Gordon Linton visited North Hollywood High School's Transportation Careers Academy Program (TCAP) classes, today, during site visits to two federally funded programs.

Earlier, Linton toured the NoHo Transit Art Park at Lankershim and Magnolia boulevards. Following his tours, the MTA hosted a lunch at Headquarters for Linton, MTA directors and executives, LAUSD Board members and TCAP principals, coordinators and students from the five TCAP schools.

Following lunch, students showcased projects in architecture, Global Information Systems, Automated Computer Aided Design and engineering. Afterward, accompanied by CEO Julian Burke, Linton met with Mayor Richard Riordan at City Hall for policy discussions.

Some 600 students in the ninth through 12th grades currently are enrolled in TCAP at North Hollywood High, Franklin High, Locke High and Wilson High in LAUSD and at John Glenn High in the Norwalk-La Mirada School District.

TCAP is funded by grants and matched funding from the MTA, FTA and other federal agencies, in cooperation with the two school districts and the Los Angeles Community College District. At the MTA, the program is coordinated by the Human Resources Development and Training Department.

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## **Employee-Supportive**

# **HR Revises Recruitment, Selection Policy to Include Morale Report Recommendations**

(September 14) MTA Human Resources is issuing a revised Recruitment and Selection Policy that incorporates employee-supportive recommendations developed in response to the Morale Report.

Highlighted among the changes reflected in the policy, HR 3-1, is a provision that expands the time a job candidate may remain in a Qualified Candidate Pool (QCP) from six months to 18 months before he or she must reapply or be retested for the position.

## **Interviews Required**

The hiring department must interview all QCP candidates and lateral transfer candidates who meet the "ideal candidate profile" established by the hiring department and the HR analyst at the beginning of the recruitment process.

"We think this is an employee and management supportive policy," said Ray Inge, Executive Officer of Human Resources. He noted that policy recommendations were developed by the Coopers & Lybrand Work Process Improvement Team, the Human Asset Management Workout Team, and the Employee Morale Task Force.

"I think it is a fair policy that will give employees more opportunity for advancement," said Naomi Nightingale, Director of Human Resources. She encouraged employees to apply for all job postings for which they meet the minimum qualifications in order to be included in a QCP.

## **"At-Will" Positions Limited**

Another important addition limits direct appointments to "at-will" positions at the department head level and above. In order to move to a different position, at-will employees must compete in the normal recruitment and selection process.

The policy also requires that acting appointments be made from a QCP. If none exists, HR must begin a priority recruitment to establish a QCP. According to the policy, acting appointments should be temporary, not to exceed six months, and the practice should be kept to a minimum.

## **Other Important Policy Features**

Other noteworthy features of the revised Recruitment and Selection Policy include these provisions:

- Lateral transfer opportunities must be posted for at least seven working days.
- Temporary employees with six months of continuous service may apply for internal postings.
- Regular employees who have not completed their initial probationary period may apply for internal postings, but won't be certified for hiring department interviews until they complete the probationary period.
- The hiring department's interviews with job candidates may be conducted simultaneously with HR interviews as a means of expediting the selection process.
- Trainee underfill appointments enable departments to underfill higher level budgeted positions for training purposes.

The revised policy will be effective immediately.

Click here [MTA POLICY #HR 3-1](#) to review document.

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### **Bus Order Status Report**

## **MTA Adds 22 New CNG Buses, 22 Converted Buses in September**



### **FACTS ABOUT THE FLEET**

- \* MTA to buy 2,095 new buses by 2004.
- \* MTA has world's largest CNG fleet -- 694 buses.
- \* MTA to buy 438 low-floor CNG buses.
- \* 201 of 333 alcohol-fueled buses converted to clean diesel.

(September 14) The MTA -- operator of the world's largest CNG bus fleet -- added 22 new Neoplan CNG buses into revenue service as of Sept. 1. The agency also returned 22 newly converted clean diesel buses to active service.

Of the 2,095 new buses the MTA plans to purchase through 2004, a total of 457 will be delivered by the end of September. This fiscal year, the Vehicle Acquisition and Technical Support Department plans to turn over 450 new coaches and 180 converted buses to Transit Operations.

Here's a status report on current orders for the Metro Bus fleet:

**Neoplan.** The MTA has accepted all 400 CNG buses purchased under a 1997 contract with Neoplan. The MTA is working with the company to resolve performance and reliability problems with some of the new coaches. The agency also is looking at ways to improve the operating range of the CNG buses.

Of the 400 new Neoplan buses, 203 were delivered to Division 10, 100 to Division 3 and 97 to Division 18.

**Detroit Diesel.** The latest figures provided by MTA Procurement indicate that Detroit Diesel had converted 201 of the original 333 ethanol/methanol buses to clean diesel. Only 10 alcohol-fueled buses remain operational.

**New Flyer.** The MTA has received the first three CNG buses of a 223-bus order from New Flyer and will put the buses into revenue service shortly.

Inventory and supply problems have delayed production of the order by 30 to 60 days. The company will be assessed damages for every bus not delivered by Dec. 31, 1999. The MTA also has exercised an option to buy 223 additional low-floor CNG buses from New Flyer for delivery beginning next summer.

**NABI.** In a separate order, NABI said it is



experiencing 30- to 60-day delays in production of 215 low-floor CNG buses. The company now plans to begin delivery of the first buses of this order in late January or early February, 2000.

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## Long Arm of Law Snags Violators at Busy Metro Blue Line Grade Crossing



By Ed Scannell

(September 15) The Sheriff's Department motorcycle team assigned to patrol the 101 grade crossings on the Metro Blue Line handed out a fistful of citations, today, on Imperial Highway at the Rosa Parks Station.



With several media outlets on hand, the deputies cited a number of motorists for vehicle code and rail crossing violations. Their goal: Drive home the message that safety behind the wheel is paramount, particularly at grade crossings where Metro Blue Line trains whiz by at speeds up to 55 mph.



The motorcycle team first hit the streets last November when two deputies mounted up. Now at full strength, the eight-member team has been well received in communities along the light-rail alignment for its efforts at reducing the number of train vs. vehicle and train vs. pedestrian accidents.

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The motorcycle team first hit the streets last November when two deputies mounted up. Now at full strength, the eight-member team has been well received in communities along the light-rail alignment for its efforts at reducing the number of train vs. vehicle and train vs. pedestrian accidents.

**Above, Sheriff's Deputy Marion Tucker tickets a motorist near the Metro Blue Line Rosa Parks Station. Below, two Sheriff's Deputies write a citation for the operator of a truck near the Metro Blue Line Rosa Parks Station.**

Reporting on the law enforcement activities on Imperial Highway were Channels 4, 34 and 52, KFWB, Metro Networks Radio (Spanish) and the Chinese Daily News.

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## MTA, City of Glendale Dedicate Historic Depot, Transportation Center



By Jose Ubaldo  
(September 16) The MTA and the City of Glendale celebrated the restoration and rededication, Wednesday, of a historic train depot and the creation of the Glendale Transportation Center (GTC).

The ceremony crowned a ten-year project for the city and the MTA. The current depot, built in 1924, reflects the Spanish Colonial Revival architecture style.

**Metro Art's Alan Nakagawa, left, and Director Maya Emsden, far right, flank artist Lynn Goodpasture and architect Adolfo Miralles at rededication of historic depot.**

The rail facilities feature a new pavilion and a five-foot diameter ceramic clock. Created by artist Lynn Goodpasture, the clock features the "Oak of Peace" in Glendale where the idea of a peace treaty ending the California phase of the Mexican-American war was broached.

The pavilion was the work of architect Adolfo Miralles, who also designed the Hollywood/Vine Metro Red Line Station. Miralles, Goodpasture, MTA Art Director Maya Emsden and Senior Public Arts Officer Alan Nakagawa attended Wednesday's ceremony.

The Glendale Transportation Center provides facilities for several modes of mass transit. These include Metro Bus services, Metrolink, Amtrak, Greyhound and Glendale Beeline Bus Services.

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## **Automated Passenger Counters Give Valuable Data on Metro Bus Ridership**

By Bill Heard, Editor

(September 16) Automated Passenger Counters now installed on some 60 Metro Buses, are generating reams of valuable information the MTA can use to improve customer service.

So much good data, in fact, that the agency wants to extend the use of APCs and even purchase its own passenger counting devices. Currently, each Metro Bus division has been assigned buses equipped with leased APCs that are scheduled on various runs throughout the week.

"The MTA can use the information provided by the APCs to better manage our bus operations," says Dana Woodbury, deputy executive officer, Operations Planning and Scheduling. "APCs can help determine the number of buses needed, monitor schedule adherence and aid in adjusting schedules."

The goal is to equip 15 to 20 percent of the Metro Bus fleet with APCs. That's enough, Woodbury says, to properly monitor passenger loading and on-time performance.

The APC system now being used is able to determine to within 10 to 15 percent accuracy the number of passengers who rode the bus during its runs. The APCs use Automatic Vehicle Location Systems (AVL) with GPS (Global Positioning System) devices to pinpoint the location of each bus stop while the sensor records the number of passengers. Infrared sensors are mounted at the front and rear doors to detect embarking and disembarking passengers.

Urban Transportation Assoc. of Cincinnati installs and services the APCs, retrieves the data each week, processes and analyzes it and provides a report to the MTA. The agency currently is negotiating with the vendor for up to two more years of service, while the MTA prepares specifications to acquire its own APC units.

"APCs will change the way we collect and analyze transit service data," says Rodger Maxwell, project manager. "They'll provide a large volume of data we can use to more accurately identify service problems and successes. Our schedule checkers then can look into the specific causes of the problems."

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## LASD, LAPD want Metro Bus Operators to go 'S-L-O-W'



(September 16) Every Metro Bus operator should go **S-L-O-W** if an emergency incident occurs on a bus.

That's the advice of Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman, who notes that decals with the letters **S-L-O-W** have been placed on the dashboards of all Metro Buses. If an incident occurs, operators can use the acronym to remember how to react to the emergency.

Following the **S-L-O-W** formula will help police officers who are dispatched to respond to an emergency call. The letters stand for:

**S** - Stop the bus in an area of clear visibility.

**L** - Lights inside the bus should be turned on, outside lights should be turned off.

**O** - Open doors and turn off engine.

**W** - Walk away from the bus toward police officers.

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## Transit System 'Virtually Crime-Free,' LASD, LAPD Officers tell Committee

(September 16) – "Your transit system is virtually crime-free," LA County Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman declared Wednesday in a statement to the MTA Board's Operations Committee.

"When you look at the number of passengers using the system – both bus and rail – and you look at the number of reported crimes," said Klugman, who heads the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, "it's such a small number, you're not able to register it."



Klugman's assertion was affirmed by Capt. Vance Proctor, officer in charge of the LAPD's Transit Group. With bus ridership in the City of Los Angeles at 20.6 million for July, LAPD statistics for such crimes as robbery and assault show a ratio of only .38 per 100,000 riders – far below the 5,500 crimes per 100,000 population of the city, itself.

"Any crime on the transit system is one crime too many," Proctor said, "but when you look at the reality of the crime picture, transit within the City of Los Angeles is a very safe conveyance to ride."

**LASD, LAPD want Metro Bus Operators to go 'S-L-O-W.' [Click on S-L-O-W](#) for emergency procedure.**

Klugman said only 175 bus-related crimes have been reported to the Transit Services Bureau, year-to-date – "a remarkable figure." Although he believes not every crime had been reported, he said it "speaks to how minor the crimes are that are being committed."

Sheriff's deputies are making about 1,700 bus boardings each month, Klugman said, noting that the effort is making an impact on crime in those areas where analysis shows most transit crimes occur.

Proctor told the committee that LAPD undercover and uniformed officers had made 32,407 bus boardings through August, a 143 percent increase over last year. The Transit Group also has worked to ensure that the entire LAPD force is alert to incidents involving Metro Buses.

"We've been to every LAPD bureau staff meeting, every division supervisors' meeting and every single roll call in the city," Proctor said. "We've told the officers, 'You are part of this partnership. You have a responsibility in transit safety in this city.'"

Paul Lennon, managing director, MTA System Safety and Security, reported that the Bus Operations Control Center receives an average of 40 to 45 SAS emergency alarms from bus operators each month. BOCC relays those calls to police dispatch within an average of 2.45 minutes.

Lennon said BOCC's response time for routine calls from operators improved 42 percent between June and August. In June, response time was 24 minutes, Lennon said. That was cut to 18 minutes in July and

to 14 minutes in August. The goal, he said, is to reduce response time for routine calls to 10 minutes.

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## **Congress Passes Transportation Bill With No Limit on Funds for CA, NY**

(September 17) Both houses of Congress have now passed versions of a bill - HR-2084 - that would provide \$49.5 billion for the nation's transportation agencies.

As passed by the Senate on a 95-0 vote, the bill no longer contains a provision requiring a 12.5 percent cap on federal transportation funding for California and New York. Senators from both states had threatened a filibuster if the Senate had insisted upon keeping the cap in the bill.

The bill now will be discussed in a House-Senate conference committee.

The House version of the bill earmarks a total of \$64.8 million for the MTA. This amount includes \$50 million for completion of the North Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line, \$5 million for preliminary engineering design and environmental work on the Mid-Cities and East LA transportation corridors, \$7 million for Metro Bus purchases, \$1.8 million for intelligent transportation system deployment projects, such as signal synchronization, and \$1 million in job access and reverse commute grants.

The Senate has named its 13 committee conferees. The House is expected to name its conferees next week.

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(September 20) Every day, Sheriff's deputies write dozens of citations for pedestrian and vehicle violations at grade crossings of Metro Blue Line and Union Pacific tracks – on some busy days, one every 15 minutes.

Sunday, Sept. 19, was no exception. During the annual "California Operation Lifesaver" railway safety event, deputies wrote 15 citations for violations involving moving violations, stopping on the tracks and failing to obey signals, according to Sheriff's Lt. Dave Telez.

Speaking at a pre-event news conference, California Operation Lifesaver president Eric Jacobsen, said California leads the nation in railroad trespasser fatalities, with more than 300 deaths between 1995 and 1998. Another 100 died in highway rail-crossing collisions with trains.

"More trains are operating today in California," Jacobsen said. "This is a growing state and people are using the rights of way for recreation with off-road vehicles, biking and jogging. People don't know it's illegal to trespass on railroad property."

Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman, head of the Transit Services Bureaus for both the MTA and Metrolink, said police groups across the U.S. are "aggressively enforcing trespassing laws on rail property to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths. In Los Angeles, we work with the MTA and SCRRA to emphasize enforcement, education and engineering."

California Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit safety coalition of freight, passenger and commuter railroads, law enforcement and government officials, also held events in Riverside, City of Industry, Lancaster and San Diego. The organization is sponsoring a TV public service campaign called "Highways or Dieways" to educate the public about safe behavior around railroad tracks.

Want to join the 2,500 Operation Lifesaver volunteers? For

information, call 1-800-537-6224. Or Eric Jacobsen at 530-367-3918 or [caol@foothill.net](mailto:caol@foothill.net).

- **Safety Tips and Track Facts**

### **Safety Tips from 'Operation Lifesaver'**

**Never** drive around lowered crossing gates - it's illegal and deadly.

**Never** race a train to a crossing - even if you tie, you lose.

**Don't** get trapped on a crossing.

**If** your vehicle stalls, get out and call for help.

**Expect** a train on the tracks at any time.

**Watch** for a second train when crossing multiple tracks.

**Don't** misjudge a train's speed and distance.

**Be** aware trains can't stop quickly.

### **Track Facts**

- Approximately every 115 minutes in the U.S. a train hits a vehicle or pedestrian.
- California has 12,774 highway-rail grade crossings.
- A motorist is 40 times more likely to die in a collision with a train than in a collision with another motor vehicle.
- Over half of crashes at public grade crossings occur where active warning devices are installed.
- An average freight train with 100 cars moving at 55 mph takes a mile or more to stop.

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## MTA Shows Progress During FY '99 Fourth Quarter Review



(September 21) "We had a lot to be proud of during the fourth quarter," Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky declared, Tuesday, as he opened a review of the MTA's financial and operational performance last April, May and June.

Ticking off the agency's successes during the last three months of FY '99, Lipsky gave special recognition to Metro Construction and Rail Operations, Media Relations, Marketing, Government Relations and System Safety and Security for their work during the opening of the Metro Red Line to Hollywood.

**Chief Operating Officer**

**Allan Lipsky**

He also praised Transit Operations for improving bus service, Finance and Management Audit for improved reporting procedures and Board Research Services for its support of the Board staff.

As action items for FY 2000, Lipsky listed startup and completion of agency capital projects, improvements in the procurement process, an accelerated program to provide computer cabling for operating divisions and improvements in the MTA's hiring process.

"I'm stunned at the accomplishments of the quarter and of the year," CEO Julian Burke said at the close of the meeting. "We continue to tighten the organization and improve ourselves. We still have a long way to go, but we should congratulate each other."

Highlights from individual department presentations include:

### **Metro Construction**

- Reported completion of the Division 3 CNG fueling facility.
- Received 15 Siemens cars for use on the Pasadena Metro Blue Line.
- Completed art work installation in seven Metro Rail stations, one Metrolink station and three Customer Service Centers.

### **Transit Operations**

- Achieved 99.1 percent in on-time bus pullouts.
- Improved bus schedule adherence 16 percent from first quarter, FY '99.
- Reduced operator absenteeism by 3.65 days per operator.
- Trained 338 mechanics during the fourth quarter.

### **Finance**

- Accounting improved quarterly financial reporting.
- Cut check requests from 600 to 357 per month.
- Helped the Board pass the FY 2000 budget a month early.

### **Management Audit**

- Realized \$30.8 million in savings resulting from contract audits.
- Identified \$18.7 million in grant funds through audits.

### **Human Resources**

- Implemented a 4-percent pay raise for non-represented employees.
- Hired 661 BDOF operators and 459 other employees.
- Processed 173 retirements during the quarter and a total of 500 for the fiscal year.
- Resumed ticket sales by Employee Activities.
- Reduced Employee Relations' arbitration caseload by 25 percent.
- Issued a revised Recruitment and Selection Policy.



- Brought the TLAMP program for management training in-house and scheduled the first class of the new Transportation Leadership Academy (TLA) to begin Sept. 24.
- Established the MTA Training Council to use staff skills and talents as a training resource.

### Administration

- The Y2K team has completed 90 percent of the work to bring mission-critical computer systems into Y2K compliance.
- ITS has achieved 99.8 percent on-line availability of computer network and services.
- Real Estate and Marketing generated more than \$26 million in revenues from bus advertising and film location leasing.
- Customer Information responded to some 500,000 information calls, assisted 5,937 walk-in customers and answered 1,218 customer letters in the fourth quarter.

### Risk Management

- Reduced the number of workers compensation claims from 5,000 to 4,000.
- Achieved \$4.1 million in savings from claims settlements.
- Realized some \$200,000 in savings from the Transitional Duty Program.

### Systems Safety and Security

- No lost-time accidents by contractor personnel in last two quarters.
- Completed two full rounds of "Cops & Ops" visits to operating divisions.
- Improved response by dispatchers and police to bus operator calls for assistance.
- Increased the number of bus boardings by police.

### RTP&D

- Completed the \$558 million Call for Projects.
- Obtained a \$125 million grant for the North Hollywood Metro Rail project and a \$7.9 million grant for studies of rail projects on the Eastside and Mid-Cities.
- Collected \$12 million from Benefit Assessment Districts.
- Received \$8 million for bus procurements from a clean-air agency.
- Helped secure \$160 million for freeway soundwall construction.

### Procurement

- Received 186 new buses during the fourth quarter.
- Completed conversion of 155 alcohol-fueled buses to clean diesel during the quarter.
- Recovered \$2.8 million in warranty payments from manufacturers.
- Reduced the backlog of construction contracts by 62 percent.

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## **Acting on Customer Relations Report, LAPD Officers Arrest Stalker Suspect**

(September 22) Acting on a report received by an MTA Customer Relations representative, LAPD Transit Bus Division officers have arrested a man suspected of stalking an elementary school pupil at a Metro Bus stop.

Jose Lemus, 34, was arrested Tuesday by GHOST graffiti team officers who were watching the bus stop when he allegedly approached the young girl. He was booked on a charge of child annoying and bail was set at \$2,500. Three earlier reports of stalking and child annoying were on file against Lemus, police said.

Customer Relations Representative Monica Macon received the original complaint, Sept. 16, from the principal of St. Paul Elementary School in the Mid-Cities area of Los Angeles. GHOST team officers followed up by meeting with the principal and devising a surveillance plan.

In a memo, Tuesday, Capt. Vance Proctor offered "a special thanks to (Monica Macon of) MTA Customer Relations for quickly and accurately forwarding the concerns..." of the principal to the Transit Bus Division.

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## **MTA Staff Preparing Analysis for Board Following Judge's Consent Decree Ruling**

By Bill Heard, Editor

(September 24) In the wake of a U.S. District Court decision, Thursday, ordering the MTA to immediately obtain 248 buses to reduce bus overcrowding, the MTA staff will begin work on an operational and financial analysis of the decision for discussion at a special Board meeting, Sept. 29.

In a five-page order, Judge Hatter ruled that the MTA must buy 248 additional buses within 30 days instead of the 481 additional buses in the Special Master's order. He also wrote that, in light of the MTA's apparent increased fleet reliability, the Special Master should reconsider whether the MTA needs to purchase 49 additional buses as spares.

Combined with the Special Master's order, Hatter's ruling requires the MTA to purchase a total of 297 new buses. The analysis being prepared by the staff will determine the amount of additional service required by the ruling and the schedule for implementing the ruling.

The judge's ruling affirms all other findings and determinations of the Special Master's orders. He said the court must accept the Special Master's findings unless they were "clearly erroneous."

At next Wednesday's special meeting, Board members are expected to consider a response to the court's decision. The special session follows the Board's September meeting during which members heard reports about the MTA's progress in rebuilding the bus fleet and improving service.

In his remarks to the Board, CEO Julian Burke said the MTA has made "significant improvement in our bus operations, which continued right through the summer. In May and June, we began to see many fewer cancelled trips, better on-time performance and cleaner vehicles."

Burke said the "Consent Decree load factor compliance reached 99 percent and will continue to rise as our remediation plan progresses." He also said he is "cautiously optimistic" about a better working relationship between the MTA and the Bus Riders Union in the Joint Working Group.

In his ruling, Judge Hatter directed the Special Master - working with the MTA and BRU - to consider other measures to reduce overcrowding. As examples, Hatter mentioned moving buses from less crowded lines and reducing or eliminating MTA service that overlaps municipal bus service.

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## Gwen Williams to Head Procurement Following Top Management Changes

By Bill Heard, Editor

(September 24) Gwendolyn W. Williams, a procurement professional with more than 15 years' experience, was named acting executive officer of the MTA's Procurement department following a management change effective Friday



Williams, who joined the MTA in 1991 as a senior contracts administrator, had served as deputy executive officer of Metro Construction administration for the past two and a half years. She replaces Michael O'Connor who left the agency Friday. Also leaving the department were deputy executive officers Richard Carron and Anne Fischer.

**Gwen Williams**

"Procurement needed a fresh start," said Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky. "It was overburdened with process. Other departments have improved, but Procurement hasn't kept pace."

Lipsky said the MTA will immediately begin recruiting for a permanent Procurement executive officer. In the meantime, he expressed confidence in Williams' abilities, citing her procurement background and thorough knowledge of the agency.

"We've given Gwen assurances of our full and active support," Lipsky said, "but, it's her mission to fulfill."

In an interview with *MTA Report*, Williams said she wants to use her first 30 days in office to identify "in great detail what the issues are." Although she had observed Procurement from outside the department, she plans to spend time with employees to learn about all the issues.

"At this morning's staff meeting, I asked them to send e-mails identifying the challenges they individually face in doing their jobs efficiently and effectively," Williams said. "I want to give them an opportunity to be heard and to give me information."

Next week, Williams plans to meet with Procurement managers and then with the managers and their staffs. She also intends to have frequent all-staff meetings to keep employees abreast of progress.

"I'm going to do the best I can," Williams said. "There's a lot of healing that needs to take place."

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**Editor's Note:** A retirement party for Battalion Chief Bob Aaron is planned for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. For information, contact Verita Dixon, 922-7271; Donna Finn, 922-4296; or Mike Littleton, 922-7269.

## **Battalion Chief Bob Aaron Retires after 37 Years with City Fire Dept., 12 with MTA**



**Retiring LA City Fire Battalion Chief Bob Aaron, left, and his successor, Battalion Chief Mike Littleton.**

By Bill Heard, Editor

(September 27) In the 12 years he has been assigned to the MTA, LA City Fire Battalion Chief Bob Aaron, 57, has seen the county's Metro Rail system grow from an idea to a reality.

When Aaron - who retires this month with 37 years on the job - began working with the SCRTD back in 1987, the Metro Red Line was still in the planning stage. In the ensuing years, he helped prepare for and witnessed the opening of Metro Red Line Segments 1 and 2, along with the opening of the Metro Blue Line and the Metro Green Line.

Aaron has served as a member of the MTA's Fire-Life Safety Committee, a group that includes representatives from the County Fire Department and the MTA. The Committee ensures compliance with rail safety codes and standards. Battalion Chief Mike Littleton will replace Aaron as City Fire Department representative to the MTA and on the committee.

During his years with the MTA, Aaron has seen fires and sinkholes, but he's also helped initiate safety improvements that have made the MTA a national leader in fire and life safety on the rails. These improvements have included sprinklers in the stations and water standpipes, fire alarm systems, ventilation systems and emergency lighting and exiting corridors.

He also was instrumental in persuading the National Fire Protection Association to adopt fire and life safety standards developed by the MTA.

In an interview with *MTA Report*, Aaron recalled the July, 1990, tunnel fire beneath the Hollywood Freeway.

"No one was hurt and the fire caused a minimal delay," Aaron said. "And there were benefits from that fire. The HDPE tunnel liner was changed from black to white so flaws could be seen prior to installation. Construction began exclusively using concrete sets instead of rings with wooden lagging and the fire department was able to use some specialized equipment in fighting the fire."

Even the Hollywood sinkhole of 1995 resulted in safety improvements, Aaron said, including the fine-tuning of emergency procedures, improved communications among responding agencies, as well as the experience gained in deploying firefighters and emergency personnel in a dangerous situation.

"But the major highlight I've seen during my career with the MTA is the opportunity over the years to build and work with a team with the RTD and now the MTA," he said. "It's the people you work with and the accomplishments of the group that make the difference."

Aaron's replacement, Battalion Chief Littleton, has been a firefighter 31 years and a battalion chief 11 years. He previously had assignments in the San Fernando Valley and was in charge of building fire stations for the department.

Littleton will continue Aaron's work in helping finish MOS-3 and will provide fire safety input to the Pasadena Metro Blue Line. He also expects to be heavily involved in training MTA personnel in fire and life safety.

Aaron, meanwhile, expects to spend his retirement years traveling with his wife, Viki, to visit with family. The Aarons have two grown children and four grandchildren.

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## New Board Secretary Michelle Jackson Plans High-Tech Upgrade of Office



(September 28) MTA Board Secretary Michelle Jackson knows that her position has always been a hands-on job, but giving it a high-tech capability will improve service to Board members, agency staff and the public.

Jackson, who was appointed to her new position, Aug. 26, joined the SCRTD as a senior secretary in 1988, but has worked in the Board Secretary's office since March, 1989. Ten years' experience dealing with Board matters has helped form ideas about changes needed to improve service.



"I'd like to have a seamless operation," Jackson said. "We need to upgrade and enhance our technological capability by putting Board reports on the Internet, for example. We also need the ability to more readily track and retrieve the information we have, instead of relying on paper records."

New computers will be coming into the Secretary's office soon and this will give Jackson an opportunity to put all Board actions, back to 1985, on a data base that could be accessed by employees.

**Michelle Jackson**

The eight members of the Board Secretary's staff are responsible for preparing agendas and assembling Board packages, taking and disseminating minutes and recaps of Board actions. The office also accepts legal service – subpoenas, requests for documents and depositions, etc. – for the agency and its employees.

Prior to joining the SCRTD, Jackson was an associate sub-contract administrator with the Ralph M. Parsons Co. She lives in Pasadena with

her daughter, Joni, 25, who is in the pet food marketing division of Nestle. She also has a granddaughter, Sage, 8.

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## **Jury Awards Former MTA Treasurer \$837,040; Counsel to Pursue New Trial, Possible Appeal**

(September 29) A Los Angeles Superior Court jury, Tuesday, awarded a former MTA treasurer \$837,040 in a wrongful termination suit against the MTA.

Assistant County Counsel Steve Carnevale, in a memo to the MTA Board, said the award to Leslie Porter appears to be excessive. He said his office "will pursue a motion for a new trial and will examine the possibility of filing an appeal."

The judge earlier had dismissed racial discrimination and other claims filed by Porter, who was employed first by the LACTC and then by the MTA from April, 1990, to December, 1996. Porter's original lawsuit sought \$2 million from the agency.

Porter was fired by the MTA when it was determined he had failed to make payments on his home mortgage. The mortgage had been purchased through a shared equity agreement with the LACTC.

Meanwhile, a judge in another Superior Court lawsuit brought by a former MTA manager has found in favor of the MTA on a racial discrimination charge against the agency. The judge earlier had reduced a \$5.7 million jury award to \$1.67 million in a suit brought by Alfred Boctor. County Counsel is planning an appeal of the reduced award.

Boctor had been disciplined in 1991 following sexual harassment charges filed against him by female employees. In 1996, the California Court of Appeal found that he had "sexually harassed subordinate employees...."

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Click here to read the [full text](#) of the Board's decision.

## MTA Board Votes to Buy 297 Buses to Comply with Federal Court Order

By Marc Littman

(September 30) 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 already is buying 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 the MTA already is implementing to overhaul the Metro Bus system and improve the quality of its service. In 1999, the MTA already planned to deploy 160 additional buses during weekday rush hours.

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

Since it is impossible for the agency to meet the judge's 30 day deadline to obtain 248 temporary buses while the new coaches are being ordered and built, the Board authorized the CEO to take appropriate legal actions to request a stay of the Sept. 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 the agency "is trying our best" to provide the best, safest and most efficient bus service for Metro riders.

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### Full text of the Board's Decision

#### MTA Board of Directors September 29, 1999

1. The CEO is directed to immediately initiate procurement and funding actions required to purchase 297 buses. 195 buses are to be purchased for delivery as soon as possible and 102 buses are to be delivered no later than June 30, 2002; **buses to be acquired without taking any current or future funding from Municipal operators.**
2. The CEO is directed to develop a financial plan to operate the additional buses required by the Court Order. Staff shall consult with the JWG and Special Master as required. Report back to the Board in October concerning progress in identifying operating funds.

3. Since the Board understands that it is impossible:

(a) to meet the 30-day requirement to "obtain 248 buses on a temporary basis", and

(b) to determine at this time whether to appeal any aspect of the Order until the contemplated further proceedings before the Special Master;

the Board instructs the CEO, in consultation with legal counsel, to file a motion to stay the September 23 Order of the District Court and to file an appropriate notice of appeal, **including an appeal as to the extent of the exercise of authority over the means of compliance with the Consent Decree.**

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# Cash or Credit?



## Pay with Plastic Starting Monday at Metro Café

(September 30) Starting Monday, Metro Café patrons at MTA Headquarters can buy their meals with cash or credit cards, according to Rob Byrd, cafeteria manager.

"We had quite a few requests for a credit card system," said Byrd. "This is another service we're providing for our customers."

The double check-out counter nearest the kitchen will be designated to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discovery cards for amount of purchase, only. Debit cards also will be accepted if they have Visa or MasterCard logos, but the cafeteria cannot provide cash-back transactions, Byrd said.

A customer purchasing a meal with a credit card will offer the card to the cashier, who will swipe it through the transaction authorization machine. No pin number will be required. When the purchase is approved, the customer will sign the receipt for the purchase.

**Click here to visit**  
**[Metro Café](#)**

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