

Metro Report Archives

January 2000



LAPD [Detectives Stop Counterfeit Ring](#); Sold, Distributed Phony Transit Passes

(Jan. 3) LAPD detectives have arrested a man and two women alleged to operate a counterfeit transit pass ring that may have cost the MTA more than \$2 million annually in lost revenues.



Y2K Bug Fails to Hatch at MTA; All [Systems 'Go'](#) for Year 2000

(Jan. 3) "Quiet" hardly begins to describe New Year's Eve in the MTA's Emergency Operations Center. To say that nothing - nothing Y2K-related, anyway - interrupted a perfectly tranquil evening, pretty much says it all.

[LA Times Names MTA's Dennis Mori](#) as Person 'Who Will Make News in 2000'

(Jan. 4) When the LA Times selected the MTA's Dennis Mori as one of the 10 "People Who Will Make News in 2000" in the San Fernando Valley, they weren't kidding.

Superior Court [Jury Hands MTA Victory](#) in \$500,000 Accidental Death Lawsuit

(Jan. 4) A Superior Court jury recently handed the MTA a major victory in a \$500,000 lawsuit brought by the widow of a man killed last March while walking along the Metro Blue Line tracks in downtown LA.

[MTA Expects to Buy 188 Vehicles](#) for Agency's Non-Revenue Fleet

(Jan. 5) Over the next several months, the MTA expects to buy 188 new non-revenue vehicles -- the first group in a five-year program to replace cars and trucks that were purchased in the early 1990s.

[Paintball Prank Spells Trouble](#) for Alhambra Boy who Shot at Bus

(Jan. 5) It may have been only a paintball gun, but shooting it at a Metro Bus got an Alhambra boy in big trouble with the law.



Kids Watch as [MTA Archaeologists](#) Unearth Foundations of Historic Campo de Cahuenga

(Jan. 6) As a wide-eyed group of elementary school pupils looked on this morning, a team of archaeologists retained by the MTA excavated a portion of the historic Campo de Cahuenga in a city park next to the Metro Red Line's Universal City station.



[Rapid Bus Project](#) Shifts into Top Gear to Meet North Hollywood Opening Date (Jan. 7)

Work on the Metro Rapid Bus system is accelerating. The MTA is targeting the start of the innovative demonstration project to match the opening of the Metro Red Line's North Hollywood Extension in mid-year.

MTA to Say 'Thanks' to Pass, Token

Vendors during [Appreciation Day](#) (Jan. 10) MTA Marketing will host an "appreciation day" at Headquarters, Wednesday, for scores of small businesspeople who make up the agency's network of transit pass and token sales vendors.



1,200 Employees Get [New Computers](#); Total of 3,000 Planned in 5-Phase Project

(Jan. 10) By the end of February, some 1,200 employees will have received new computers – the first of a group of 3,000 PCs that will be installed at Headquarters and in the operating divisions during a five-year project.

MTA to Launch 22-mile [Crosstown Bus Service](#) Jan. 30 (Jan. 11)

The MTA will launch its new Crosstown Bus, Line 305, on Sunday, Jan. 30, to provide limited stop service between the Imperial/Wilmington station and the West Hollywood/Beverly Hills area. Service will operate seven days a week between about 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

MTA Issues [New Cell Phone Policy](#) with Tougher Guidelines on Assignment, Use (Jan. 11) The MTA has issued a new policy that includes more stringent guidelines on assigning and using the agency's 400 cellular phones.

Keep Kids in School to Keep Crime Down, [Garcetti Says](#) in Vendor Appreciation Day Talk (Jan. 12) Crime nationwide may be down for the moment, LA County District Attorney Gil Garcetti told MTA transit pass vendors attending an Appreciation Day at Headquarters, but the number of teenagers - the age group most responsible for crime - is increasing.

MTA to Co-Host 8th Greater [LA Vendor Fair](#) in April (Jan. 12) The MTA will join forces for the eighth year with the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District to co-host the 2000 Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair, April 20, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Transit Operations [Eyeing Division 12](#) if Court Ruling Requires Service Expansion (Jan. 13) Transit Operations management is studying the possible need to reopen Division 12 in Long Beach. Part of the decision rests on whether a U.S. District Court ruling - expected later this year - requires the MTA to add 106 buses into service to meet Consent Decree requirements.

[Items to Watch](#) Pickup Trucks to Staples Center Service, Board Will Have its Hands Full in January (Jan. 13) MTA Board committees this month will discuss items that range from the purchase of new pickup trucks and buses to photo enforcement cameras to adding bus and rail service for Staples Center patrons.

LA City Council Votes to Join [Valley Transit Zone](#) Authority

(Jan. 13) On an 11-3 vote, the Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to join an interim Joint Powers Authority with eight other cities and the County of Los Angeles to establish a transit zone in the San Fernando Valley.

Operating Divisions '[Knock One Outta the Park](#)' with a Perfect Rollout

(Jan. 14) It was a home run. A grand slam. A hole-in-one. It was, in fact, a "perfect rollout." On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the full evening shift complement of 804 buses departed the MTA's 11 Metro Bus divisions on time and without a single out-late or cancellation.

[Procedures will Ensure](#) that New Buses Meet MTA, FTA

Inspection Requirements (Jan. 18) In response to an MTA Inspector General's audit of the agency's bus inspection program, Transit Operations has implemented new procedures to ensure that buses received from manufacturers will meet stringent MTA and federal inspection requirements.

[Knife-Wielder Gets the Point](#) When He Threatens an

Undercover Deputy (Jan. 18) A man who allegedly pulled a knife on an undercover Sheriff's deputy aboard a Metro Blue Line train, Jan. 11, quickly got the point when he faced three deputies' guns.

[MTA Testimony](#) Tough AQMD Rule Forcing Clean-Air Buses

Could Hinder Efforts to Reduce Air Pollution (Jan. 19) Requiring all fleets of public vehicles to convert to alternative fuels could actually hinder the MTA and other transit agencies in their efforts to reduce air pollution, the MTA told the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in testimony Jan. 12.

New FTA [Drug Rule Interpretation](#) Gets Employees Back to

Work Sooner (Jan. 19) The MTA's 6,000 "safety-sensitive" employees still must abide by the agency's tough drug and alcohol rules, but a new interpretation of federal regulations will allow employees returning from long-term leaves to go back to work sooner.



LAPD Commends Operator [Van Horn's Quick Actions](#) Following Fatal Bus Crash

(Jan. 20) Metro Bus Operator Marilyn Van Horn watched in horror, Dec. 14, as the Dash bus just ahead of her hit a car, plowed into two vans and went airborne before smashing down on one of them. The crash killed a van driver and threw his 12-year-old son into the street.

[Committee Action Update](#) Ops Committee Withdraws Transfer

Machine Contract, Approves Low-Floor CNG Bus Buy

(Jan. 20) The Board's Operations Committee withdrew a proposal, Thursday, to award a \$4.5 million contract for 2,240 electronic transfer machines. But, the committee sent forward for consideration by the full Board a motion to exercise a \$75.5 million option to purchase 215 low-floor CNG buses.

[Board Workshop](#) will Review Options for Mid-City/Westside

Transit Corridor (Jan. 21) The MTA Board will hold a workshop Friday, Feb. 4, to review options currently under discussion as part of the agency's Mid-City/Westside transit corridor study.

You Can Run, But [You Can't Hide](#), Juvenile Camp Escapees

Learn (Jan. 21) Three boys who ran away from the Camp Glen Rocky juvenile facility in San Dimas, recently, were corralled by the long arm of the law when they tried to catch a bus at the El Monte Bus Terminal.

MTA Considers [Bus Schedule Changes](#) as Demonstration

Snarls El Monte Busway Traffic (Jan. 24) With traffic in the El Monte Busway grinding to a halt during recent rush hour periods, MTA schedulers will be watching bus running times over the next several weeks to see whether they should make adjustments to bus schedules.

Media Invited for ["Sneak Peek"](#) at Train Testing in Metro Red Line's North Hollywood Extension

(Jan. 25) The MTA invite local media for a "sneak peek," Tuesday, at Metro Red Line train testing on the 6.3-mile tracks between the North Hollywood station and Hollywood/Highland. Much of the route lies some 900 feet beneath the Santa Monica Mountains.

[Metro Clean 'Volunteers'](#) Scrub Thousands of Buses, Bus

Stops in Community Service Program (Jan. 25) You may have seen groups of individuals wearing orange safety vests while cleaning buses at MTA layover zones or sweeping the area around bus zones along various routes.

[Customer Complaints](#) about Bus Service Declined Steadily

over Past 16 Months (Jan. 26) Metro Bus customer complaints over the past 16 months have steadily declined as more new buses are added to the peak hour fleet, as miles between breakdowns increase and as overall reliability improves.

MTA Will Mail [W-2 Forms](#) to Employees This Year (Jan. 26) This year, the MTA will mail W-2 forms to employees' homes or designated addresses instead of handing them out in the workplace.



Local [Media Tour](#) North Hollywood

Extension (Jan. 26) Fifteen local news media representatives participated in the MTA tour, Tuesday, of the Metro Red Line's North Hollywood Extension.

[January Board Action Update](#) Board OKs Buying 215 Buses, Non-Rev Vehicles, Extends Bus, Rail Service to Staples

Center (Jan. 27) The MTA Board approved the purchase of 215 low-floor, CNG buses at its January meeting, Thursday, approved a motion to extend Metro Rail and Metro Bus hours to serve the Staples Center, as well as motions to buy 185 non-revenue vehicles.

Board, CEO Congratulate Y2K Team for [Smooth Transition](#) to

Year 2000 (Jan. 27) After two years of hard work preparing for the Year 2000, it was time to congratulate the MTA's Y2K team.

[Air Resources Board](#) Delays Decision on Clean-Air Rules

Affecting MTA, Others (Jan. 28) With some members saying its proposed rules weren't tough enough, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on Thursday delayed until at least February a decision on new clean-air regulations that would affect the MTA and other transit agencies.

[Escalator Illumination](#) being Upgraded at



Segment 1 Metro Red Line Stations (Jan. 28) Fifteen of the 42 escalators in the Segment 1 Metro Red Line stations have been upgraded with bright, new fluorescent lighting. The new lights meet state safety codes that require illumination for escalator steps.

Deputies' [911 Radio Alert](#) Ends with Arrest of Young Car Thieves (Jan. 31) Two suspected car thieves learned the hard way, Jan. 27, that they couldn't beat the combination of 911 and the Sheriff's radio system.



Community [Cleanup Day Volunteers](#) Make Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights Streets Shine (Jan. 31) With brooms and plastic trash bags in hand, some 75 hard-hatted MTA volunteers and others in bright orange vests gathered Saturday to attack the graffiti and trash accumulated on major streets in Cypress Park and Lincoln Heights.