

MTA to Provide 100 Buses for Democratic National Convention

(June 29) The MTA plans to provide 100 of the 275 buses that will be needed to transport more than 20,000 delegates and officials who will be coming to Los Angeles for the Democratic National Convention, Aug. 13-17. The buses will be chartered to the LA Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The MTA Board, which already has approved a request for 75 buses will be asked to boost the number to 100 to meet the convention's needs. The plan calls for designating 70 CNG buses and 30 diesel buses for the convention. The MTA also plans to reassign some 122 operators, four supervisors and several mechanics to provide the service.

Some buses to be reassigned

According to Tom Jasmin, Transit Operations project manager, a number of CNG buses arriving from the factory in July and August will be assigned to convention service instead of immediately being allocated to operating divisions. Other buses will be reassigned from regular service. To fill the gap, some buses slated for inactivation will be held in service until after the convention.

In March, the Board authorized the MTA's support of the convention. A report prepared for the Board's July 20 meeting notes that it is important to "ensure that MTA involvement in the Democratic National Convention does not impact regular service and is cost-neutral to the agency."

Buses assigned to the convention will provide free shuttle service for delegates and others between hotels and the Staples Center convention site. Service will start prior to the opening of business each day and continue until an hour or more after the closing gavel.

Special phone number for visitors

The MTA has contacted convention hotels about selling MTA tokens and passes for using bus and rail service in their free time. The MTA will set up a special phone number convention visitors can use Aug. 5-20 to call the Customer Relations/Metro Information Center for information about bus and rail service.

Metro Bus lines operating in the vicinity of Staples Center will be rerouted during the convention. Police plan to block off streets for convention activities.

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