

Metro Magazine Calls MTA One of '10 Most Improved Transit Systems'

By ED SCANNELL

(April 27, 2001) Metro Magazine, a leading transit industry trade publication, has named the MTA among the "10 Most Improved Transit Systems" in North America. The list appears in an article in the publication's April, 2001, issue.

"Today, the MTA is back on the road to fiscal health and is using its newfound stability to innovate again, this time with less-expensive bus service," said Metro managing editor Leslie Davis and associate publisher/editor Cliff Henke. "More than 1,000 new buses already are in service with more than 1,000 additional buses being ordered, and a record amount of bus service is on the road."

Davis and Henke say they are hopeful that the magazine's readers "will take a measure of inspiration" from the accomplishments of the 10 systems cited in the article. "Their triumphs are those of the industry as a whole."

Turnaround began with new CEO

In naming the MTA to the list, Davis and Henke said it is no coincidence that the agency's turnaround began with the hiring of MTA CEO Julian Burke. MTA Board Chair Yvonne Burke told Metro Magazine she agrees.

"I don't think it's an understatement to say that Julian Burke transformed the MTA," she said. "This is a much more stable agency and one that has a much better customer focus."

Metro Magazine's list of the "10 Most Improved Transit Systems" includes Athens Transit/The Bus (Athens, Ga.), Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation (Bloomington, Ind.), Greater Portland Transit District (Portland, Me.), Metro Transit (Minneapolis), New York City Transit Authority, Phoenix Transit, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (Philadelphia), Toronto Transit Commission (Ontario, Canada) and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Washington, D.C.).

The list was compiled using transit industry ridership data and press releases, executive summaries of regional studies, etc. The authors also based their findings on interviews compiled with industry officials and nominations solicited via a fax survey and on Metro Magazine's website.

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