

MTA to Place 88 More Buses on Heavily Traveled Lines by Oct. 1

By RICK JAGER

(Sept. 25, 2001) MTA will add 88 peak-hour buses on heavily traveled bus lines throughout Los Angeles County, Oct. 1, to comply with a federal appeals court decision that calls for more bus service.

The Board in early September agreed to add the additional buses, while at the same time asking the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for a rehearing to further clarify how the Consent Decree is to be interpreted.



First of a new order of NABI coaches debuts at MTA Sept. 19. Among its innovations: redesigned passenger seats and a CNG fuel tank with 15 percent more capacity.

Over the past two years, the MTA has added 160 buses into service. The remaining 88 buses will bring the total to 248, the number ordered by the court. Lines to receive the additional buses were selected based on the volume of passengers who use the lines as well as those lines with a recent history of excessive crowding.

As part of the deployment of the additional 88 buses, the MTA will promote 145 part-time bus operators to full-time and will hire an additional 30 mechanics and 18 service attendants.

Efficiencies to offset costs

Total costs of the additional bus service are estimated at \$11.4 million in FY 2002. The added costs will be off-set by operating efficiencies, overhead cost reductions, lower fuel costs and spare part cost savings.

The MTA currently has a record amount of bus service on the road and will have completed the process of purchasing more than 2,000 new state-of-the-art CNG buses by 2004. The agency already has taken delivery of more than 1,300 new CNG buses.

Forty-six bus lines will receive added service in at least one peak hour time period. Those lines are: 2, 4, 14/37, 16/316, 18, 26/51, 27/28/328, 33/333, 38/71, 40, 53, 55, 60, 66, 68, 81, 83/84/85, 90/91, 105, 108, 110, 115/315, 130, 152, 163, 164/165, 166, 167, 169, 175, 183, 204/354, 205, 206, 207/357, 212, 217, 230, 234, 236, 243, 444, 484, 561, 620, & 720.

Twenty bus lines will receive added service in both the morning and afternoon peak periods. Those lines are: 45, 53, 66, 68, 81, 90, 108, 110, 152, 163, 165, 166, 200, 212, 234, 251, 260, 268, 434, & 720.

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