

### **Special Master Accepts MTA Plan to Add 125 Buses**

(March 21, 2003) The special master overseeing the Consent Decree has tentatively accepted an MTA plan to schedule 125 additional coaches on its most crowded Metro Bus lines.

MTA presented a plan to Special Master Donald Bliss, Jan. 31, that proposed providing the 125 buses by reassigning 30 buses from non-productive or cancelled lines, providing 40 through more efficient scheduling of existing lines, and by reactivating 55 buses (plus 11 spares) from the contingency fleet.

The contingency fleet buses, some of which have reached retirement age but are in fully operational condition, would be replaced starting in 2005 when MTA begins taking delivery of the 200 articulated buses it plans to order.

In an order signed March 18, Bliss directed MTA to add 125 buses by the June six-month "shakeup" in order to meet passenger load factor goals.

MTA must provide additional information about the plan to Bliss by March 31. His final remedial plan could include information from both MTA and the Bus Riders Union. Over the years, the BRU has argued that MTA should add between 800 and 3,000 new buses to the fleet.

MTA will take delivery by mid-2004 of 100 new 45-foot CNG buses. The 200 articulated buses, scheduled for delivery in mid-2005, will be the final installment of the MTA Board's original plan to purchase nearly 2,100 new buses.

[Back to MTA Report](#)