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The property now occupied by Central City Division 1 dates back to 1891, when headquarters for the Los Angeles Consolidated Electric (LACE) Railway were constructed at 648 South Central Avenue, above.



Photos courtesy of Jim Walker/Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library Research Center

Central City Division 1: From Horse and Carriage to High-Tech Buses

By DAVE HERSHENSON

(Aug. 5, 2005) Division 1, between Central, Sixth St., Alameda St. and Industrial Street, is by far the oldest Division in the Metro system.

The property dates back to 1891, when headquarters for the Los Angeles Consolidated Electric (LACE) Railway were constructed at 648 South Central Avenue. The division is still at the same location, but the address has changed to 1130 East Sixth Street.



Tower wagons at the ready in the late 1800s.

Various entities have operated out of Division 1 over the years, including Los Angeles Railway (1898-1945 - Electric Streetcars), Los Angeles Transit Lines (1945-58 - Streetcars and later Trolley Buses), LA Metropolitan Transit Authority (1958-1964 - all Trolley Buses, then Trolley and Diesel Buses, then all Diesel Buses – Trolley service ended in 1963), Southern California Rapid Transit District (1964-1993 - all buses), and since 1993, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which has converted the majority of the fleet to CNG Buses.



Division 1 circa 1909.

A new transportation building was dedicated on March 29, 1981, and in 1987 new facilities were added, including provisions for methanol fueling.

CNG fueling equipment was added in mid-2001. The decision to purchase three adjoining acres for division expansion was announced in 2001, and the first phase of the expansion project

was completed in June.

- Jim Walker of the Dorothy Peyton Gray Library contributed to this article.