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Orange-ticulated: Metro Local Line 233 in the San Fernando Valley is expected to be the first local service line to feature the poppy orange and silver articulated buses.



Photos by Bill Heard

Articulated Buses to be Assigned to Metro Local Lines

- Artics will wear the poppy orange color scheme

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Aug. 17, 2006) The first of 96 articulated buses painted in bright poppy orange and silver – and slated for Metro Local service – was displayed, Thursday, on Patsaouras Plaza.

Although much work still must be done to make bus stops ready to receive the 60-foot coaches, the new artics are expected to see their first use in local service on the 12-mile Van Nuys Boulevard Line 233 between Sherman Oaks and Lakeview Terrace.

The local service artics would join the articulated coaches already in use on Van Nuys Metro Rapid Line 761 in time for the December shakeup, or sooner, says Richard Hunt, general manager of the San Fernando Valley Service Sector.

Currently, articulated buses are assigned only to the Metro Orange Line and to some Metro Rapid lines.

Thirty of the artics are due from the manufacture, NABI, by the end of September, according to Vehicle Acquisition Manager John Drayton. Of



Interior and, below, operator's cab.



those, he said 22 will be assigned to East Valley Division 15 in order to operate Metro Local Line 233.

Later this year, articulated buses may be assigned to Arthur Winston Division 5, according to South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.

At present, 14 buses are at NABI's facility in Ontario, Calif., for final outfitting. NABI is installing the ATMS bus data and voice announcement system and the TAP fareboxes at it's Anniston, Ala., facility before delivering the buses to the Regional Rebuild Center – a new procedure initiated with this order of artics.

"These buses need only some very minor software downloads and adjustments," says Drayton, who notes that the

remaining 66 buses of the 96-bus order will be delivered beginning in December. "They are coming in turn-key and as ready for service as we've ever brought them in."

NABI builds the bus structures in Budapest, Hungary, and ships them to Anniston for final assembly and installation of engines and transmissions, wiring and seating.