



NEWS

January 16, 1998

CONTACT: Gary Wosk/Jim Smart
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/92-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUCH MORE THAN NUMEROUS BUS IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY MTA IN 1997

While a good share of the MTA's highlights in 1997 occurred on the Metro Bus system side, the year also will be remembered for other multi-modal transportation improvements as well, including an increase in Metro Rail ridership and other milestones.

The MTA made many headlines in 1997, but unfortunately some of the Authority's major accomplishments were not noted during a year of transition. The MTA is in the process reorganizing so that it can deliver on promises made within the financial limitations now being confronted.

Julian Burke, a corporate turnaround specialist, was hired last Fall to restructure the agency based on realistic financial assessments of the funding available for transportation services and new programs such as rail capital projects.

The MTA is much more than a rail construction agency and provider of bus service. Other programs receiving funding include tow truck services on the area freeways, carpool lanes, bike paths, transit centers and other facilities that are designed to help reduce congestion, speed traffic and reduce pollution.

The following are some of the MTA's 1997 accomplishments:

- Launched the largest bus service expansion in 20 years by expanding the Metro Bus fleet by 106 vehicles.
- Moved to purchase 223 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses which will be delivered following completion of an order of 250 CNG buses currently being

MORE...

Page 3 CTIP 1998

traffic improvement funding categories into two, giving the MTA a broader context in which to match county transportation needs with appropriate projects and solutions.

In Los Angeles County, the MTA will be responsible for programming 75 percent of the state funds earmarked for the county. Caltrans (State Department of Transportation) will be responsible for programming the remaining 25 percent of the state funds for the county.

###

MTA-006