



January 27, 2000

CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA BOARD APPROVES PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL LOW FLOOR COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES

Demonstrating its resolve again in continuing to significantly improve the Metro Bus System, the MTA Board of Directors today exercised an option to purchase an additional 215 new low-floor Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses from North American Bus Industries (NABI).

Instead of wheelchair lifts, these buses, and 215 new low-floor CNG buses MTA already has ordered, will feature a simple folding ramp that will allow much easier and quicker access and egress for mobility impaired passengers.

The first of the 430 buses from NABI will begin arriving in early February at a rate of approximately 40 buses each month through July 2000. The second order of buses will begin arriving in approximately February 2001.

To date, the MTA has received nearly 800 new CNG buses from bus manufacturers Neoplan and New Flyer. By late this Spring, the 1,000TH CNG bus will join the MTA fleet, the largest such alternative fuel fleet in the United States.

The procurement of the 430 new low floor CNG NABI buses was included in the MTA adopted Accelerated Bus Procurement Plan which was approved by MTA directors in October 1998. Since then the MTA has received 540 new buses. A total of 2,403 new buses are expected to be delivered through fiscal year 2004.

Last month the MTA initiated a new procurement for 370 low floor buses with options for 700 more. Delivery of these buses will be completed by June 2002. Staff plans to bring an award recommendation for these buses to the MTA Board by the Spring.

MTA-016

###