



NEWS

March 18, 2002

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY MTA BOARD CHAIRMAN JOHN FASANA
Re: Bus Consent Decree
March 18, 2002

MTA is disappointed that the United States Supreme Court has opted not to review the federal Consent Decree to improve Metro Bus service in Los Angeles County. While underscoring that MTA will continue to comply with the Consent Decree, the MTA Board felt it was important for the court to clarify how compliance should be measured. Equally important was to define what authority the federal court and the special master, who oversees compliance, has in deciding how MTA should comply if violations occur.

MTA remains optimistic that differences in tracking violations and measuring compliance of the Consent Decree can be resolved. MTA is committed to complying with the decree and will continue our efforts to improve the Metro Bus system.

In the past five years MTA has purchased and taken delivery of nearly 2,000 new compressed natural gas buses. Many of these were used to replace aging diesel buses but the agency has added almost 500 peak hour buses into service to reduce overcrowding and to expand service.

The MTA is expanding its popular Metro Rapid Bus lines, is planning new busways, and, starting this summer, will decentralize bus operations to be more responsive to local communities as part of an ongoing effort to improve Metro Bus service.

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