



NEWS

September 23, 1996

CONTACT: STEVE CHESSER/JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2718, 922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW GENERATION OF RED LINE SUBWAY CAR

The MTA has taken delivery of the first two prototype vehicles for the next generation of Metro Red Line rail car. The two cars are the vanguard of a total of 74 cars that have been ordered from the Italian firm Breda Costruzioni.

"This is an important step forward for our traveling customers," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "Our Metro Rail system is growing, and these new cars will allow us to meet the demands of our increasing ridership."

The Metro Red Line subway was recently expanded by two miles and three stations last July 13. Ridership was projected to increase to 40,000 per day within 12 months of that date, but already has reached that figure in just two months. Further extensions are under construction along Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard and north to Universal City and North Hollywood.

The new rail cars are similar in appearance to the current fleet of 30 Red Line vehicles, but have AC electric motors and inverters. They are 2000 pounds lighter than the original model, which employ DC motors. They will be fully compatible with existing Red Line facilities. Each car costs \$1.8 million.

The two prototypes, which were manufactured at Breda's factory in Pistoia, Italy, will undergo five months of testing. The MTA arranged for the production models to be assembled at a Breda facility in South San Francisco. Those vehicles are scheduled to begin arriving in April 1997, with the last cars of the order entering service in time for the opening of the Vermont/Hollywood extension of the subway at the end of 1998.

###

MTA-190