

**MTA Board of Directors Approves
Purchase of 200 High-capacity
Articulated Compressed Natural Gas Buses**

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The MTA Board of Directors today approved the purchase of 200 high capacity 60-foot articulated buses powered by compressed natural gas as the final installment of the Board's original plan to purchase nearly 2,100 new buses. The articulated buses seat 50 percent more passengers than a standard 40-foot bus.



"The MTA Board has been committed over the past few years in modernizing our bus fleet and improving the quality of service for our riding passengers," said MTA Board Chairman Hal Bernson. "These new high capacity buses, once in service, will help carry more people quicker on Metro Rapid routes than conventional 40-foot buses."

The actual execution of the contract to purchase the 200 articulated buses is contingent on funding from the State's Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), which has been temporarily suspended.

Total cost for the bus procurement is \$138,888,329 for 200 low floor CNG articulated buses manufactured by North American Bus Industries in Anniston, Alabama. Each vehicle will cost \$632,914.

The new buses will be 60-feet in length and will "bend" in the middle to improve their operation on city streets. They will feature an advanced aerodynamic design, larger passenger windows, three large doors for entry and exit, comfortable seating for up to 60 passengers and will be significantly quieter than existing MTA buses.

The new state-of-the-art CNG articulated buses will begin arriving in the summer of 2005 and will be placed into service on the new San Fernando Valley Metro Rapid Transitway in the San Fernando Valley, now under construction, as well as other MTA Metro Rapid bus routes in demand for high capacity buses.

MTA-024

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