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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA Installs New Type of Ticket Vending Machines on Metro Gold Line

- **New self-service machines contain more useful features and can be upgraded for future smart card technology**

Metro rail patrons will find a new type of ticket vending machine at Metro Gold Line Stations when Los Angeles' newest rail line to Pasadena opens July 26. The upgraded machines contain several new useful features and are easier to use than most ATM machines.

The baseline functionality of the new ticket vending machines remains the same as other ticket vending machines on MTA's Metro Rail lines. The new machines, however, incorporate the latest features that will help Gold Line patrons purchase their train tickets more quickly and easily.

Besides English and Spanish, new ticket vending machines provide instructions in a third language: Chinese. The ticket vending machine's customer interface screens are more user-friendly as well. Ordering rail tickets is as easy as 1-2-3 using the simple on-screen instructions. For the hearing impaired, the new machines come equipped with an audio jack. Patrons who need assistance can view a full-color help screen.

New Metro Gold Line ticket vending machines can accept bills up to \$20. Ticket vending machines on the Metro Blue, Green and Red Lines can only accept bills up to \$5. Multiple tickets can be purchased in a single transaction.

MTA is introducing the upgraded line of ticket vending machines to acquaint the public with equipment that is capable of accommodating smart card technology in the future. Systemwide machine upgrades, planned for 2004, will dispense and read smart cards. The machines will automatically credit and deduct ticket purchases from the card's balance, thus eliminating the need for cash.

Currently, there are 50 new ticket vending machines installed at Metro Gold Line stations. There are at least two at each station, and six at the Chinatown Station. The machines are manufactured by Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc. in San Diego, Calif.

How to Use

To use the new ticket vending machine, transit patrons should select a fare using the display and option buttons. Patrons can purchase a one-way rail trip for \$1.35, a one-way with transfer to connecting bus or rail service for \$1.60, or a roundtrip travel on a single rail line for \$2.70. Seniors, disabled or Medicare recipients can select an optional choice to purchase a 45 cent one rail trip, a 55 cent one-way trip with transfer, or a 90 cent roundtrip ticket for a single rail line.

After choosing ticket type, patrons insert their money using coins, tokens and/or bills from \$1 to \$20 denominations. One token is good for one base fare only. There is no change due when using a token or using a combination of token(s) and cash. Tickets are then dispensed and patrons are on their way.

