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### **Metro Board Authorizes Purchase of 200 New Buses**

The Metro Board of Directors today authorized the purchase of 200 new buses, all but six of them high-capacity vehicles, that will further modernize the Metro bus fleet and improve service to thousands of bus riders on Metro's busiest lines.

The new bus procurements include 94 articulated buses that are 60-feet long called Metro Liners, which can seat 45 percent more passengers than a standard 40-foot coach, and 100 buses 45-feet long that have 15 percent more seating capacity. In addition, Metro is purchasing six hybrid 40-foot coaches that run on gasoline and electricity. The other new buses will all run on compressed natural gas.

The bus procurements will cost more than \$100 million though the final purchase price will be determined once bids for the 45-foot coaches are received.

With these procurements, Metro will far exceed recent orders by a special master who oversees a federal Consent Decree for improving Metro Bus service. In the past two years, Washington, D.C. lawyer Donald Bliss has ordered Metro to buy buses with seating equivalent to 660 new 40-foot buses (26,400 total passenger seats). Including recent procurements, Metro is buying the equivalent of 730 standard buses (29,198 seats).

"Many of these larger buses already are in service," noted Metro CEO Roger Snoble, who added that the Metro Liners will service the new Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley when it debuts Oct. 29.

Altogether, Metro has purchased more than 2,000 new buses since the Consent Decree was signed nine years ago. Metro Bus service has expanded by more than 25 percent during peak hours and new service such as Metro Rapid has been implemented along with a series of pilot lines that provide the transit dependent greater access to jobs, schools and medical centers.

The Metro Board today also adjusted the budget to add a new pilot line, Express Line 577 X, which will connect the El Monte Transit Center, California State University, Long Beach and the Long Beach Veteran's Affairs Medical Center via the carpool lane on the 605 Freeway.

Lastly, the Board adopted changes to Metro's Transit Service Policy to factor in Consent Decree compliance and determine the net benefit to transit dependent riders of proposed service changes.