Y2K Project on Schedule with 64 Days Remaining in 1999

(October 28) With just 64 days remaining before the crystal ball drops in Times Square, the MTA's Year 2000 Project remains on schedule, although some mission-critical systems still are being worked on.

A report to the MTA Board this month notes that - as of September 30 - computer application systems, such as FIS, MMS and VMS, are now 95 percent compliant. Of the 150 systems originally identified, only nine require further work and all but one of the mission-critical systems - TOTS - were Y2K complaint. The remaining mission-critical systems are to be completed by November.

Of the 59 rail systems, only 12 still were still non-compliant, although solutions were being developed. The mission-critical radio system, TRACS and the rail telephone system remained non-compliant.

The MTA's Y2K contractor has completed about 85 percent of its inventory of the 177 embedded chips that are essential to the operation of vital equipment. Validation and verification of the chips in Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line equipment has been completed. Work now is under way on the Metro Red Line and at the Headquarters Building.

Work still needs to be done to ensure that the agency's supply chain will function properly in the new year. A total of 4,946 MTA vendors were contacted and 1,451 of those reported they are Y2K compliant. Ninety percent of vendors deemed critical MTA suppliers, however, reported being in compliance.

The primary purpose of the Y2K Project is to ensure that the MTA's electrical and electronic systems will support the agency's business operations and mission-critical functions, provide a high degree of public and employee safety, and keep buses and trains in service on Jan. 1, 2000 and beyond.

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