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Metro Chairman and Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts, at podium, introduces new 45-foot Metro Bus to be placed into service. Also pictured, from left, North American Bus Industries executive Cliff Henke, Metro Deputy Executive Officer John Catoe and Metro Board Member and County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.



PHOTO: SHANTAY IOSIA

Dawn of a New Era: CompoBus Introduced to Area Media

By ELIZABETH A. CRAIGG

(Aug. 6, 2004) Leading the nation in new bus technology, Metro introduced the new "CompoBus" to the public, this morning, by providing a short bus ride for media assembled at Arthur Winston Division 5.

The lightweight 45-foot bus, which can carry 16 percent more passengers than conventional buses, will be in service within the next few weeks. It is the first of 100 "CompoBuses" expected to be in service by the end of June 2005.

"We can truly say that this is the bus of the future as we continue in our pursuit of high-tech solutions to provide the best service we can for the region," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts.

North American Bus Industries designed the "CompoBus" to look like a metal frame bus, however, it is made from fiberglass and carbon fiber.

Collision and corrosion resistant

This design makes the bus lighter and resistant to collision and corrosion damage, while reducing maintenance and fuel cost and enhancing safety by using power disc brakes. Each bus costs \$370,000.

Metro also is scheduled to introduce 200 60-foot articulated buses, seating 50 percent more passengers, in 2005. The buses are to be used

on the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley, and on other high-volume bus lines.

Supervisor Yvonne Burke expects that, "the introduction of these new high-capacity buses into our system will greatly improve service to our communities."

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