

April 18, 1995

CONTACT: GREG DAVY/JIM SMART

MTA PRESS RELATIONS (213) 244-7048, 244-6347 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(\* \* Special to PASSENGER TRANSPORT \* \*)

LACMTA PURCHASES 98 MORE COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES; TOTAL CNG FLEET WILL BE NEARLY 300

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)
Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of 98 more compressed natural
gas-powered buses in keeping with its policy to buy only alternately-fueled buses
in the future.

By purchasing the buses manufactured by Neoplan USA Corporation at a cost of \$33.4 million, the MTA Board exercised an option placed into an earlier contract with Neoplan in which the MTA purchased 196 CNG buses in July, 1994.

"These new buses are needed to improve our bus system by replacing 15year-old diesel buses that are no longer cost-effective to operate or maintain," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich said. "We expect to begin receiving our first new CNG buses in the next few weeks."

The CNG buses are well below the national standards in all emissions categories, including particulates. In addition to helping improve Los Angeles County's air quality, the new buses will feature numerous design changes, said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White.

"The new buses will include a brighter interior that features light gray upholstery and flooring, stainless steel seating similar to that on the Blue Line trains, plus a special protective coating that makes graffiti and vandalism removal easier," White noted.

(MORE)

## CNG BUSES

Page 2

To assist the MTA with its compressed natural gas program, the Southern California Gas Company is providing three technicians to operate MTA's three CNG fueling facilities during the first year of operation. The technicians will help facilitate fueling station procurement and installation.

"MTA's action to replace 98 diesel buses with clean-burning natural gaspowered buses will mean the avoidance of 150 tons of pollution annually going
into the air we breathe," said John Weber, manager of transportation at Southern
California Gas Company. "At the same time, MTA will be helping to reduce our
country's reliance on foreign oil by powering their vehicles with safe, economical
and domestically produced natural gas."

###