



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

818 West Seventh Street
Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.972.6000

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 194
Los Angeles, CA 90053

October 4, 1995

TO: MTA BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES

FROM: JIM SMART 

SUBJECT: UPCOMING LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE

The Los Angeles Times is expected to run a column of questions and answers about selected MTA programs and services. Here are some of the questions we have answered in the last few days. Why is the MTA sending new, clean fuel buses to Atlanta? Is the MTA spending more to collect fares on the Red Line than is collected through ticket vending machines? What is the fare subsidy for Blue Line riders? Why can riders bring food aboard Metrolink trains but not onto our trains?

The MTA is sending 60 new CNG buses to Atlanta directly from the manufacturer in Denver. The buses will be on loan three to six months and are part of a fleet of buses assembled in Atlanta to assist with the Olympics, with the concurrence of FTA officials.

We understand that the MTA's former treasurer has provided statistics to the Times relative to the cost of fare collection on the Red Line. While it now does cost more to collect the fares, the 25 cent fare is a temporary one and when the line is extended to Wilshire/Western, it is our intent to increase it to \$1.35.

Page 2
Upcoming Los Angeles Time Article

The fare subsidy per boarding for Blue Line riders is \$2.99. The reporter may again use statistics often quoted by our former treasurer, cost figures that include capital costs as well as annual operating costs. The latter number, naturally, would be considerably higher.

As you know, Metrolink riders can purchase food aboard Metrolink and AMTRAK trains. Commuter rail passengers commonly are able to eat on their trains, while inner city train operators such as the MTA do not allow food on board. We stressed to the reporter that our reason for prohibiting food on MTA buses and trains pertained to our desire to maintain train cleanliness.