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Press Release

June 26, 2009

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Bus Company Receives Ridership Award From The Federal Transit Administration

#### *FTA Commends MTA Bus for 11% Ridership Gain*

Earlier this spring, the Federal Transit Administration singled out the MTA Bus Company for its dramatically increased ridership from 2006 to 2007. Since that time, the MTA Bus Company has seen additional ridership gains. Deputy FTA Regional Administrator Anthony Carr was on hand to present MTA Bus Company President Joe Smith with an award at this week's MTA Board meeting.

The MTA Bus Company was created in September 2004, consolidating the operations of seven bus companies that operated under independent franchises granted by the New York City Department of Transportation. The merging of the private companies into the MTA Bus Company began in January 2005 and was completed in February 2006, creating the tenth-largest bus company in the country.

MTA Chairman H. Dale Hemmerdinger said: "While the award highlights gains during its first two years of service, it's important to note that MTA Bus provided 20 million more rides in 2008 than its predecessors provided in 2004. It goes to show that improved service and new equipment can go a long way toward increasing customer demand."

MTA Interim Executive Director and CEO Helena E. Williams said: "Ridership gains of nearly 20 percent in less than four years are a true testament to the successful and seamless integration of seven bus companies into an efficient and much-improved operation."

Joseph J. Smith, Senior Vice President of the New York City Transit Department of Buses and President of the MTA Bus Company and Long Island Bus said: "I'm delighted to receive this award on behalf of all of the hard-working employees of the MTA Bus Company, who strive to provide safe and efficient service to our customers every day. Their dedication and commitment to improving service were instrumental to the ridership gains we achieved."

MTA Bus committed to aggressively upgrading the overall service delivery of its bus operations by purchasing new buses to replace an aging fleet and adjusting schedules and routes to better match travel demand. MTA Bus now operates 45 local bus routes in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, and 35 express bus routes between Manhattan and the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. It has a fleet of 1,323 buses serving approximately 400,000 riders daily.