



NEWS RELEASE



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Big Blue Bus To Break Ground on New Eco-Friendly Maintenance Facility

SANTA MONICA, Calif. – September 19, 2007 – The Big Blue Bus announced today that it will break ground on a new, state-of-the-art maintenance facility on the site of its current maintenance yard.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Monday, September 24 at 2:30 p.m. at 612 Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica.

The three-year construction project is expected to begin in February 2008, with completion expected in early 2010.

The facility expansion project will increase the size of the bus parking lot, which is currently filled to capacity, and will improve the existing maintenance facility, which was designed for a much smaller and less technologically advanced fleet when it was built in the 1960s.

The past few years have seen the opening of successful new lines and routes to improve daily bus service, such as Rapid Blue and Mini Blue, all of which have increased the need for more parking space at the maintenance facility.

New services planned for the future, including the expansion of Rapid Blue service to line 7, will involve the addition of longer articulated buses to the fleet, which require more parking space, larger maintenance bays and more powerful lifts.

“The size of the fleet and the number of buses required to make daily roll-out has significantly increased in the last decade,” said Ralph Merced, Big Blue Bus transit maintenance manager.

“More buses out on the road mean more buses that need to be consistently maintained, fueled, cleaned and repaired. The expansion of the maintenance facility will allow us to have enough room to keep improving our services for many years to come.”

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The new 66,000 square foot maintenance facility will feature 5,000 square feet of offices, 20 new repair bays including two chassis wash bays, locker rooms, a training room, library, parts storage and other specialized areas. The upgrades will utilize the most advanced and sustainable building systems, construction materials and landscaping available today.

Some of the new “green” technologies that will be used in the project include:

- Photovoltaic panels that collect power from the sun and supply energy to the buildings.
- Construction materials made of recycled content such as concrete, steel, insulation, and gypsum board to reduce landfill waste.
- A reclaimed water irrigation system for landscaping.
- Water efficient landscaping plants and materials.
- Storm water management and site infiltration to ensure water entering the bay will be clean.
- Carpeting and other interior building materials containing recycled content.
- Light colored concrete in the bus yard to cool the air temperature and reduce the “heat island” effect.
- Light colored single-ply roofing called “Cool roof” to reflect solar energy away from the buildings and prevent heat buildup in the facilities.
- Construction waste management to reduce the amount of material going into landfills.
- Dual glazed, low-e glazing for interior office spaces to keep the buildings cool in summer and warm in winter.
- No VOC off-gassing materials, to help keep the interior air fresh and free of toxins.

The maintenance facility groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Monday, September 24 at 2:30 p.m. at 612 Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica, at the northeast corner of the existing maintenance building.

For more information, please contact Dan Dawson at 310-458-1975 ext. 5831 or Francine Pares at 949-244-4574.

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