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Nassau County Selects Veolia Transportation to Manage its Long Island Bus System

In a “public-private operating partnership,” Nassau retains buses and other infrastructure assets while bringing in experienced transportation management to operate the Long Island Bus system

JUNE 10, 2011...Veolia Transportation, the largest private manager of public transit systems, has been selected by Nassau County to manage Long Island Bus under a public-private arrangement to commence in 2012.

Veolia manages transit systems at over 200 locations in the U.S. and Canada, providing bus, rail, paratransit, shuttle, sedan and taxi services. Veolia locations include Boston, where it has operated the suburban commuter rail line for over eight years, and New Orleans, where it helped reestablish the municipal bus service after it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Other Veolia operated systems include Denver, San Diego, Baltimore, Phoenix, and suburban systems surrounding Washington, DC, Atlanta and Toronto.

Under this “public-private operating partnership” arrangement, Nassau County will continue to own the buses and equipment, depots, offices and other infrastructure, while Veolia will come in to operate the system on a day-to-day basis. While Veolia will be guided by “best practices” available to manage the transportation system, the County will retain ultimate policy control over fare structure and service levels.

In fact, the Suffolk County Transit bus system currently operates under a public-private model: in Suffolk, private companies operate the system with their own union employees, while the county owns the buses, and determines routes, fares and other key decisions.

Veolia will assume responsibility for the Long Island Bus system on January 1, 2012. Until then, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will continue to operate the system under contract with Nassau County. Veolia won the five-year contract with a five-year renewal option as part of a bidding process with the County that began last September. Long Island Bus will move from a division within the MTA to an operating entity dedicated to Nassau County.

“Veolia will bring private sector innovation, significant experience in other U.S. and European markets, proprietary technology, and cost-saving techniques to a system that is vital to the residents of Nassau County,” said Mark Joseph, Chief Executive Officer of Veolia Transportation North America. “With our broad role in managing Nassau County’s bus system, we will be able to create efficiencies that will benefit taxpayers while providing better service for riders.”

Michael Setzer, Vice President of Veolia, will become CEO of the Nassau County bus system. Mr. Setzer has more than three decades of municipal transportation experience, having previously served as general manager of bus systems for Cincinnati, Minneapolis and St. Louis. Mr. Setzer has

had numerous significant achievements in the field of municipal transportation, including building and commissioning the first light rail operation in Minneapolis, creating the first paratransit system in St. Louis, and twice receiving the industry Innovation Award from the American Public Transportation Association.

“We look forward to working with the County, bus system employees and the riding public to identify ways to improve the system while we save taxpayer dollars,” said Mr. Setzer. There are a total of 48 fixed bus routes currently in the Long Island Bus system serving approximately 31 million passenger trips per year.

Veolia Transportation, Inc. is headquartered in Lombard, Illinois. With more than 100 years of experience in the transportation industry, Veolia is the largest private sector operator of multiple modes of transit in North America, represented by 18,000 employees. Veolia’s parent company operates public transit systems in 28 countries with 119,000 employees and serves more than 3.3 billion passenger trips annually providing bus, paratransit, taxi, rail and ferry services.

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