

# New bus unveiled

## Metro riders concerned about handicapped access

Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — Metro riders on Monday got a chance to check out one of a new line of buses the transit district hopes to buy for \$8 million, although concerns of patrons in wheelchairs still are being addressed.

The district wants to buy 30 buses from the New Flyer of America Co., but some handicapped riders have complained that the lifts used to get their wheelchairs aboard don't work properly at bus stops where there are no curbs.

Brad Neily, a members of the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum, said he has talked with officials from the Department of Transportation, who assured riders that accommodations must be made to tailor bus facilities for local needs.

Members of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District board of directors agreed to delay approving the bus purchase until officials can figure out how to accommodate handicapped patrons at bus stops where there are no curbs.

A special board meeting to discuss the issue has been set for April 11 at 7:45 a.m. in the Metro conference room, 230 Walnut Ave., in Santa Cruz.



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Lesley Wright checks out the accessibility Monday of a bus at the Metro Center downtown.