



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **University of Georgia turns to NABI LFW Bus to help keep massive student body moving.**

**Anniston, AL** (December 1, 2008) – The University of Georgia’s transit system handled 9.2 million passengers in the last fiscal year. To help maintain and improve service, they’ve turned to the 40-LFW Bus from NABI. UGA officials agreed to a contract for 20 of the 40-foot low-floor buses, with the first four scheduled to deliver prior to the fall semester in 2009.

“We needed a bus that can handle a lot of passengers quickly and efficiently,” said Ron Hamlin, UGA campus transit manager. “Our buses operate in a high-density passenger situation. The stops are close together, there are large numbers of riders at most stops and the typical ride episode is not very long. So we needed buses that can get them on and get them off fast and easy. NABI’s LFW is ideally suited for us.”

Because of its high-density operation, UGA opted for a seating package that allows large numbers of “standing” passengers. “The package we designed for them allows UGA to crush-load as many as 100 passengers – *with backpacks* – into these buses,” said Chris Dabbs, regional sales manager, NABI. The low-floor design also augments quick loading and unloading.”

“The size and capacity of this bus was a big factor for us,” Hamlin added. “We need the largest bus we can get that isn’t articulated. And the NABI low-floor bus has a large transition area where the low-floor zone transitions to the raised floor level. This really helps us haul more passengers, and helps make the ride for the standing passengers more comfortable and safe.”

UGA’s new buses from NABI will feature a “new-era” passenger counting system. “No tickets have to be punched or scanned. The counter uses an infrared beam system much like the ones on a garage door to automatically keep track of the number of riders utilizing the buses. It’s just another way of helping them speed up the loading/unloading process,” Dabbs said.

The UGA transit system handles its annual load of 9.2 million with a fleet of less than 50 buses. Hamlin said bringing in low-floor buses over the last five years has been a popular move with the student body. “We’ve gotten high marks in passenger satisfaction with the low-floor buses. They’ve been an extremely good move for us. That’s why we’re excited to get these NABI 40-LFWs into our system.”

In addition to the 20 buses slated for UGA, the University of West Georgia also piggybacked onto the order for another three of the 40-LFWs. “This bus is ideally suited for extreme loads. We’re really excited to provide them to UGA,” said Dabbs.

**About Us:** North American Bus Industries, Inc. markets three successful transit bus brands: NABI, Optima and Blue Bird offering a complete line of standard and low-floor, heavy-duty 30', 35', 40', 42', 60' and 65' (articulated) transit buses at its facilities in Anniston, Alabama. North American Bus Industries is the market leader with its sleek and most advanced designed BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) vehicles which offer a cost effective alternative to expensive light rail. The transit buses are available with clean diesel, CNG, LNG, or diesel hybrid-electric propulsion systems.

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