

### Simpson Sworn In As Federal Transit Administrator



James S. Simpson was sworn in as the Federal Transit Administrator on Wednesday, August 16,

after being confirmed by the United States Senate. Simpson replaces Jenna Dorn, who left in August, 2005 to join the Board of Directors of the World Bank.

Prior to joining the Department of Transportation, Simpson served for 10 years as a Commissioner of the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), where he also served as Chairman of the Safety and Security Committee and Chairman of the Planning and Real Estate Committee. He was also designated as the primary MTA liaison to the New York State Governor's and New York City Mayor's offices to coordinate the MTA's efforts at the World Trade Center site after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He was then appointed by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate to the St. Lawrence Seaway Advisory Board, later serving as its Chairman.

Simpson's transportation career began more than 30 years ago as a tractor-trailer driver while studying at St. John's University, and later founded his own moving and storage company.

Simpson began his career in transportation over 30 years ago as a tractor-trailer driver while attending college, and went on to own his own domestic and international moving and storage company.

### Friendly Bus Unveiled at EXPO 2006



Introduced nationally at the Community Transportation 2006 Expo in Orlando, FL, the Ford F-450 *Friendly Bus*, by the Dallas Smith Corporation, quickly became "the hit of the show" with its easy access curb height entry and low floor throughout design. "The *Friendly Bus* is the future of transit systems, and a true inspiration to both elderly and disabled passengers"...states J.R. Harding, Ed.D., as he experienced accessing the *Friendly Bus* for the first time.

Developed around the concept of providing "Equal Access for All", the *Friendly Bus* delivers its promise and provides transportation systems with a safer, smarter, and easier vehicle. Safer, because of its exclusive independent wide-trac™ air ride suspension system creating enhanced stability and overall vehicle control. Smarter, with its low-floor throughout design, establishing greater self-reliance among disabled and elderly passengers. And Easier, because wheelchair lifts are not needed. Based on that feature alone, transportation systems can save 12-15 minutes per wheelchair passenger who would have otherwise needed a lift gate to access/exit a vehicle.

In addition to presenting the *Friendly Bus* at Expo 2006, the Dallas Smith Corporation developed and introduced Build-A-Bus, a user-friendly program (now available on their website [www.thefriendlybus.com](http://www.thefriendlybus.com)) offering the ability to Build, Price, and Personalize your own shuttle or paratransit *Friendly Bus*. Once logged on, you can choose from various floor plans, with seating configurations for up to 22 passengers (including up to 4 wheelchair positions). Power your full-time front-wheel drive *Friendly Bus* with optional Powerstroke™ Diesel or V-10 Gasoline engine. And of course much more, including a detailed spec sheet outlining the vehicles dimensions, floor plan and each distinctive advantage you select for your *Friendly Bus*.

Garrett Smith, Dallas Smith Vice President concluded on the final day of the show that "EXPO 2006 provided a great source of both product and overall industry information...the response alone has lifted the introduction of the *Friendly Bus* to that next level of demand. A great show and we are truly looking forward to Expo 2007 in Reno, NV"