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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

Head of MTA Bus Divisions Announces Retirement

After a 33-year career at the MTA, the MTA's leading bus executive, Joseph Smith, announced his retirement today, effective December 31st. Smith began his career in 1977 as a bus operator at the Amsterdam Depot and rose through the ranks, eventually leading the historic consolidation of the MTA's three bus divisions. He currently heads the entire MTA bus operation as Senior Vice President of the Department of Buses for NYC Transit and President of MTA Bus and Long Island Bus.

"Joe exemplifies the hard work, dedication and innovation that exists throughout the MTA," said MTA Chairman and CEO Jay H. Walder. "He learned the system from behind the wheel of a bus and took those lessons to create a more efficient, effective and environmentally friendly bus company. Joe has been the driving force behind continuing improvements in our bus system and he will be sorely missed."

Under his leadership, the operation of the MTA's three bus divisions was merged, saving more than \$86 million in 2009 and improving service for the MTA's 2.8 million bus customers. On his watch, the number of environmentally-friendly hybrid electric buses has increased along with easy-to-board low floor buses. Working closely with the New York City Department of Transportation and the NYPD, Smith developed the city's first Select Bus Service routes-the SBS Bx12 and SBS M15.

"The responsibility of guiding the largest bus system in North America was relished by Joe and that was demonstrated by the enthusiasm that he brought to the job each day," said NYC Transit President Tom Prendergast. "He is credited with creating new efficiencies, helping to develop new technologies and making New York City's bus system among the finest in the world."

As the head of buses for the MTA, Smith oversaw an operation consisting of nearly 6,000 buses, 40 facilities stretching from Yonkers to Rockville Center, nearly 18,500 employees and 900 square miles of territory. Additionally, he has the responsibility of providing accessible transportation through the Access-A-Ride and Able Ride Paratransit Divisions of NYC Transit and Nassau County, respectively.

In a career marked by achievements, Smith improved his department's efficiency by recycling usable parts culled from buses being removed from service. Taking a hard look at how the department was disposing of items, he determined that there would be a major cost savings involved with reusing parts on similar buses remaining in service. So far, that program has saved the MTA more than \$17 million.

The MTA will conduct a search to fill the position.