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Press Release

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NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit's First Hackathon Seeks Data-Centric Bus Fans to Transform Staten Island Transit Network

March 5 Competition to Give Developers Access to Bus Data Sets, Archival Data for Express and Local Routes

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is looking for bus enthusiasts with a knack for coding to take on the challenge of transforming Staten Island's transit infrastructure.

MTA New York City Transit is hosting its first bus hackathon, a one-day event in March to gather ideas and proposals for improving Staten Island's transit network by applying technology to ridership and performance data that will be released to the public for the first time. The hackathon is a partnership with the TransitCenter and New York University's Rudin Center for Transportation.

"The hackathon is an invitation for feedback from our tech-savvy customers as well as an opportunity for New York City Transit to further use innovation and technology to provide our customers with better service," said Darryl Irick, Senior Vice President, Department of Buses and President of MTA Bus Company.

The data sets that will be provided include ridership data for express bus routes and comprehensive archival performance data for express and local bus routes. The hackathon challenges data-minded transit fans with the task of finding solutions for faster, more reliable transit for Staten Island.

The hackathon complements public workshops being held by NYC Transit for its ongoing study of bus services and customer needs on Staten Island, including a workshop scheduled for tonight, February 9, at Staten Island Technical High School where Transit representatives will gather input from residents. MTA previously held hackathons in conjunction with its annual App Quests, which challenged developers with creating transit-oriented apps to improve customer experience through use of the MTA's extensive open-source data library.

The hackathon is sponsored by the TransitCenter, a nonprofit that advocates for improving public transportation for communities and businesses. Additional support will be provided by Google and CartoDB, with representatives from both organizations available onsite for technical assistance at the event.

The one-day-only competition on Saturday, March 5, will be held at LMHQ, 150 Broadway, 20th Floor, in Manhattan. It is open to the public but requires registration to the Rudin Center via the following link by Saturday, February 20, 2016:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Zk9nidxbWtiqwxJRMBZe5UNtXN7Qnz3X73Cf-xubnNU/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Judge and prize information will be announced closer to the event, which will be attended by Staten Island Borough President James Oddo.