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FIRST SEARCHABLE DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC TRANSIT APPS LAUNCHES

Open data from transit agencies powers 60+ innovative transit apps

(Seattle, WA—Dec. 10, 2009) Front Seat, the civic software company that operates Walk Score (www.walkscore.com), today announced the launch of City-Go-Round (www.citygoround.org), a website where visitors can find public transit applications (apps) available in their city. Visitors also see a list of which transit agencies make their data publicly available to software developers and which agencies do not.

"We are calling on transit agencies nationwide to open their data and follow the lead of the Open Government Directive issued this week by the White House," said Mike Mathieu, Founder and Chairman of Front Seat. "City-Go-Round's transit apps are a concrete example of how open data can improve citizens' lives on a daily basis."

There are 748 transit agencies in the U.S., 84 of which provide their schedule data to software developers. The largest three transit agencies with no open data are: MTA New York City Transit, New Jersey Transit Corporation, and Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company in New York. Visitors to City-Go-Round can add their name to a request for open public transit data in their city.

"With transportation budgets stretched thin across the country, we see opening transportation data as a tremendous opportunity for cost savings," said Chris Dempsey, assistant transportation secretary for MassDOT. "Enabling software developers to build apps with our data is a huge win for our riders—all at essentially no cost to the agency."

There are over 60 public transit apps listed on City-Go-Round with more being added on an ongoing basis. The apps include real-time arrival information (e.g. when will my bus arrive?), augmented-reality maps of public transit systems, portable schedules and maps, and apps to help you shave time off of your public transit trip.

"CityGoRound.org is a great demonstration of the benefits that transit agencies can get by sharing their data in open formats," said Joe Hughes, lead developer of the GTFS transit data format at Google. "Open data allows developers around the world to apply their creativity and energy to help transit riders."

"TriMet has been exposing our transit data to the public since 2005. There are dozens of innovative applications that have been built by developers using this data, and ultimately these apps improve the customer experience and increase transit ridership," said Tim McHugh, Chief Technology Officer for TriMet in Portland, Oregon.

About Front Seat and City-Go-Round

City-Go-Round is a project of Front Seat (www.frontseat.org), the civic software company that operates Walk Score (www.walkscore.com). Over 700 real estate websites show Walk Score on their listings and over 2.5 million Walk Scores are served each day. Walk Score displays public transit information wherever open transit data is available. City-Go-Round and public transit on Walk Score are funded in part by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

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