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# Transit Service Looks to Send Info to Your Phone

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24-The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Consensus Systems Technologies Corporation (CONSYSTEC,) an engineering consulting firm which specializes in intelligent transportation services, hosted the Transit Service Information Portal Workshop in the NAC ballroom.

The Transit Service Information Portal (TSIP) created by CONSYSTEC is part of the NYSDOT's Schedule Data Profile, a program aimed at managing and sharing transportation information between transportation operators and releasing scheduling information to the public. All projects developed for the Schedule Data Profile program are part of 511NY, New York State's official transit information service.

The TSIP will provide real time information on multiple transit agency schedules, service status, route-to-route direction list, and unexpected service changes. TSIP will also allow third party developers to create applications for mobile devices such as Apple's iPhone for real time transit information.

The TSIP was originally conceptualized in 1999. It was not until late 2001 that the NYSDOT realized there was an urgent need for the type of information included in programs such as TSIP to be accessible to the public. The NYSDOT eventually decided to create the Schedule Data Profile and establish it as the single point for all transit agencies and their data.

The workshop allowed developers to voice their opinions on how to properly create software. It was also a forum for software developers and transit agencies to address issues on data quality, and the portal functions of the TSIP.

Interim City College President Robert Paaswell began the seminar by expressing his view that "[transit] information has two dimensions." Information needs to be in real time and include travel choices.

Todd Westhuis, a special assistant to the Chief Operating Officer of the NYSDOT, said he was frustrated by the "oceans of [traffic] data" that isn't turned into easily accessible info.

Paula E. Okunieff, Project Manager of CONSYSTEC, introduced the TSIP by expressing her satisfaction with the progress of the program and her disappointment in the lack of feedback from developers. She wanted this workshop to allow relevant questions to be addressed before the creation of the portal goes to bidding.

Officials of CONSYSTEC went on to discuss the general layout of the portal. CONSYSTEC's goal at that the workshop was to present TSIP in its current form and have developers tackle any overlooked concerns.

The NYSDOT has set up a NY Developer Resource Area on the 511NY website. Developers can access

real time information provided by different transit agencies for application development research. The address for the Resource Area is: <http://www.511nyprod.org/developer.aspx>.

For more information on CONYSTEC's TSIP, visit [www.consystem.com/tsdea/index.html](http://www.consystem.com/tsdea/index.html).

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