The MTA is challenging software developers to use MTA data to create new apps that improve the transit experience of its 8.5 million daily riders.

About the Challenge

New York State’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority is challenging developers to create new software applications that improve the transit experience of its 8.5 million daily riders. The MTA is a complex transportation system that generates many different kinds of data, presenting an intriguing challenge for app developers.

The challenge will award $15,000 in total cash prizes. Winners will receive up to $5,000, be featured on the MTA’s website, and be promoted through outreach to the news media and via the MTA’s social media channels. In addition to cash prizes, winners will receive a selection of MTA-licensed products. Prizes will be awarded for apps that do the most to improve the transit experience of the MTA’s by helping riders better navigate the system. All contestants submitting eligible applications will be invited to an exclusive, behind the scenes tour of Grand Central Terminal.

The competition is open to individuals and organizations in the United States and its territories and submitted apps should run on the web, desktop computers, tablets, and/or mobile phone platforms.

The MTA has made more than a dozen data sets available for the challenge, including General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) schedule data; current service status; real-time information for some bus lines; elevator/escalator status; turnstile and fare data; bridge and tunnel traffic data; and subway entrance GIS data.

For a complete list of prizes and contest rules, visit http://MTAAppQuest.com.