



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: September 26, 2016

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**MINER ANNOUNCES SYRACUSE'S FIRST CIVIC DATA  
HACKATHON: SYRACUSE ROADS CHALLENGE, POWERED  
BY AT&T, TO BRING TOGETHER TECH EXPERTS TO  
DEVELOP CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO INFRASTRUCTURE  
CHALLENGES**

*Hackathon, in Partnership with AT&T and Syracuse University iSchool, Will Run from September 26 Through October 9, With Data Being Released on the First Day and Winners Being Announced the Week After it Concludes*

*Miner: Syracuse is One of the First Cities to Bring Together New Tech Experts to Brainstorm Solutions to Longstanding Challenges*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner announced today that the City will partner with AT&T and the Syracuse University School of Information Studies (iSchool) to host the first-ever Civic Data Hackathon: Syracuse Roads Challenge, Powered by AT&T. Starting on September 26, 2016, participants will be given data about the current conditions of City roads and have the opportunity to create new applications and predictive analyses which could be used to help the administration address road quality issues.

“Syracuse is one of the first cities to engage experts in new technology to brainstorm solutions to the longstanding challenges we face. This type of bold innovation is what is needed to tackle the infrastructure issues faced by our community,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “My administration has embraced new ideas and technology as methods to solve our challenges, including deploying sensors to better understand road quality, monitors giving early warnings about water main leaks, or improving citizen reporting. I am excited to see the bold ideas from these developers who will use their creativity and tech savvy to answer our longstanding questions.”

“AT&T is proud to collaborate with the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University and the other community tech organizations involved to provide this unique challenge to students and career technologists in Central New York. This challenge showcases how technology and data can be used for social good to address issues impacting the region,” said **Marissa Shorenstein, New York president, AT&T**. “We are committed to



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technology innovation in New York through our company's multi-billion dollar nationwide investment in the mobile communications network of the future and our dedication to foster local innovation across the State by providing opportunities for data scientists, coders, and developers to create new technologies that could positively impact their communities and strengthen the local innovation economy. I am excited to see the creativity and ingenuity from the participants in this challenge.”

“I’m proud that the iSchool will be partnering with the City of Syracuse and AT&T by lending our expertise to the hackathon. Our faculty and students are deeply engaged in using Big Data to address a wide range of issues. They will be providing participants with guidance on evaluating and working with the City’s datasets to generate solutions to address issues which Syracuse and all cities are facing. A robust city infrastructure is important for our entire region, and I’m glad to see the community, industry, local government, and the University seeking solutions together that will help the City in going forward,” said **Elizabeth D. Liddy, Dean of the Syracuse University School of Information Studies.**

The Civic Data Hackathon: Syracuse Roads Challenge, Powered by AT&T, is designed to engage technologists, designers, developers, and anyone else who is interested to use their skills for social good and is one of the first times in the United States a municipality has led a Hackathon focused on road infrastructure. On September 26, Mayor Miner will be joined by leaders of the iSchool and AT&T to kick-off the challenge and officially release the data which will be found at [ischool.syr.edu/RoadsChallenge](http://ischool.syr.edu/RoadsChallenge). For this challenge, a panel of judges comprised of City officials, a representative from AT&T, and a representative from the iSchool. Cash prizes for the first, second, and third place winner will be awarded at a ceremony in October.

Infrastructure has been a significant priority of the Miner administration. The Mayor has led efforts to use new technologies to improve how the City addresses maintenance issues. Mayor Miner received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies to start an Office of Innovation and tasked the i-team with developing creative solutions to infrastructure challenges. Through these efforts, the administration deployed Street Quality Inspection Devices (SQUID) devices to do comprehensive analysis of road conditions. Another innovation is the ongoing implementation of sensors on water valves, which are able to sense leaks in water mains before they become catastrophic breaks, which will enable City workers to make schedule repairs limiting the impact on water customers.

**About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T**

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. In 2013, more than \$130 million

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was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.

**About the School of Information Studies**

The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University (iSchool) is the original information school in the nation. It is a leading center for innovative programs in information policy, information behavior, information management, information systems, information technology, and information services. The nationally ranked school (*U.S. News and World Report*) has professional degree programs at the undergraduate and master's levels and research and professional degrees at the doctoral level. The school offers its master's programs in campus and online formats.

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