RATP Dev USA AND CAPITAL METRO TEAM UP WITH CONNECTHINGS
TO MAKE TRAVELLING EASIER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In partnership with **Connecthings**, the leader of the internet of public things, **Capital Metro**, the bus service provider for the city of Austin, and **BlindSquare**, the most popular GPS app for the blind and visually impaired, RAPT Dev USA launched a pilot programme on 12 March this year to help people with vision impairment to travel around the city more easily and efficiently.

This digital infrastructure, powered by the Connecthings contextualization software platform, allows BlindSquare app users to receive, in real time, via voice notification on their smartphone, information about bus schedules and service alerts when they are approaching stops.

Tested for 60 days on 16 Capital Metro bus stops in the city centre, the programme is intended to be rolled out more widely in Austin and even for other communities and uses, such as e-ticketing or indicating availability of other modes of transport near stations in the event of service disruption. These services are designed to streamline and simplify mobility in smart, connected and attractive cities.

This partnership with Connecthings further demonstrates RATP Dev's ability to work with external partners to provide customers with ever more innovative services. It is fully in line with RATP Dev's stated ambition to be a key player in the development of a new era of sustainable mobility, serving smart cities.

"By operating 60% of the bus network in Austin, Texas", Catherine Chardon, CEO of RATP Dev North America, explained, *"we are determined to go beyond our role as operators and act as an influencer of innovation. This pilot programme is a perfect illustration of this and demonstrates our ability to bring solutions to our client organising authorities".*

"At the instigation of RATP Dev, which facilitated our meeting with Capital Metro", added Laetitia Gazel Anthoine, CEO of Connecthings, *"we have succeeded, with Capital Metro and RATP Dev, in breaking down the communication barriers that restrict the daily lives of blind or visually impaired passengers. Technology is a remarkable thing. Like Connecthings, RATP Dev is a stakeholder in the city that aims to make use of new technologies to develop services for local residents and travellers".*

"Quality service and innovation are benchmarks of our core services and those of our transportation partners like Capital Metro," said Sandy Freeman, Vice President, Innovation & Product Delivery at RATP Dev USA. *"This is especially true of our paratransit services where we make it as easy as possible for any passenger to reach any destination, at any time."*

About RATP Dev

Founded in 2002, RATP Dev operates and maintains urban transportation systems in 14 countries on four continents (United Kingdom, France, Italy, Switzerland, Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, China, South Korea, the Philippines, and the United States of America).

With more than 1.5 billion passengers travelling on its networks every year, RATP Dev demonstrates every day its extensive and renowned expertise in a wide range of mobility services, ranging from rail, regional express rail, tramway, to bus, cable car and sightseeing activities.

RATP Dev leverages in France, outside of Paris, and across international markets the technical expertise and experience of RATP Group, the leader in driverless and tramway operations and operator of the Paris network, one of the largest public transportation networks in the world.

In North America RATP Dev employs over 4,300 team members transporting more than 78 million passengers in 18 states and operates a wide range of bus and rail services.