

DRIVE IN TURN PROPOSAL

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Brief Description:

A ride-sharing phone APP that pairs up drivers and riders for car pool.

Problem and Solution:

The traffic situation has been more and more severe during the recent years. Since people have to commute to work every morning and come back home at same time, the traffic is extremely bad during the rush hours. And we have noticed that most(almost all) vehicles has only one person(the driver) inside. So we think if we could provide a platform for the people who are about to take the same route to work/home find each other, then we could help to reduce the number of cars on road and make our users be able to drive on car pool lane and split tolls spends.

Main functionalities:

Each logged in user can choose to search partner as a driver or a rider depends on the user's plan for that day.

1. Drivers' side: Drivers input start point, destination and trip time in advance(eg. The night before). Then get the paired up riders(up to 3) that need to take the same route around the same time. Drivers can leave comments and rate the rider.
2. Riders' side: Riders input input start point, destination and trip time in advance and will be informed whether there is a driver available. Riders can leave comments and rate the driver as well.
3. Server side: Server takes in requests from drivers and riders, run algorithm to pair them up, and feedback with the pairing results.

If two people(or more) decided to share ride on the same route every day(constantly), there is another functionality like the wall in facebook that allows these people to create a group. And in this group they can post schedules(who is driving on that day), create reminders, and also group chats.

There is no money payments needed. In order to get a ride, rider need to pay with "miles". And "miles" can be achieved by driving to provide rides.

Alternatives:

There are many other applications like Uber that are providing similar services. However the original idea we have is not the same with Uber. It is not a profit generating media. Instead, our app provides a platform for car owners to share rides, meet new friends, and reduce traffic pressure. And that is the reason we introduce the notion of “miles”. You have to first serve as a driver to earn the “miles” which you could use for rides later. Unlike applications like Uber or Lyft, there will be no real money involved in our application’s operation.

Challenges and Risks:

The algorithm to pair people up might be one problem. In order for drivers to be willing to share ride, we cannot ask them to spend too much time on picking up the riders. On the other hand, narrowing the pairing standard too much might leave many riders with no available drivers.

To minimize this risk, instead of pair people up directly, we might choose to provide drivers with several recommended riders, and each rider has the right to decide how much miles to pay. In this way, driver could choose to accept a riding request or reject it, based on how much miles he could earn versus how much time he has to spend to pick up the rider.