Enabling Intelligent Public Transportation Using IOT

Seats vacant - 5
Speed - 60 kmph
Destination - x town
Reach next stop in 5 minutes
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**Introduction**

Transportation is the respiratory system of our economy as every day the world relies on a complex network of transportation system responsible for facilitating full range of human activities sustaining the civilization. According to a recent study US road traffic congestion in 2007 wasted 2.8 billion gallons of fuel and 4.2 billion hours, costing a whopping $ 87.2 Billion. In India around 5 lakhs road accidents happens, causing a loss of around $20 billion, getting 6 lakhs people injured and 1.5 lakhs getting killed. Every year, nearly 36,000 vehicles are stolen. Traffic congestion costs the European Union over 1% of GDP i.e. 100 Billion Euros per year.

These concerns, seeds the need of transformative change for World’s Transportation System by enhancing road Safety to commuters and driver, providing convenience and safety to use public transport, integrating Paratransit and Mass Transit modes, optimizing the emergency services by reducing time to respond, regulate driving behavior reducing accidents, manage city traffic by optimizing route reducing commutation time, automate toll collection reducing waiting time, control pollution caused by vehicles etc.

This is one of the most interesting times in Intelligent Transportation System as the developing countries have an advantage over the developed countries, where they can optimize their existing model by leveraging the forces of Social, Mobile, Analytics and Cloud.

**Need and benefits analysis**

This would give a "bird's-eye view" on unleashing the IoT potential and exploring new vistas for the developing nations, encompassing the major challenges and lessons learnt from the real life use cases implemented in developed nations like (Japan, South Korea, US, UK, Australia). It provides a holistic point of view for developing nations to implement ITS and the benefit they have over the developed nations on the following

- Enhancing efficiency and convenience to use public transport, connecting paratransit and mass transit modes.
- Optimize Emergency services saving lives and reducing road congestion contributing back to GDP.
- Provide Road Safety to commuters and drivers by regulating driving behavior and managing optimized routes
- Enable Parking assistance and Automated Road Tolling
- Create Vehicle to Vehicle and Vehicle to Infrastructure ecosystem and leveraging the Smart Phone Ecosystem
- Fleet Management, Vehicle Management and Track & trace Management
Intelligent transport system – Real Life Use Case Scenarios

Urban Development
- Utility Vehicle Management
- Emergency Response
- Public Safety
- Waste Collection Management
- Automated Pollution Control Check

Traffic Planners
- Advanced Traffic Management System
- Over Speeding Monitoring
- Real-Time Passenger Information System
- Automatic Passenger Counting
- CCTV Junction Surveillance

Commuters
- E-Calling
- Intelligent Transit Trip Planner
- Personal Car: Theft Prevention & Safety
- Non-intruding Infotainment Systems and Phones
- Emergency Response

Fleet Management
- Employee Commutation
- Management Inventory Tracking
- Radio Taxi Management
- School Bus Management System

Vehicle OEMs
- Vehicle Diagnostic
- Performance Report
- Product Performance

Transport Infra
- Smart Parking
- Road Toll Collection
- Smart Signals
- Smart Roads
- Zebra Crossing Automation
- Digital Signage
Intelligent Road Transport System Scenario - A Detailed Analysis

Public transportation is reducing energy consumption and harmful carbon dioxide (CO2) greenhouse gas emissions that damages the environment. Traveling by public transportation uses less energy and produces less pollution as compared to travel in private vehicles. To make progress in reducing our dependence on foreign oil and impacting climate change, public transportation must be part of our M2M solution.

State Transport system in India is inefficient and slack. Lots of buses are involved in the public transport; they run on the scheduled time every day. The system has many problems that could be resolved by implementing M2M solutions. We have discovered some the problems that could be considered for Indian scenario.

Note:
The Use Case is prepared by considering the Indian scenario rather than referring other countries’ systems. Some of the recommendations would be for green field and some of them could be adopted by the existing system.

Objectives:
- To develop a Smart system that could benefit RTC (Road Transport Corporation) as well as the passengers
- To develop a business model where operator can act as an Enterprise Service Provider
- To encourage the passenger to use public transport for commuting there by reducing traffic congestion, air pollution etc.

Problems:
- Overloaded buses
- Less frequency of buses
- Breakdown of buses (e.g. proper maintenance & BCP)
- Planning and priority on the basis of availability and urgency of the service provision (e.g. traffic system and priority management system integration)
- Accidents by public transport vehicles due to rash driving

Requirements:
- GPS devices
- Wheel speed sensors
- Torque sensors
- Sensors measuring the health of the vehicle

Basic Infrastructure Requirement:
- Wi-Fi at each bust stop and each bust depot

Planning and managing the buses:
The basic requirements for the use case is that all the Bus depot are connected to each other and all the small bus stands will be connected to the respective depots of the town. The source depot will update the departure time of the bus to all the bus stands and the destination depot. GPS tracking and tracing systems will provide the information about how far the bus is from the destination and the estimated time of arrival. The number of the passengers waiting at the respective bus stand will be updated frequently.
Communication between various spots when buses are travelling from source to destination

(Assumption: Bus depot will have the buses in the buffer; passengers will travel from X to Y town)

Here, one scenario is discussed where at different times buses will depart from the depot X for the destination depot Y. The route will cover all the bus stops in between and bus timings are already predefined.

- Bus will depart from X depot with 50 vacant seats.
- It will pick up 30 passengers from 1st bus stop then the dashboard at the bus stop will display the information as shown in the below diagram.
- After filling up the seats at the 2nd bus stop the bus will communicate with the bus depot X and also with all the bus stop regarding no vacant seats.
- Bus depot will make the arrangement of another bus and it will send the notification to all the bus stop about the departure and arrival time of the bus.
- At the same time bus will be notified about the passengers waiting at the 3rd and 4th bus stop.
**Information 1:** The bus will update the source bus depot regarding the no space in the bus and the depot will get the information about the number of passengers waiting at all the bus stand.

**Information 2:** Depot will notify the bus stand 3 & 4 about the arrival timing of the bus.

**Scenario when the bus travels from source to destination**

Fuel monitoring and efficiency measurement system, control of air pollution & tracking of the driver’s driving behavior: The fuel prices are rising day by day. It’s been necessary to monitor the vehicle’s fuel consumption/usage and the efficiency, so that the frauds can be avoided and the efficiency of the vehicle could be maintained.

**Sensors required**
- Fuel level measurement sensors
- Fuel flow meters (measures the flow of the meter with the travelled distance)
- Torque Sensors
- Speed measurement sensors
- Air monitoring sensors

Whenever the fuel is filled or the level of the fuel changes the information regarding the same will be sent to the bus depot. The efficiency is measured by the fuel flow meters as it will send the information about the distance travelled and the fuel consumption in the meantime.

Now, the driving behavior can be analyzed through the sensors (speed measurement and torque sensors) which would be fitted in the bus’ tires. The sensors will measure the torque of the tires and the data regarding the same will be sent to the hub where the data will be analyzed and the driver should be punished for the same. The air monitoring sensor will guide the hub about the content of the air pollution made by the bus.

**Payment methodology**
- NFC: The passenger details would be recorded and the amount will be deducted from his account.
- Smart Card: Passenger need to recharge that card and payment will be made by swiping it.
- M-wallet, Google Wallet will be the other modes of payments.

**Figure 4 Bus Maintenance System**
Here, the scenario of ‘The Bus Breakdown’ is discussed just to get the idea how the NOC can take care of the buses. The bus breakdown occurs while in the route from X to Y. Please consider the below events & actions in chronological order:

**Pre-assumption:**
The transport corporation will be having collaboration with various garage parties

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**Figure 4 Bus Maintenance System**

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**Profiling of the customers using CRM**

State Road Transport System already has some limited Customer data that is taken during issue of a monthly pass. This customer data if could be extended to all other customers in more detailed fashion could be of great use for the implementation of CRM. Assuming that Telecom operator will act as a leader in the system, its customer data might be useful for the profiling of the customers. Once all the customer data is captured the mapping of users could be done using parent ID’s and Child ID’s. This mapping is useful to have authentication for parents to track their child safety. Usage patterns of the passengers could be analyzed and accordingly loyalty points could be added in the smart card provided to customer. Also CRM helps in getting proper timely feedback about the services offered to passengers.

**Tracing and tracking of special passengers like kids and woman for the safety purpose**

Once we have captured the customer details and mapping of profiles is done. Only people who have the authority predefined can track and trace (using RFID tags or NFC) their kids and also for better women safety.

**Infotainment:**

A personalized smart screen is provided to each passenger in green field buses. As these are value added services offered, Telecom operators can charge passengers according to their usage. Different infotainment facilities such as streaming videos, preloaded content, real time gaming and information services could be provided. These screens can also be used for advertising based on Location of the bus; content could be loaded through wifi at bus stops. And there by affordable infotainment services could be provided to passengers.
Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM)
Basic Block Diagram with Key Features
- Automatic vehicle Location (AVL)
- Passenger Information System (PIS)
- Synchronization with Bus Depot
- Continuous/ Schedule based Security
- Camera Recording on activation of predefined features
- Emergency Two way Voice Call
- Rear View Camera Display On BDC on Enabling Reverse Gear
- GPS Based Navigation and 3G wireless Communication
- Supports Communication protocols like CAN 2.0, RS 232, Ethernet and USB
- Vehicle Heath Monitoring and Diagnostics (VHMD)
- Vehicle Tracking System/ Navigation System
- ETC RFID Tag
- Speed Limiters
- Immobilizers
- Collision warning
- Adaptive cruise control
Our brand commitment is to deliver a customer experience which is smart, connected and secure. With the advanced benefits of IoT technology, we focus on delivering services that would make enterprises, our environment and life smarter than in the future.

Our Internet of Things services range from designing hardware devices, cloud enablement, mobility enablement, engineering and real-time analytics, and consulting to create end-to-end solutions. Our IoT services encompass managed services via SOC/NOC that ensures smooth functioning of the M2M infrastructure for the business.
The major enablers or drivers for Intelligent Transport system in India would be

- Exponential rise in the number of vehicles leading to traffic congestion, deterioration in air quality and increase in noise levels in metropolitan city.
- €60bn of transport-related investment expected over the next five years and a massive €390bn anticipated over the next two decades. (News Report, ITS International)
- Freight and logistics is a disorganized sector in India and demands huge potential for growth, development and investment. Leveraging IoT for ITS implementation for proper vehicle tracking, vehicle emissions and fuel costs, can help reduce carbon footprint and introduce several degree of efficiency.

The ITS ecosystem in India is still in its nascent stage and there are some major challenges in implementing state-of-art technologies in India. Some of the prominent ones are:

- Integration of the ITS applications and introduction of standards or the framework for an international ITS architecture.
- Implementation and development of a nation-wide ITS data archive
- Due to basic socio-geographical differences, India’s ITS cannot replicate existing successful models implemented in developed nations.
- High cost of implementation doesn’t allow high penetration.

Due to these Indian specific challenges you need an expert partner with specialized domain expertise. Happiest Minds IoT expertise would help build better business model and implementation of ITS through integrating various ecosystem players.
About the Author

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Aditya is a certified Business Analyst, who holds the Vice Chair position for the IoT work group at TSDSI-TEC, a IoT specific standard development organization working with One M2M & ETSI.ITIL v3, Business Continuity Management and Business Process Framework Professional. He has a rich experience in technology R&D, business development and Solution Offerings with special focus on Internet of Things domain. Aditya holds a MBA degree from Symbiosis International University with a Bachelors’ degree in Computer Science Engineering. You can reach him at aditya.basu@happiestminds.com

Happiest Minds

Happiest Minds, the Mindful IT Company, applies agile methodologies to enable digital transformation for enterprises and technology providers by delivering seamless customer experience, business efficiency and actionable insights. We leverage a spectrum of disruptive technologies such as: Big Data Analytics, AI & Cognitive Computing, Internet of Things, Cloud, Security, SDN-NFV, RPA, Blockchain etc. Positioned as “Born Digital . Born Agile”, our capabilities spans across product engineering, digital business solutions, infrastructure management and security services. We deliver these services across industry sectors such as retail, consumer packaged goods, edutech, e-commerce, banking, insurance, hi-tech, engineering R&D, manufacturing, automotive and travel/transportation/hospitality.

Headquartered in Bangalore, India; Happiest Minds has operations in USA, UK, The Netherlands, Australia and Middle East.

To know more about our offerings. Please write to us at business@happiestminds.com