

## **THE SERVICE “VPUTI” IS TO SEARCH YOUR FELLOW TRAVELERS AND FREINDS**

**Markelov A.E., Borisov A.S.**

**Scientific Supervisor: senior teacher Labusheva T.M.**

*Siberian federal university*

In the early days of automobiles the notion “hitch-hiking” appeared in the USA. Americans traveled through the country without using public transport and having their own cars. So they became passengers of lonely drivers who were their fellow travelers. In their turn, passengers made the drivers a company and gave them a small travel-fare. Later, private transport became too popular and available almost for everybody that consequently caused traffic problems, especially in European densely populated cities. Narrow streets and a vast amount of transport paralyzed the traffic in all cities. This problem is still relevant. To solve it, many solutions were offered. Among them there were increasing parking spaces, building new highways, producing additional junctions, etc.

One solution came from the English road service and it is worth mentioning here as this English idea has always been able to meet the traveler’s needs. It consists in transporting several men living close to one another in one private car. This idea is a very interesting one as it allows to lessen an amount of cars during rush hours both on roads and on parking spots.

In Russia the problem with traffic jams appeared about 5 years ago and it did concern only a limited amount of big cities. But recently it has increased dramatically. Thus, joint travels are becoming popular in our country now. In comparison with England, Russian road services don’t distribute this idea to the population but all the same it is being used by Russian citizens who get to know it from the internet recourses. Among them there are some sites and forums where drivers and passengers can meet each other leaving their contacts. This communicating system is really easy, though it is not very friendly for end users.

In 2011 a team of Russian programmers from Krasnoyarsk developed a multifunctional computer application for searching fellow travelers. This application is called “Vputi” in Russian. In English “Vputi” means “on the way”. Unlike forums and websites where the information is stored only in a plain text, this application has already stored the route on the map. (The map with a route to see and to find fellow-travelers is shown below). The companion's search is made by the algorithm which takes into account all the alternative routes, bus stations and yards which are in the city. If you mark your route you will definitely find your fellow traveler.

The application is available on Android and iOS. Besides, you can find it in the social network “Vkontakte” and in the other sites as well. All of the applications have the same database which it very convenient to be used everywhere almost by everybody. Different options of the application increase its mobility.

On registering in the system, you give information about your route. The registration guarantees you a safe ride. This service to use is not dangerous for the passengers as all negative and positive information about drivers who take part in the project is being put in the site “Vkontakte” and in the other sites as well. There you can read messages from unhappy passengers who have reported something that went wrong while being on the way. There you also can read messages from happy passengers determining which drivers are doing a good job and which aren’t.

”Vputi” is more than a program on the Internet. “Vputi” is a project that offers a mode of life and a new way of traveling that is sure to help you save your money and find new

friends. If you decide to use this service, share your route with the other users in the Internet and you will be able to find a fellow-traveler easily and quickly.

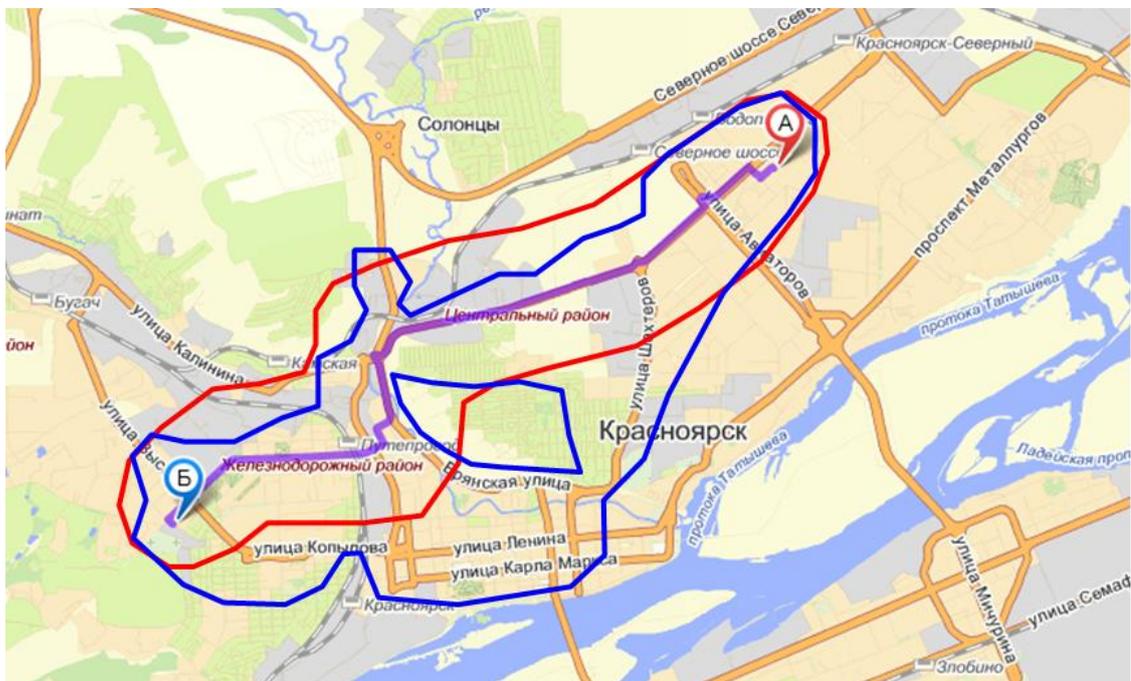
Moreover, to some extent, the program “Vputi” is able to cope with the problem of traffic jams. If all drivers do not go alone, the roads won’t be overcrowded by cars and the traffic won’t be so intensive as it is now on Krasnoyarsk’s roads. The more people will use it, the better it will be for all of us even from an ecological viewpoint. The air pollution caused by exhausted gases will decrease with decreasing a number of cars on our roads.

Today only 150 travelers in Krasnoyarsk use this wonderful possibility offered by this new ride-sharing service. Surely, the number of users is not big so far. It is partly because of men’s psychology which comes out in the way of different fears. Somebody is funking to be in the alien car and in the hand of the criminal at the same time. Somebody is really afraid of something that is new.

But, concerning the first mentioned phobia, one can say that according to international official statistics, it is more difficult to commit a crime using the new transportation service than it is for a regular old taxi driver. But all the same, this kind of fear is still alive as you never know where you are with the ride.

As for the second phobia, it can be easily overcome by starting using the thing that is rather new. You know, it is the first step that hurts. If you ask those who use the ride-search service regularly they are sure to say – it does work and there is nothing to be afraid.

So if you are looking for the best way to travel within the city and to save your money and time you are welcome to use the service! If you are worrying about traffic jams in Krasnoyarsk it is high time to join those who go by car together with fellow-travelers!



**The map with a route that helps to find fellow-travelers.**