Last Week In Innovative Mobility
February 19 - February 25, 2018

ITS Berkeley
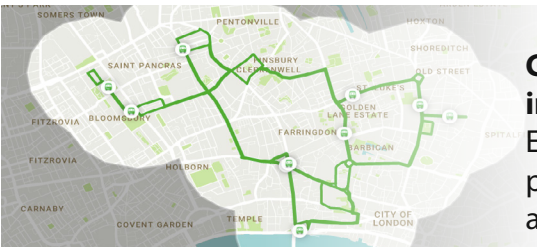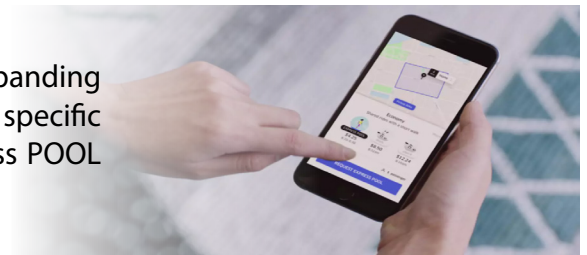Institute of Transportation Studies

TAXIs

Sony Corporation partners with five taxi companies to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) e-Hail platform in Japan. Sony's AI platform will take weather, local traffic, and other factors into account when matching passengers to taxi drivers. In Japan, due to local legislation, ridesourcing services are not allowed since drivers need to be licensed. The platform will also forecast demand and monitor taxi dispatches.

RIDESOURCING/TNCs

Uber launches its Express POOL service in six additional U.S. cities, expanding the service to nine cities total. Express POOL requires users to walk to a specific location to meet their driver and any additional passengers. Uber Express POOL rides can be up to 50 percent cheaper than equivalent UberPOOL rides.

MICROTRANSIT

Citymapper launches a free trial of Smart Rides, its microtransit service, in London. Passengers will be able to use the Citymapper app to book rides. Eight-seater Mercedes Viano vehicles will pick up passengers at specific pickup locations, and routes will include predetermined roads. Routes will also be responsive to demand changes in real time.

CARSHARING

Yandex launches a carsharing service through its Yandex.Drive platform. Initially, the shared fleet will include 750 vehicles, and it will operate in Moscow and the surrounding region. The per-minute price of a shared vehicle will start at eight cents, and it will increase based on demand and traffic conditions.

RIDESHARING

Bosch acquires SPLT, a Detroit-based ridesharing company. SPLT's service targets coworkers who travel on similar routes daily. Commuters starting and ending their trip at similar locations split the total cost of a shared SPLT ride. About 140,000 members in the United States, Mexico, and Germany use the service, at present.

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