CLAIMS

1. A control system for a passenger service vehicle, the control system comprising or configured to access or communicate with:

a database comprising a plurality of feature locations along a route of the passenger service vehicle that corresponds to a route along which passenger service vehicles make repeated trips along the same route in order to provide a regular service for passengers and at least some of the feature locations comprise a plurality of passenger stops;

a vehicle information system providing at least one operating parameter of the passenger service vehicle, such as velocity and/or location of the passenger service vehicle;

wherein the control system is configured to determine, based at least partly on the at least one operating parameter of the vehicle, a coasting condition associated with the passenger service vehicle under which the passenger service vehicle can coast without being under motive power to arrive at the feature location at a velocity that is a target velocity or higher, or within a target velocity range; and to provide an indication that the passenger service vehicle should begin to coast based on the coasting condition;

characterised in that

the control system is configured to determine which of the plurality of feature locations correspond to the at least one passenger stop at least partly based on a feature location profile indicative of a passenger stop, wherein the feature location profile indicative of a passenger stop is based at least in part on at least one of: an output of a door open/close sensor indicating that a door of the passenger service vehicle has been opened and closed, an output of a weight sensor and/or passenger ticketing information.

2. The control system of claim 1, wherein the control system is configured to determine how far the vehicle will coast at least partly based on one or more learned parameters such as past coasting performance of the passenger service vehicle, and optionally wherein the learned parameters are or comprise learned parameters for, associated with or near the current location.

3. The control system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the control system is configured to access or communicate with the database to obtain information regarding the plurality of feature locations, and optionally wherein the information regarding the plurality of feature locations is learned from making at least one trip along the route.

4. The control system of claim 3, wherein the information comprises established control rules for predicting behaviour of the passenger service vehicle along the route based on the information regarding the plurality of feature locations and the location and/or velocity of the passenger service vehicle, and optionally wherein the control system is configured to obtain data from a data input indicative at least one condition of the passenger service vehicle and use the data to update the information.

5. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the control system is configured to predict whether the passenger service vehicle will arrive at the feature location at the target velocity or higher, or within the target velocity range based on a current velocity at a current location of the passenger service vehicle.

6. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the plurality of feature locations comprise a junction, the control system being configured to identify the junction at least partly based on a feature location profile indicative of a junction, and optionally wherein the control system is configured to identify a start point of the junction via a speed or speed limit of the vehicle, and further configured to monitor at least one of: yaw rate; speed; and distance from start point.

7. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the control system is configured to calculate a coast range of the passenger service vehicle based on at least one of: a vehicle speed; deceleration rate; average deceleration rate; and inclination of the vehicle.

8. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the control system is configured to predict a heading of the vehicle based on at least one of: a vehicle speed; yaw rate; and coast range of the vehicle.

9. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the control system is configured to determine whether the vehicle can activate the coasting condition based on at least one operating parameter of the vehicle being within a predetermined range.

10. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the control system is configured to set the coasting condition to active if the vehicle can coast without being under motive power to arrive at the feature location at a velocity that is a target velocity or higher, or within a target velocity range, and wherein the control system is configured to set the coasting condition to inactive if at least one operating parameter of the vehicle changes to be within a predetermined range.

11. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the control system is configured to control energy consumption by the passenger service vehicle upon providing the indication that the passenger service vehicle should begin to coast.

12. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 11, comprising an operator indicator configured to prompt an operator of the passenger service vehicle to control energy consumption by the passenger service vehicle upon providing the indication that the passenger service vehicle should begin to coast.

13. The control system of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the control system comprises or is configured to access a location based system configured to determine the location of the passenger service vehicle.

14. A method of operating a passenger service vehicle, comprising:

accessing or communicating with:

a database comprising a plurality of feature locations along a route of the passenger service vehicle that corresponds to a route along which passenger service vehicles make repeated trips along the same route in order to provide a regular service for passengers and at least some of the feature locations comprise a plurality of passenger stops; and

a vehicle information system providing at least one operating parameter of the passenger service vehicle, such as velocity and/or location of the passenger service vehicle;

determining, based at least partly on the at least one operating parameter of the vehicle, a coasting condition associated with the passenger service vehicle under

which the passenger service vehicle can coast without being under motive power to arrive at the feature location at a velocity that is a target velocity or higher, or within a target velocity range; and

characterised by

determining which of the plurality of feature locations correspond to the at least one passenger stop at least partly based on a feature location profile indicative of a passenger stop, wherein the feature location profile indicative of a passenger stop is based at least in part on at least one of: an output of a door open/close sensor indicating that a door of the passenger service vehicle has been opened and closed, an output of a weight sensor and/or passenger ticketing information and providing an indication that the passenger service vehicle should begin to coast based on the coasting condition.

15. A computer program product configured such that, when executed on at least one processor, causes the at least one processor to implement the method of claim 14.