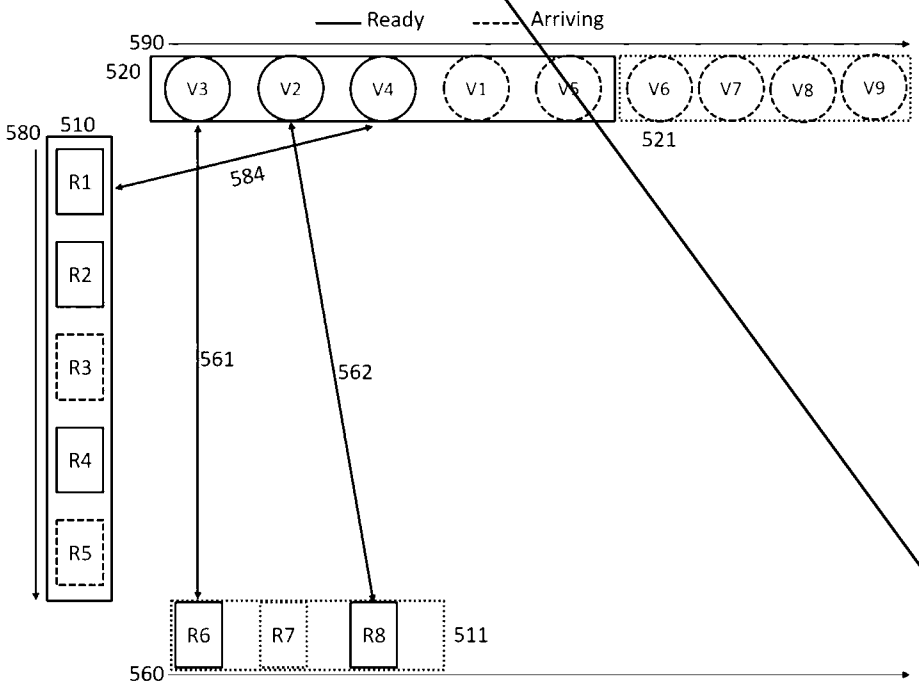
SYSTEM AND METHOD TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY IN ARRANGING ON-DEMAND AND SCHEDULED TRANSPORT SERVICE

A system and method for matching requesters and vehicles for on-demand and scheduled transport service is described. Requests from a plurality of requesters related to a pickup location are grouped and queued in a pool (requester pool), and notifications from the pickup location are disseminated to a plurality of vehicles for their acceptance. Vehicles that have accepted the notifications are grouped and queued in a pool (vehicle pool). A requester from the requester pool and a vehicle from the vehicle pool will be matched to each other when the vehicle has arrived (or is close to) the pickup location. The "pool-queue" matching method of the present invention alleviates inefficiencies in the conventional 1-to-1 matching method by, for example, shortening the requesters'/vehicles' waiting time and reducing the impact of cancellations. The invention might also reduce the amount of vehicles' unproductive time for scheduled transport service.



ABSTRACT

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A system and method for matching requesters and vehicles for on-demand and scheduled transport service is described. Requests from a plurality of requesters related to a pickup location are grouped and queued in a pool (requester pool), and notifications from the pickup location are disseminated to a plurality of vehicles for their acceptance. Vehicles that have accepted the notifications are grouped and queued in a pool (vehicle pool). A requester from the requester pool and a vehicle from the vehicle pool will be matched to each other when the vehicle has arrived (or is close to) the pickup location. The "pool-queue" matching method of the present invention alleviates inefficiencies in the conventional 1-to-1 matching method by, for example, shortening the requesters'/vehicles' waiting time and reducing the impact of cancellations. The invention might also reduce the amount of vehicles' unproductive time for scheduled transport service.

FIGURE 5B