Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing a plurality of transport-related service requests, the method comprising:

establishing a first time period;

identifying one or more service requests received during the first time period, each identified service request having an origin location;

identifying one or more service providers from among a plurality of service providers, each identified service provider having a current service provider location and an availability status, each identified service provider having its availability status indicating that it is currently available to be matched with a service request;

establishing a service request geographical region and service provider geographical region;

selecting one or more candidate service requests from the plurality of identified service requests, each candidate service request having its origin location within the service request geographical region;

selecting one or more candidate service providers from the plurality of identified service providers, each candidate service provider having its current service provider location within the service provider geographical region;

dynamically adjusting the first time period based on:

a quantity of the selected candidate service requests relative to a threshold service request number; and/or

a quantity of the selected candidate service providers relative to a threshold service provider number;

responsive to the dynamic adjustment of the first time period, selecting one or more final service requests from at least the candidate service requests, each final service request received during the dynamically adjusted first time period; and

performing a matching process to match one or more of the final service requests with one or more of the candidate service providers.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein when the quantity of the selected candidate service requests exceeds the threshold service request number, the dynamic adjusting includes reducing

the first time period until the quantity of the selected candidate service requests is less than or equal to the threshold service request number.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein when the quantity of the selected candidate service requests is below the threshold service request number, the method further comprises expanding the first time period;

wherein the selection of the candidate service providers is adjusted based on the expanded first time period; and

the matching process is performed for the adjusted selection of the candidate service providers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the matching process is further based on a likelihood that a cancellation and/or fraud will occur.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying prioritized final service requests, the prioritized final service requests being those final service requests associated with:

a new user status;

a special user status; and/or

a frequent user status;

wherein the matching process prioritizes a matching for the prioritized final service requests.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying prioritized candidate service providers, the prioritized candidate service providers being those candidate service providers associated with:

a new service provider status;

a special service provider status; and/or

a low activity status;

wherein the matching process prioritizes a matching for the prioritized candidate service providers.

7. The method of claim 1,

wherein the threshold service request number is dynamically established based on:

a consideration of historic request volumes and/or rates; and/or

a consideration of historic availability status;

wherein the threshold service provider number is dynamically established based on:

a consideration of historic request volumes and/or rates; and/or

a consideration of historic availability status.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a projected service provider location for each of the plurality of service providers, the projected service provider location being a projected location of the service provider at the end of the dynamically adjusted first time period;

wherein the candidate service providers include those service providers having:

the projected service provider location within the service provider geographical region at the end of the dynamically adjusted first time period; and

the availability status indicating current availability to be matched with a service request.

9. The method of claim 8,

wherein the candidate service providers do not include those service providers having:

the projected service provider location outside of the service provider geographical region at the end of the dynamically adjusted first time period.