more than one taxi within a wireless proximity of the mobile telephone.

Therefore, there is a need to at least alleviate one or more of the above-mentioned problems or provide a commercial alternative.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from the prior publication), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that the prior publication (or information derived from the prior publication) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

It is generally desirable to overcome or ameliorate one or more of the above described difficulties, or to at least provide a useful alternative.

Summary

According to the present invention, there is provided a taximeter for use in a taxi, wherein the taximeter includes a processing system including a memory having stored therein a plurality of computer applications, wherein the processing system is configured to:

execute a meter application during a passenger trip to determine a fare due, wherein the memory is arranged to have stored therein toll data indicative of associated entry and exit areas for tolled areas, wherein the processing system is operable to automatically detect using recorded geographical coordinates of the taxi whether the taxi has passed through associated entry and exit areas of a tolled area, wherein in response to the detection, the meter application is

In certain embodiments, the NFC reader is operable to communicate with a payment instrument including a NFC chip, wherein the payment application is operable to facilitate payment of the fare due based upon the data sensed from the payment instrument.

In certain embodiments, the taximeter includes an optical sensor operable to scan indicia indicative of a payment request, wherein the payment application is operable to use the payment request to facilitate electronic payment of the fare due.

In certain embodiments, the indicia is:

printed media; or

an electronically displayed graphic.

In certain embodiments, the taximeter includes a geographical positioning unit operable to provide the geographical coordinates of the taxi during the trip, wherein the geographical coordinates are time-stamped and recorded in the memory.

In certain embodiments, the memory is arranged to have stored therein toll data indicative of associated entry and exit areas for tolled areas, wherein the processing system is operable to automatically detect using the recorded geographical coordinates whether the taxi has passed through associated entry and exit areas of a tolled area, wherein in response to the detection, the meter application is operable to modify the fare due to include a toll amount associated with the respective tolled area.

In certain embodiments, the processing system is operable to determine the duration between the taxi passing through the detected entry and exit areas against one or more temporal thresholds, wherein in the event that the duration satisfies the one or more temporal thresholds, the meter application is operable to modify the fare due according to the associated toll amount.

Claims

1. A taximeter for use in a taxi, wherein the taximeter includes a processing system including a memory having stored therein a plurality of computer applications, wherein the processing system is configured to:

execute a meter application during a passenger trip to determine a fare due, wherein the memory is arranged to have stored therein toll data indicative of associated entry and exit areas for tolled areas, wherein the processing system is operable to automatically detect using recorded geographical coordinates of the taxi whether the taxi has passed through associated entry and exit areas of a tolled area, wherein in response to the detection, the meter application is operable to modify the fare due to include a toll amount associated with the respective tolled area; and

execute a payment application to facilitate electronic payment of the fare due.

2. The taximeter according to claim 1, wherein the taximeter includes a touch screen display operable to display one or more interfaces of the plurality of computer applications and to receive input for operating at least one of the plurality of computer applications.

3. The taximeter according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the taximeter includes or is to be in communication with one or more sensors, wherein the memory is arranged to store operational data indicative of sensed signals.

4. The taximeter according to claim 3, wherein the one or more sensors include an accelerometer, wherein the operational data is indicative of a proper acceleration of the taximeter in the taxi.

5. The taximeter according to claim 4, wherein the operational data is indicative of the proper acceleration of the taximeter which is greater than a proper acceleration threshold.

13. The taximeter according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the taximeter includes a geographical positioning unit operable to provide the geographical coordinates of the taxi during the trip, wherein the geographical coordinates are time-stamped and recorded in the memory.

14. The taximeter according to claim 1, wherein the processing system is operable to determine the duration between the taxi passing through the detected entry and exit areas against one or more temporal thresholds, wherein in the event that the duration satisfies the one or more temporal thresholds, the meter application is operable to modify the fare due according to the associated toll amount.

15. The taximeter according to claim 14, wherein the temporal threshold is a temporal range, wherein in response to the processing system determining that the duration is within the temporal range, the meter application is arranged to modify the fare due with the toll amount accordingly.

16. The taximeter according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the taximeter receives encoder pulses from an encoder associated with tyres of the taxi, wherein the taximeter is configured to:

determine a first distance travelled by the taxi using the geographical coordinates;

determine a second distance travelled using the pulses received from the encoder; and

determine, based on a discrepancy between the first distance and the second distance, whether a discrepancy threshold has been satisfied, wherein in response to a positive