Team DC21058 Abstract

Electric scooters have become an increasingly popular form of transportation among college campuses. At the University of Maryland at College Park, VeoRide Inc. has installed a fleet of their electric scooters in line with this trend. In the meantime, the COVID-19 pandemic has risen to dominate the daily lives of students. By looking at students' travel patterns on scooters in October 2020 and October 2019, we hope to understand how COVID has affected their movements and how companies like VeoRide can adapt to accommodate these changes. Specifically, we want to analyze common routes and destinations on and off-campus using geojson.io to visualize the coordinate data.

With the effect of COVID forcing students to learn from their rooms, only going in public when absolutely necessary, daily routines are clearly altered. As a result, this scooter technology, targeted at students, must adapt its coverage to better suit their needs. One of the first casualties of COVID was the fitness facilities which provide ample opportunity for disease spread. One of the top destinations on the University of Maryland campus was the Eppley Recreation Center and the nearby outdoor aquatics center. This destination alone made up 35% of intra-campus scooter journeys in October of 2019. A year later, it made up less than 10%. These changes come as students found themselves increasingly trapped in their dorms in an online environment, leaving only for food. From then on, food became the dominant driver of student movements. The most common entry points quickly became those which lied on the shortest path between the residence halls and fast food centers. With these in mind, certain changes in the distribution of scooter parking areas seems necessary.