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United States Patent	12387223
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 12, 2025
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Modules, systems, and methods for incentivizing green driving

Abstract

An authentication and verification module for incentivizing green driving includes one or more processors, network interface hardware configured to communicate with a remote server, one or more auxiliary sensors for outputting a verification signal, and one or more memory modules. The one or more memory modules store logic that, cause the authentication and verification module to: receive a diagnostic signal from an onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle, receive the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors, compare the diagnostic signal with the verification signal, and transmit a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within a predetermined threshold from one another. The authenticated driving behavior can then be used to calculate and assign appropriate incentives to the vehicle driver.

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Appl. No.: 15/471770

Filed: March 28, 2017

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20180285885 A1	Oct. 04, 2018

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: G06Q30/018 (20230101); G06Q20/10 (20120101); G07C5/00 (20060101); G07C5/08 (20060101); H04L9/32 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **G06Q30/018** (20130101); **G06Q20/10** (20130101); **G07C5/008** (20130101);
G07C5/0808 (20130101); **G07C5/0825** (20130101); **G07C5/0841** (20130101);
H04L9/3231 (20130101); **H04L9/3247** (20130101); G06Q2220/00 (20130101);
H04L2209/84 (20130101)

Field of Classification Search

CPC: G06Q (10/0639); H04L (63/0428); H04L (63/08)

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present specification generally relates to modules, systems, and methods for incentivizing green driving and, more specifically, modules, systems, and methods for collecting data from vehicles and sending a driving behavior communication to a remote server.

BACKGROUND

(2) Customers and automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) may receive credit from various agencies for vehicles which achieve certain emission standards. For instance, California provides a credit to OEMs for the production of zero emission cars or the fleet production of cars meeting a minimum emission standard. However, such credit systems generally do not take into consideration automotive vehicles with internal combustion engines which are driven in a manner that meet the emission standards of hybrid or green vehicles. Nor does such a credit system take into consideration “green vehicles” which are driven in a manner commensurate with vehicles having an internal combustion engine.

(3) Accordingly, a need exists for alternative modules, systems, and methods for incentivizing green driving behavior for vehicles.

SUMMARY

(4) In one embodiment, an authentication and verification module for incentivizing green driving may include one or more processors, network interface hardware communicatively coupled to the one or more processors and configured to communicate with a remote server, one or more auxiliary sensors communicatively coupled to the one or more processors for outputting a verification signal, and one or more memory modules communicatively coupled to the one or more processors. The one or more memory modules store logic that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the authentication and verification module to receive a diagnostic signal from an onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle, receive the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors, compare the diagnostic signal with the verification signal, and transmit a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within a predetermined threshold from one another.

(5) In another embodiment, a system for incentivizing green driving may include an onboard diagnostics module comprising one or more diagnostic sensors, wherein the onboard diagnostics module outputs a diagnostic signal, network interface hardware communicatively coupled to the onboard diagnostics module and configured to communicatively couple the system with a remote server, and an authentication and verification module communicatively coupled to the onboard diagnostics module. The authentication and verification module may include one or more processors, one or more auxiliary sensors communicatively coupled to the one or more processors for outputting a verification signal, and one or more memory modules communicatively coupled to the one or more processors. The one or more memory modules store logic that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the authentication and verification module to receive the diagnostic signal from the onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle, receive the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors, compare the diagnostic signal with the verification signal, and transmit a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within a predetermined threshold from one another.

(6) In yet another embodiment, a method for incentivizing green driving may include receiving, with an authentication and verification module, a diagnostic signal from an onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle, receiving, with the authentication and verification module, a verification signal from one or more auxiliary sensors of the authentication and verification module, comparing

the diagnostic signal with the verification signal, and transmitting a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within a predetermined threshold from one another.

(7) These and additional features provided by the embodiments described herein will be more fully understood in view of the following detailed description, in conjunction with the drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) The embodiments set forth in the drawings are illustrative and exemplary in nature and not intended to limit the subject matter defined by the claims. The following detailed description of the illustrative embodiments can be understood when read in conjunction with the following drawings, where like structure is indicated with like reference numerals and in which:
- (2) FIG. 1 depicts a vehicle including a system for incentivizing green driving having an authentication and verification module, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein;
- (3) FIG. 2 depicts a schematic view of the vehicle of FIG. 1, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein;
- (4) FIG. 3 depicts a schematic view of various logic within a memory module of the vehicle of FIG. 2, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein;
- (5) FIG. 4 depicts the remote server of FIG. 2, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein;
- (6) FIG. 5 depicts a schematic view of various logic within a memory of the remote server of FIG. 4, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein; and
- (7) FIG. 6 illustrates a method for incentivizing green driving, according to one or more embodiments shown and described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (8) Embodiments disclosed herein include authentication and verification modules, systems, and methods for incentivizing green driving. Embodiments described herein may use information from a vehicle's onboard diagnostics module and compare it to information received from one or more auxiliary sensors of an authentication and verification module. When the information received from the vehicle's onboard diagnostics module and the information received from the one or more auxiliary sensors substantially correspond with one another (e.g., are about the same or within some predetermined threshold), a driving behavior communication can be sent to a remote server. A credit of some sort may be applied to at least one of the driver or the manufacturer of the vehicle when the driving behavior communication or multiple driving behavior communications are indicative of the vehicle being driven in a green manner (i.e. an environmentally friendly manner). Such credit may provide incentives for drivers to operate their vehicles in a more environmentally friendly manner, which could also improve overall fleet performance. By comparing the measurements of the vehicle's onboard diagnostics module with a separate auxiliary sensor measurement, agencies or manufacturers applying a credit for green driving behaviors may be more assured that the measurements received are accurate. In some embodiments, the driving behavior communication may have a digital signature or encryption applied to the driving behavior communication prior to the driving behavior communication being sent to the remote server to further assure that the driving behavior communication has not been tampered with. The various authentication and verification modules, systems, and methods for incentivizing green driving will be described in more detail herein with specific reference to the corresponding drawings.
- (9) Referring now to FIG. 1, a vehicle **100** having a system **101** for incentivizing green driving and an authentication and verification module **102** is generally depicted. It is noted that while the

vehicle **100** is depicted as an automobile, the vehicle **100** may be any passenger vehicle such as, for example, a terrestrial, aquatic, and/or airborne vehicle. In some embodiments, the vehicle **100** may be an autonomous vehicle or a partially autonomous vehicle. When referring to autonomous or partially autonomous vehicles, it is meant to refer to vehicles having at least one drive mode wherein a human operator is not necessary to guide the vehicle **100**. As will be described in greater detail herein, in some embodiments, the vehicle **100** may have a super-eco driving mode wherein certain driving parameters of the vehicle **100** are limited so as to be performed within predetermined green driving standards. For example, such predetermined green driving standards may be set by state or federal government regulatory agencies.

(10) FIG. 2 generally depicts a schematic illustration of the system **101** of the vehicle **100**. The system **101** generally includes a communication path **104**, an authentication and verification module **102** (AVM **102**), and an onboard diagnostics module **150**. In some embodiments, the system **101** may further include a user input device **140**, vehicle controls **160**, a drive mode selector **170**, and a vehicle powertrain **180**.

(11) The communication path **104** provides data interconnectivity between various modules disposed within the vehicle **100**. Specifically, each of the modules can operate as a node that may send and/or receive data. In some embodiments, the communication path **104** includes a conductive material that permits the transmission of electrical data signals to processors, memories, sensors, and actuators throughout the vehicle **100**. In another embodiment, the communication path **104** can be a bus, such as, for example, a LIN bus, a CAN bus, a VAN bus, and the like. In further embodiments, the communication path **104** may be wireless and/or an optical waveguide. Components that are communicatively coupled may include components capable of exchanging data signals with one another such as, for example, electrical signals via conductive medium, electromagnetic signals via air, optical signals via optical waveguides, and the like.

(12) Accordingly, the communication path **104** may be formed from any medium that is capable of transmitting a signal such as, for example, conductive wires, conductive traces, optical waveguides, or the like. Moreover, the communication path **104** may be formed from a combination of mediums capable of transmitting signals. In some embodiments, the communication path **104** comprises a combination of conductive traces, conductive wires, connectors, and buses that cooperate to permit the transmission of electrical data signals to components such as processors **105**, memories, sensors, input devices, output devices, and communication devices. Additionally, it is noted that the term “signal” means a waveform (e.g., electrical, optical, magnetic, mechanical or electromagnetic), such as DC, AC, sinusoidal-wave, triangular-wave, square-wave, vibration, and the like, capable of traveling through a medium.

(13) Still referring to FIG. 2, the AVM **102** can be a computing device. For instance the AVM **102** can be any type of vehicle-installed, handheld, or other form of single computing device, or can be composed of multiple computing devices. In some embodiments, the AVM **102** can be pluggable into the system **101** of the vehicle **100**. In some embodiments the AVM **102** may include multiple devices distributed in or outside the system **101**. The AVM **102** generally includes one or more processors **105**, one or more memory modules **106**, network interface hardware **110**, and one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. The AVM **102** may be configured to communicate with a network **117** over the network interface hardware **110** to communicate with a remote server **200** to send information related to a driving behavior of the vehicle **100** (e.g., a driving behavior communication).

(14) The one or more processors **105** may control various operations of the AVM **102**. The one or more processors **105** may include any device capable of executing machine-readable instructions stored on a non-transitory computer-readable medium. Accordingly, each of the one or more processors **105** may include a controller, an integrated circuit, a microchip, a computer, and/or any other computing device.

(15) The AVM **102** further includes one or more memory modules **106** communicatively coupled to

the one or more processors **105** over the communication path **104**. The one or more memory modules **106** may be configured as volatile and/or nonvolatile memory and, as such, may include random access memory (including SRAM, DRAM, and/or other types of RAM), flash memory, secure digital (SD) memory, registers, compact discs (CD), digital versatile discs (DVD), and/or other types of non-transitory computer-readable mediums. Depending on the particular embodiment, these non-transitory computer-readable mediums may reside within the AVM **102** and/or external to the AVM **102**. The one or more memory modules **106** may be configured to store one or more pieces of logic as described in more detail below. The embodiments described herein may utilize a distributed computing arrangement to perform any portion of the logic described herein.

(16) Embodiments of the present disclosure include logic that includes machine-readable instructions and/or an algorithm written in any programming language of any generation (e.g., 1GL, 2GL, 3GL, 4GL, and/or 5GL) such as, machine language that may be directly executed by the one or more processors **105**, assembly language, object-oriented programming (OOP), scripting languages, microcode, etc., that may be compiled or assembled into machine-readable instructions and stored on a machine-readable medium. Similarly, the logic and/or algorithm may be written in a hardware description language (HDL), such as logic implemented via either a field-programmable gate array (FPGA) configuration or an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and their equivalents. Accordingly, the logic may be implemented in any conventional computer programming language, as pre-programmed hardware elements, and/or as a combination of hardware and software components. With reference to FIG. 3, logic stored on the one or more memory modules **106** may include, for example, fuel economy estimation logic **108**, carbon emissions estimation logic **112**, comparison logic **114**, driving behavior communication generation logic **115**, signature/encryption logic **116**, data storage logic **118**, and the like. It is noted that the one or more memory modules **106** of the AVM **102** may not include each of the types of logic listed above. Instead, some calculations may not be performed by the AVM **102** and may instead be performed by the remote server **200**. For example and not as a limitation fuel, economy estimations and carbon emissions estimations may be performed by the remote server **200**.

(17) Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, the fuel economy estimation logic **108** may allow the AVM **102**, based on signals received from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** and/or the onboard diagnostics module **150**, to calculate the fuel consumption of the vehicle **100** for a particular trip or series of trips. However, as noted above, fuel economy estimation may instead be performed at the remote server **200**. The carbon emissions estimation logic **112** may allow the AVM **102**, based on signals received from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** and/or the onboard diagnostics module **150**, to calculate the carbon emissions of the vehicle **100** for a particular trip or series of trips. However, as noted above, carbon emissions estimations may instead be performed at the remote server **200**. In some embodiments, the AVM **102** may further use this information to determine whether the vehicle was driven in a green (i.e., environmentally friendly manner commensurate with electrical and/or hybrid vehicle standards) and may in some embodiments, calculate a credit to be received by the vehicle driver and/or the OEM.

(18) The comparison logic **114** may allow the AVM **102** to compare the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** with a diagnostic signal from the onboard diagnostics module **150**. In some embodiments, the diagnostic signal may include fuel economy estimations and carbon emissions estimations. In such case, the AVM **102** may first use fuel economy estimation logic **108** and/or carbon emissions estimation **112** to calculate fuel consumption and/or carbon emissions for comparison with fuel economy estimations and carbon emissions provided in the diagnostic signal. In other embodiments, the diagnostic signal may not include such calculations, and measurements from one or more diagnostic sensors **155** may be compared directly with corresponding measurements of the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. As noted above, the AVM **102** may execute logic to calculate a credit to be awarded to at least one of the vehicle operator and/or the OEM.

This credit may be based on one of the diagnostic signal and the verification signal when the verification signal substantially corresponds to the diagnostic signal.

(19) The data storage logic **118**, may allow the AVM **102** to store trip summary information for every trip performed by the vehicle **100**. The trip summaries may include information indicative of how the vehicle **100** was or is being driven during a particular trip or over a number of trips (e.g., aggressively or in a more environmentally friendly (green) manner). Such trip summaries may include a unique identifier for the vehicle **100** and or the vehicle owner/operator, the date and time (start and stop) of each trip, trip length, as well as any other information received from the onboard diagnostics module **150** and the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. In embodiments including fuel economy estimation logic **108** and carbon emissions estimation logic **112**, the summaries may include fuel/electric energy consumption for the trip. The trip summaries may further include such information as a fraction of trip miles and/or time during which the driver chose to engage in a super-eco driving mode, a fraction of trip miles and/or time during which the information received from the one or more auxiliary sensors substantially corresponded/differed to the information received from the onboard diagnostics module, a fraction of trip miles and/or time during which there was a loss of data from the onboard diagnostics module **150** (e.g., a connection between the AVM **102** and the onboard diagnostics module **150** was lost), whether a particular trip was green (i.e., environmentally friendly as determined by government regulations) or not, and/or the calculation of any credits to be awarded. As will be described in greater detail below, the above described summaries may be included in a driving behavior communication sent to a remote server **200**.

(20) After every trip or at fixed period of time (e.g., hourly/daily), the driver behavior communication generation logic may cause the AVM **102** to send a driving behavior communication to a remote server **200**. The driving behavior communication may include the trip summary information stored in the one or more memory modules **106** for all trips that have not previously been sent. In some embodiments, the driving behavior communication may only send a summary of every trip performed by the vehicle **100** since the last time the vehicle **100** was in for servicing. This may prevent instances where certain trips are un-reported. In some embodiments, a driving behavior communication may only be sent when it is determined that the diagnostic signal substantially corresponds (e.g., is within some predetermined threshold) with the verification signal output by the one or more auxiliary sensors. Where the diagnostic signal substantially differs (e.g., is outside of the predetermined threshold) from the verification signal, the driving behavior communication with those reported trips may not be sent until after the vehicle **100** has been serviced to determine why the diagnostic signal is not substantially corresponding to the verification signal. It may be determined that the diagnostic signal substantially corresponds with the verification signal when such signals match one another by at least about 90% (e.g., within about 95%).

(21) Prior to sending the driving behavior communication, the signature/encryption logic **116** may allow the AVM **102** to sign and/or encrypt the driving behavior communication via a digital key. Such digital signatures/encryption assures the remote server **200** that the AVM **102** is the true author of the driving behavior communication and may allow only select servers to decrypt and verify the contents of the driving behavior communication.

(22) It is noted that the one or more memory modules **106** may include enough capacity to retain trip summary information for a period of about 6 months to about 8 months or until the vehicle **100** has been serviced. As part of periodic servicing of the vehicle **100**, determining and fixing causes of the diagnostic signal differing from the verification signal and resetting the one or more memory modules **106** to free up storage for additional trip summaries may be included. In some embodiments, servicing may include an additional level of cross validation wherein the service providers determine that the previously sent driving behavior communications match the trip summaries stored on the one or more memory modules **106**.

(23) Referring again to FIG. 2, the AVM **102** may further include network interface hardware **110** for communicatively coupling the AVM **102** with a network **117**. The network interface hardware **110** can be communicatively coupled to the communication path **104** and can be any device capable of transmitting and/or receiving data via the network **117**. Accordingly, the network interface hardware **110** can include a communication transceiver for sending and/or receiving any wired or wireless communication. For example, the network interface hardware **110** may include an antenna, a modem, LAN port, Wi-Fi card, WiMax card, mobile communications hardware, near-field communication hardware, satellite communication hardware and/or any wired or wireless hardware for communicating with other networks and/or devices. In one embodiment, network interface hardware **110** may include hardware configured to operate in accordance with the Bluetooth wireless communication protocol. The network interface hardware **110** may include a Bluetooth send/receive module for sending and receiving Bluetooth communications to/from the one or more mobile devices **125**.

(24) The AVM **102** may communicate, through the network interface hardware **110**, with a network **117** to communicatively couple the AVM **102** with a remote server **200**. For example, the remote server **200** may receive a driving behavior communication, as described above, from the AVM **102** indicative of how the vehicle **100** was or is being driven during a particular trip or over a number of trips (e.g., aggressively or in a more environmentally friendly (green) manner). In some embodiments, the network **117** may include a personal area network that utilizes Bluetooth technology to communicatively couple the AVM **102** with the one or more mobile devices **125** (e.g., a smart phone). In such embodiments, a portion of the AVM **102** may be incorporated into the one or more mobile devices **125**. For example, the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may be incorporated into the one or more mobile devices **125**. In further embodiments, the network **117** may include one or more computer networks (e.g., a personal area network, a local area network, or a wide area network), cellular networks, satellite networks and/or a global positioning system and combinations thereof. Accordingly, the AVM **102** can be communicatively coupled to the network **117** via wires, via a wide area network, via a local area network, via a personal area network, via a cellular network, via a satellite network, etc. Suitable local area networks may include wired Ethernet and/or wireless technologies such as, for example, wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi). Suitable personal area networks may include wireless technologies such as, for example, IrDA, Bluetooth, Wireless USB, Z-Wave, ZigBee, and/or other near field communication protocols. Suitable personal area networks may similarly include wired computer buses such as, for example, USB and FireWire. Suitable cellular networks include, but are not limited to, technologies such as LTE, WiMAX, UMTS, CDMA, and GSM.

(25) As will be described in greater detail below, the AVM **102** may communicate through the network interface hardware **110**, with the network **117** to communicatively couple the vehicle **100** with a remote server **200**. Referring now to FIG. 4, the remote server **200** may generally include a processor **205**, a memory **206**, and chipsets for receiving the driving behavior communications as described herein. Based on the contents of the driving behavior communication, the remote server **200**, or an operator at the remote server **200**, may apply a credit to one of the driver, the OEM, or both to reward the driver or OEM for the vehicle **100** being operated in a green driving manner. A credit may take many forms. For example and not as a limitation the credit may be a monetary award, a tax credit, a rebate, or may be used to reduce a loan or lease of the vehicle **100**.

(26) Referring again to FIG. 2, the AVM **102** includes one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. The one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may be configured to output a verification signal indicative of a driving behavior of the vehicle **100**. For example, the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may provide an output that is indicative of whether the vehicle **100** is being driven aggressively or in a more environmentally friendly (i.e., green) manner. As such, the verification signal may be indicative of at least one of fuel consumption and/or carbon emissions. The one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may include speed sensors, altitude sensors, acceleration sensors, breaking sensors,

turning sensors, location sensors (e.g., GPS), pressure sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, and the like. Based on the signals received from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**, the one or more processors **105** may execute logic to cause the AVM **102** to perform a variety of operations. For example, the one or more processors **105** may execute fuel economy estimation logic **108** to calculate the fuel consumption of the vehicle **100** on a particular trip of the vehicle **100**. The one or more processors **105** may execute carbon emissions estimation logic **112** to calculate the carbon emissions of the vehicle **100** for the particular trip. However, as noted above, in some embodiments, such calculations may instead be performed by the remote server **200**. The verification signal received from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may allow for cross-validation of information received from the onboard diagnostics module **150**. In some embodiments, the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may also include an onboard diagnostics module connect/disconnect sensors that output a signal indicative of the AVM **102** being communicatively coupled to the onboard diagnostics module **150**. As will be explained in greater detail, when the AVM **102** is not able to communicate with the onboard diagnostics module **150**, the AVM **102** will not be able to perform its cross-validation function. In such instances, the AVM **102** may generate and send a service request to a driver of the vehicle **100**, such as, for example, over an infotainment system (not shown) of the vehicle **100**.

(27) In the embodiments described herein, the one or more memory modules **106**, the one or more processors **105**, the network interface hardware **110**, and the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** are integral with the AVM **102**. However, it is noted that the AVM **102**, the one or more memory modules **106**, the one or more processors **105**, the network interface hardware **110**, and the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** may be discrete components communicatively coupled to one another without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. For example, and as noted above, a portion of the AVM **102** (e.g., the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**) may be incorporated into one or more mobile devices **125** (e.g., a smart phone). The AVM **102** may communicate with the one or more mobile devices **125** over the network interface hardware **110**. In some embodiments, information recorded and/or received by the AVM **102** may be displayed on the one or more mobile devices **125** through an application loaded onto the one or more mobile devices **125**.

(28) Referring again to FIG. 2, the various modules, or at least some of the modules, of the AVM **102** may be coupled to a battery (not shown) of the vehicle **100**. In some embodiments, the AVM **102** may have a back-up battery **190**. The back-up battery **190** may provide power to the AVM **102** when the vehicle **100** is off or when the AVM **102** has lost connection to the vehicle's **100** battery. In some embodiments, there may be no back-up battery **190**.

(29) The system **101** may include one or more user input devices **140** coupled to the communication path **104** such that the communication path **104** communicatively couples the one or more user input devices **140** to other modules of the system **101**. The one or more user input devices **140** may be any device capable of transforming mechanical, optical, or electrical signals into a data signal capable of being transmitted with the communication path **104**. Specifically, the one or more user input devices **140** may include any number of movable objects that each transform physical motion into a data signal that can be transmitted to over the communication path **104** such as, for example, a button, a switch, a knob, a touchscreen, a microphone or the like. While the system **101** includes one or more user input devices **140** in the embodiment depicted in FIG. 2, the system **101** may not include one or more user input devices **140** in other embodiments. The one or more user input devices **140** may allow an authorized entity, such as an authorized service provider or OEM, to input information about the vehicle **100**. For example, vehicle specifications including but not limited to, the size of the engine, the size of the tires, and the like. Such information may allow either the AVM **102** or the remote server **200** to better calculate carbon emissions and/or fuel consumption of the vehicle **100**. In some embodiments, the vehicle specifications may already be stored/programmed onto the one or more memory modules **106** or within the onboard diagnostics module **150**.

(30) As noted herein above, the vehicle **100** includes an onboard diagnostics module **150** that outputs a diagnostic signal. The diagnostic signal may provide information indicative of at least one of fuel consumption and/or carbon emissions. The onboard diagnostics module **150** may include one or more diagnostic sensors **155**. The one or more diagnostic sensors **155** may include sensors that are duplicative to the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** of the AVM **102**. For example, the one or more diagnostic sensors **155** include speed sensors, altitude sensors, acceleration sensors, breaking sensors, turning sensors, location sensors (e.g., GPS), pressure sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, and the like. In some embodiments, the one or more diagnostic sensors **155** may include different sensors than the one or more auxiliary sensors. In such cases, calculations may be done with the outputs of at least one of the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** and the one or more diagnostic sensors **155** to come such that corresponding values may be compared to one another (e.g., fuel consumption as determined from the output of the one or more diagnostic sensors **155** and fuel consumption as determined from the output of the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**). As such, the diagnostic signal may include information indicative of fuel consumption and/or carbon emissions (e.g., throttle position, mass air flow rate to the engine, heating/air-conditioning, and the like). In some embodiments, the onboard diagnostics module **150** may include a processor and a memory, wherein the processor may execute logic stored on the memory to calculate, using the information received from the one or more diagnostic sensors **155**, the fuel consumption or the vehicle **100** and/or the amount of carbon emissions produced by the vehicle **100**. In some embodiments, the onboard diagnostics module **150** does not make such calculations.

(31) In either case, the diagnostic signal of the onboard diagnostics module **150** may be communicated to the AVM **102**. The AVM **102** may then execute comparison logic **114** to compare the diagnostic signal received from the onboard diagnostics module **150** to the verification signal received from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. Where the diagnostic signal received from the onboard diagnostics module **150** includes a calculation of the vehicle's **100** fuel economy and/or carbon emissions, the AVM **102** may execute fuel economy estimation logic **108** and/or carbon emissions estimation logic **112** to calculate, using the verification signal, the fuel economy and/or carbon emissions of the vehicle **100** separately from the calculations performed by the onboard diagnostics module **150**. In other embodiments, measurements taken by the one or more diagnostic sensors **155** are directly compared to measurements taken by the one or more auxiliary sensors **120**. As will be explained in greater detail below, when the verification signal substantially corresponds (e.g., is approximately the same or within a predetermined threshold) to the diagnostic signal, a driving behavior communication may be transmitted to the remote server **200** by the AVM **102** with the network interface hardware **110**. Where the verification signal and the diagnostic signal substantially differ from one another (e.g., the signals are outside of the predetermined threshold from one another), the AVM **102** may transmit a service request to at least one of a driver and the vehicle **100**.

(32) The system **101** may further include a vehicle powertrain **180** communicatively coupled to the other modules of the system **101** over the communication path **104**. The vehicle powertrain **180** generally refers to the major components of the vehicle **100** to cause the vehicle **100** to drive. For example, the vehicle powertrain **180** may refer to the engine, transmission, drive shafts, differentials, battery, and the like. As will be described in greater detail below, the vehicle powertrain **180** may be controlled by the vehicle controls **160**. Furthermore, in some embodiments, a drive mode selector **170** may control the vehicle controls to limit how the vehicle powertrain **180** is operated. For example, the drive mode selector **170** may have “super-eco” driving mode, which limits operation of the vehicle powertrain **180** to pre-determined green driving limits. Such limits may include speed, acceleration, and the like.

(33) As noted above, the system **101** may include various vehicle controls **160** for controlling the vehicle powertrain **180**. The vehicle controls **160** may include processors **105** that execute logic

stored on memories to operate components of the vehicle powertrain **180** according to specific vehicle parameters as set by the drive mode selector **170**.

(34) The drive mode selector **170** may be coupled to the communication path **104** such that the communication path **104** communicatively couples the drive mode selector **170** to other modules of the system **101**. The drive mode selector **170** may be any device capable of transforming mechanical, optical, or electrical signals into a data signal capable of being transmitted with the communication path **104**. Specifically, the drive mode selector **170** may include any number of movable objects that each transform physical motion into a data signal that can be transmitted to over the communication path **104** such as, for example, a button, a switch, a knob, a touchscreen, a microphone or the like. The drive mode selector **170** may interact with the vehicle controls **160** to choose a drive mode of the vehicle **100**. For example, a vehicle **100** may include a sports driving mode, an eco-driving/normal driving mode, and a super-eco driving mode. In some embodiments, the drive mode selector **170** could include a continuous dial that adjusts between varying levels of responsiveness running from “most responsive” to “most eco-friendly” (e.g., super-eco driving mode).

(35) When a driver selects the super-eco driving mode with the drive mode selector **170**, the vehicle controls **160** are automatically adjusted to more efficient regimes of operation, which may include, but are not limited to: reducing the maximum acceleration performance, reducing the maximum speed the vehicle will cruise at, and reducing the engine power when an upcoming stop is anticipated. In other words, vehicle **100** handling adjusts to a very fuel efficient driving mode when the vehicle is placed in the super-eco driving mode. Hence, the super-eco mode may have such characteristics as capping a maximum speed of the vehicle **100**, providing a smooth acceleration, providing a smooth deceleration with the vehicle powertrain **180**. It is noted that the described super-eco driving mode is exemplary in nature and that other types of vehicles may have other characteristics for driving in an eco-friendly manner. For example, eco-driving of a vehicle **100** with an internal combustion engine may differ from optimizing an HEV, PHEV, BEV, or other powertrain architecture. In any case, the AVM **102** may verify to various regulatory agencies or OEMs that the super-eco driving mode is meeting or exceeding driving expectations. Based on choosing the super-eco driving mode, a vehicle operator may receive a credit from a regulatory agency or the OEM. It is noted that choosing the super-eco driving mode may lengthen drive times by limiting the maximum speed of the vehicle **100** while improving vehicle fuel economy. Any percentage of increase in driving time may be offset by a greater than or equal increase in fuel economy. For example, an increase in driving time of about 15.0% (where the maximum speed was limited to about 55 mph and the maximum acceleration was limited to about 1.14 m/s²) led to an improvement in fuel economy of about 19% to about 25%.

(36) It is contemplated that a vehicle operator may switch from the above described super-eco driving mode to a faster, more responsive driving mode in a number of ways. For example, suddenly pressing the accelerator to the floor, making sharp steering wheel turns, or other driver inputs often associated with evasive/aggressive driving behaviors. Such activity for the driver of the vehicle may trigger an automatic shift from the super-eco driving mode to a more responsive driving mode. However, it is noted that a driver may switch back to the super-eco driving mode using the drive mode selector **170**.

(37) As noted hereinabove, the AVM **102** is configured to generate and transmit a driving behavior communication to a remote server **200**. The driving behavior communication may provide information indicative of how the vehicle **100** is being driven (e.g., in an eco-friendly manner, or more aggressively.) Referring again to FIG. 4, the remote server **200** may include a communication path **204**, a processor **205**, a memory **206**, and network interface hardware **210**.

(38) The communication path **204** provides data interconnectivity between various modules disposed within remote server **200**. Specifically, each of the modules can operate as a node that may send and/or receive data. In some embodiments, the communication path **204** includes a

conductive material that permits the transmission of electrical data signals to processors, memories, sensors, and actuators throughout the remote server **200**. In another embodiment, the communication path **204** can be a bus, such as, for example, a LIN bus, a CAN bus, a VAN bus, and the like. In further embodiments, the communication path **204** may be wireless and/or an optical waveguide. Components that are communicatively coupled may include components capable of exchanging data signals with one another such as, for example, electrical signals via conductive medium, electromagnetic signals via air, optical signals via optical waveguides, and the like.

(39) Accordingly, the communication path **204** may be formed from any medium that is capable of transmitting a signal such as, for example, conductive wires, conductive traces, optical waveguides, or the like. Moreover, the communication path **204** may be formed from a combination of mediums capable of transmitting signals. In some embodiments, the communication path **204** comprises a combination of conductive traces, conductive wires, connectors, and buses that cooperate to permit the transmission of electrical data signals to components such as processors, memories, sensors, input devices, output devices, and communication devices. Additionally, it is noted that the term “signal” means a waveform (e.g., electrical, optical, magnetic, mechanical or electromagnetic), such as DC, AC, sinusoidal-wave, triangular-wave, square-wave, vibration, and the like, capable of traveling through a medium.

(40) The processor **205** may control various operations of the remote server **200**. The processor **205** may include any device capable of executing machine-readable instructions stored on a non-transitory computer-readable medium. Accordingly, the processor **205** may include a controller, an integrated circuit, a microchip, a computer, and/or any other computing device.

(41) The remote server **200** further includes a memory **206** communicatively coupled to the processor **205** over the communication path **204**. The memory **206** may be configured as volatile and/or nonvolatile memory and, as such, may include random access memory (including SRAM, DRAM, and/or other types of RAM), flash memory, secure digital (SD) memory, registers, compact discs (CD), digital versatile discs (DVD), and/or other types of non-transitory computer-readable mediums. Depending on the particular embodiment, these non-transitory computer-readable mediums may reside within the remote server **200** and/or external to the remote server **200**. The memory **206** may be configured to store one or more pieces of logic as described in more detail below. The embodiments described herein may utilize a distributed computing arrangement to perform any portion of the logic described herein.

(42) Embodiments of the memory **206** of the remote server **200** include logic that includes machine-readable instructions and/or an algorithm written in any programming language of any generation (e.g., 1GL, 2GL, 3GL, 4GL, and/or 5GL) such as, machine language that may be directly executed by the processor **105**, assembly language, object-oriented programming (OOP), scripting languages, microcode, etc., that may be compiled or assembled into machine-readable instructions and stored on a machine-readable medium. Similarly, the logic and/or algorithm may be written in a hardware description language (HDL), such as logic implemented via either a field-programmable gate array (FPGA) configuration or an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and their equivalents. Accordingly, the logic may be implemented in any conventional computer programming language, as pre-programmed hardware elements, and/or as a combination of hardware and software components. With reference to FIG. 5, logic stored on the memory **206** may include, for example, firewall/screening logic **211**, decryption logic **212**, calculation logic **214**, report generating logic **216**, credit issuance logic **218**, long-term storage logic **220**, and the like.

(43) The firewall/screening logic **211** may allow the remote server **200** screen communications received over the network interface hardware **210** for possible viruses or malware to protect the remote server **200**. The decryption logic **212** may allow the remote server **200** to decrypt a communication received over the network interface hardware **110** when the driving behavior communication has been encrypted. In some embodiments, the decryption logic **212** may also

allow the remote server **200** to read a digital signature on the received driving behavior communication. The calculation logic **214**, may allow the remote server **200** to calculate fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and the like from driving behavior communications received over the network interface hardware **210**. In some embodiments, the calculation logic **214** may also allow the remote server **200** to calculate a credit to be received by one of the vehicle owner and/or the OEM. Such credit may be to award green driving behaviors (e.g., driving behaviors commensurate with fuel efficiency standards of a hybrid or electric vehicle, which may be set by government regulations) as determined from the driving behavior communication. The credit issuance logic **218** may allow the remote server **200** to automatically transmit the calculated credits to a preferred destination of the driver/vehicle owner and/or the OEM (e.g., bank account, PayPal® account, or even toward paying a vehicle's lease/loan). As such, the remote server, based on identifying information within the driving behavior communication, may determine the appropriate recipient of the credit. Receiving a credit may encourage the vehicle driver to continue driving in a manner commensurate with green driving behaviors. In instances wherein the driving behavior of the vehicle does not meet that of a hybrid and/or electric vehicle as set by state or federal regulations, no credit may be issued.

(44) The report generating logic **216** may allow the remote server **200** to generate summary reports over a period of time (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) of the behavior of a particular vehicle **100** and/or fleet of vehicles. The reports may include calculated credits. If the reports are not directly generated by a regulatory agency, but instead the OEM, the reports may be issued to a regulatory agency along with a request for an appropriate credit. Such reports may be limited to non-privacy revealing vehicle information. The long-term storage logic **220** may allow the remote server **200** to store copies of driving behavior communications received over the network interface hardware **110**. The driving behavior communications can be stored “as is” to preserve authenticity of the driving behavior communication from the sender vehicle and to keep a record in the event that such records need to be recovered. Such long-term storage logic **220** may include backup and security protocols. Such storage, may aid in establishing the credibility of the summary reports sent to the regulatory agency. It is contemplated that original copies of the driving behavior communications may also be sent directly to a regulatory agency along with a summary report.

(45) Referring again to FIG. 4, the remote server **200** further includes network interface hardware **210** for communicatively coupling the remote server **200** with the network **117**. The network interface hardware **210** can be communicatively coupled to the communication path **204** and can be any device capable of transmitting and/or receiving data via the network **117**. Accordingly, the network interface hardware **210** can include a communication transceiver for sending and/or receiving any wired or wireless communication. For example, the network interface hardware **210** may include an antenna, a modem, LAN port, Wi-Fi card, WiMax card, mobile communications hardware, near-field communication hardware, satellite communication hardware and/or any wired or wireless hardware for communicating with other networks and/or devices. In one embodiment, network interface hardware **210** includes hardware configured to operate in accordance with the Bluetooth wireless communication protocol. In another embodiment, network interface hardware **210** may include a module for sending and receiving communications to/from the one or more mobile devices **125**, for example when at least a portion of the AVM **102** is included in a mobile device **125**. In further embodiments, the network **117** may include one or more computer networks (e.g., a personal area network, a local area network, or a wide area network), cellular networks, satellite networks and/or a global positioning system and combinations thereof. Accordingly, the remote server **200** can be communicatively coupled to the network **117** via wires, via a wide area network, via a local area network, via a personal area network, via a cellular network, via a satellite network, etc. Suitable local area networks may include wired Ethernet and/or wireless technologies such as, for example, wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi). Suitable personal area networks may include wireless technologies such as, for example, IrDA, Bluetooth, Wireless USB, Z-Wave, ZigBee,

and/or other near field communication protocols. Suitable personal area networks may similarly include wired computer buses such as, for example, USB and FireWire. Suitable cellular networks include, but are not limited to, technologies such as LTE, WiMAX, UMTS, CDMA, and GSM.

(46) The remote server **200** may communicate, through the network interface hardware **210**, with the network **117** to communicatively couple the remote server **200** to the AVM **102** of a vehicle **100**, such as illustrated in FIG. 2. As noted above, the remote server **200** may receive a driving behavior communication from the AVM **102** indicative of how the vehicle **100** is being driven during a particular trip (e.g., aggressively or in a more environmentally friendly (green) manner.) In some embodiments, the remote server **200** may send a message back to the vehicle **100** or to the one or more mobile devices **125** over the network interface hardware indicating whether the vehicle has been driven in a green manner or not. Such messages could be displayed on a display of the vehicle's **100** infotainment system or a display of the one or more mobile devices **125** to indicate to the driver that the vehicle **100** is meeting standards for green driving. For example, a leaf or other symbol may be displayed to the driver when the remote server **200** determines that the vehicle has been being driven in a green manner (e.g., when the driver/vehicle has earned a credit). In some embodiments, such as where the AVM **102** is configured to calculate a credit, where the vehicle/driver has earned a credit, a leaf or other symbol may be displayed to the driver to indicate that the vehicle **100** has been driven in a green manner.

(47) Referring now to FIG. 6, a method **10** of incentivizing green driving behavior is generally depicted. Though the steps shown in the method **10** appear in a certain order, this by no means limits when the various steps may take place unless noted otherwise. As such, the AVM **102** receives a diagnostic signal from the onboard diagnostics module **150** (block **12**). The AVM **102** also receives a verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors **120** of the AVM **102** (block **14**). The AVM **102** may then, in some embodiments, compare the diagnostic signal with the verification signal (block **16**). It is noted that in some embodiments, the comparison of the diagnostic signal with the verification signal may instead take place at the remote server **200**.

(48) Where the verification signal substantially corresponds with the diagnostic signal (block **18**), the AVM **102** may generate a driving behavior communication to be sent to the remote server **200** over the network interface hardware **110** (block **19**). As noted herein, a verification signal is considered to substantially correspond to the diagnostic signal when the signals (being compared either directly or after a series of calculations) fall within some predetermined threshold of one another. For example, and not as a limitation, if the diagnostic signal of the onboard diagnostics module **150** indicates the fuel consumption of the vehicle **100** for a particular trip was 10 gallons and the one or more auxiliary sensors output a verification signal indicating that the fuel consumption of that particular trip was 10 gallons, then the AVM **102** may determine that the diagnostic signal and the verification signal substantially correspond to one another. However, even where the onboard diagnostic signal varies slightly from the verification signal, for example where diagnostic signal indicates 10 gallons and verification signal indicates 9.8, the AVM **102** may still determine that the diagnostic signal and the verification signal substantially correspond one another because the measurement may be within a predetermined threshold (e.g., within about 90% of one another). However, where the diagnostic signal and the verification signal fall outside of the predetermined threshold, for example where the diagnostic signal indicates 10 gallons and the verification signal indicates 20 gallons, the AVM **102** may determine that the diagnostic signal substantially differs from the verification signal. It is noted that in some embodiments, such comparisons may be done for each measurement of the vehicle diagnostic module and the one or more auxiliary sensors.

(49) As noted herein the driving behavior communication may provide information relevant to how the vehicle **100** is or has been driven. The driving behavior communication may also include a unique identifier for identifying the vehicle **100** and/or driver/operator associated with the driving behavior communication. In some embodiments, the AVM **102** may apply at least one of a digital

signature and/or encryption to the driving behavior communication prior to transmitting the driving behavior communication to the remote server **200** (block **20**). Such signature may also be indicative of the sender (e.g. driver/operator/vehicle) from which the driving behavior communication originated. Such signature or encryption may also ensure that the driving behavior communication has not been tampered with. In some embodiments, the AVM **102** may execute logic to calculate a driving credit to be awarded to at least one of the vehicle owner/driver or an OEM (block **22**). In other embodiments, the credit is calculated at the remote server **200**. The driving behavior communication may be transmitted, over the network interface hardware **110**, to the remote server **200** (block **24**). The remote server **200** may belong to one of the OEM or a regulatory agency (e.g., the EPA). In some embodiments, the OEM may forward the driving behavior communication to the regulatory agency from the remote serve **200**.

(50) Where the verification signal substantially differs (e.g., is outside of a predetermined threshold, of which an example is provided above) from the diagnostic signal (block **26**), the AVM **102** may determine that there is some issue with one of the AVM **102** or the onboard diagnostics module **150**. For example, the AVM **102** may be disconnected from the onboard diagnostics module **150** or readings of the sensors from at least one of the onboard diagnostics module **150** and the AVM **102** have been tampered with. Under such circumstances, where the verification signal substantially differs from the diagnostic signal, the AVM **102** may generate and transmit a service request to one of the vehicle **100** owner or the vehicle **100** (block **28**). Such request may be received and displayed over an infotainment system of the vehicle **100**, or transmitted over the network interface hardware **110** to a mobile device **125** of the vehicle owner.

(51) Though the above disclosure generally looks to fuel consumption/efficiency and carbon emissions as indicators of green driving, there may be other indicators of green driving. For example, the AVM **102** using GPS information and/or information received over the network interface hardware **110** may also compare driving behavior to posted speed limits, such that drivers driving substantially outside of the posted speed limits, though being more efficient than if driving within posted speed limits, are not rewarded with a credit in those instances. For example, a vehicle operator driving 60 mph in a 70 mph zone may be consuming more fuel relative to a vehicle operator driving 50 mph in a 35 mph zone, however, the first vehicle operator may be considered to be operating in a more environmentally friendly manner than the second vehicle operator. As such, in determining a whether or not a vehicle is being driven in a green manner, road parameters, such a posted speed limits, may also be taken into consideration in calculating a green driving credit.

(52) It should now be understood the AVMs, systems, and methods of incentivizing green driving use an AVM to ensure credibility of measurements taken of a vehicle that may or may not be indicative of a green driving characteristic. These measurements may be transmitted to one of an OEM and/or some type of regulatory agency which may issue a credit to the owner of the vehicle (or the OEM) when the vehicle has been determined to be operating under green driving standards. By providing a validity check using the AVM to the measurements received from the vehicle, credit-applying agencies by be ensured that the measurements being received are correct. By providing credits to vehicle owners/operators, the vehicle owners/operators may be encouraged to continue or start operating their vehicles according to green standards.

(53) It is noted that the terms “substantially” and “about” may be utilized herein to represent the inherent degree of uncertainty that may be attributed to any quantitative comparison, value, measurement, or other representation. These terms are also utilized herein to represent the degree by which a quantitative representation may vary from a stated reference without resulting in a change in the basic function of the subject matter at issue.

(54) While particular embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it should be understood that various other changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed subject matter. Moreover, although various aspects of the claimed subject matter have been described herein, such aspects need not be utilized in combination. It is

therefore intended that the appended claims cover all such changes and modifications that are within the scope of the claimed subject matter.

Claims

1. An authentication and verification module for incentivizing green driving, comprising: one or more processors communicatively coupled to an onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle; network interface hardware communicatively coupled to the one or more processors and configured to communicate with a remote server; one or more auxiliary sensors communicatively coupled to the one or more processors and that output a verification signal indicative of a driving behavior of the vehicle; and one or more memory modules communicatively coupled to the one or more processors that store a threshold, a time period, and logic that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors perform the steps of: receiving a diagnostic signal from the onboard diagnostics module of the vehicle for the time period; receiving the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors for a concurrent time period; determining a validity of the diagnostic signal by: comparing the diagnostic signal with the verification signal; identifying a difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal; and comparing the difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal with the threshold to determine whether the diagnostic signal is valid; and transmitting with the network interface hardware a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server in response to determining that the diagnostic signal is valid.
2. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, further comprising a mobile device housing at least one of the one or more processors, the network interface hardware, the one or more auxiliary sensors, and the one or more memory modules.
3. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the diagnostic signal and the verification signal are each indicative of at least one of fuel consumption and carbon emissions.
4. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the one or more processors to perform the step of transmitting a service request to at least one of a driver and the vehicle when the diagnostic signal and the verification are outside of the threshold from one another.
5. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the one or more processors to perform the step of applying one of a digital signature to the driving behavior communication and an encryption to the driving behavior communication prior to transmitting the driving behavior communication to the remote server to indicate that the driving behavior communication has not been tampered with.
6. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the one or more auxiliary sensors include at least one of a speed sensor, an acceleration sensor, and an altitude sensor.
7. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the one or more processors to perform the step of receiving vehicle specifications from at least one of the onboard diagnostics module and one or more user input devices communicatively coupled to the one or more processors.
8. The authentication and verification module of claim 1, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the one or more processors to perform the step of calculating a credit based on one of the diagnostic signal and the verification signal when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within the threshold from one another, wherein the driving behavior communication includes the credit.
9. A system for incentivizing green driving, comprising: an onboard diagnostics module comprising one or more diagnostic sensors, wherein the onboard diagnostics module is configured to output a diagnostic signal; network interface hardware communicatively coupled to the onboard diagnostics module and configured to communicatively couple the system with a remote server; and an

authentication and verification module communicatively coupled to the onboard diagnostics module, the authentication and verification module comprising: one or more processors; one or more auxiliary sensors communicatively coupled to the one or more processors for outputting a verification signal indicative of a driving behavior of the vehicle; and one or more memory modules communicatively coupled to the one or more processors that store a threshold, a time period, and logic that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the authentication and verification module to: receive the diagnostic signal from the onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle for the time period; receive the verification signal from the one or more auxiliary sensors for a concurrent time period; determine a validity of the diagnostic signal by: comparing the diagnostic signal with the verification signal; identifying a difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal; and comparing the difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal with the threshold to determine whether the diagnostic signal is valid; and transmit with the network interface hardware a driving behavior communication with the network interface hardware to the remote server in response to determining that the diagnostic signal is valid.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein at least a portion of the authentication and verification module is included in a mobile device.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the diagnostic signal and the verification signal are each indicative of at least one of fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the authentication and verification module to transmit a service request to at least one of a driver and the vehicle when the diagnostic signal and the verification are outside of the threshold from one another.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the authentication and verification module to apply one of a digital signature to the driving behavior communication and an encryption to the driving behavior communication prior to transmitting the driving behavior communication to the remote server to indicate that the driving behavior communication has not been tampered with.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the one or more auxiliary sensors include at least one of a speed sensor, an acceleration sensor, and an altitude sensor.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the authentication and verification module to receive vehicle specifications from at least one of the onboard diagnostics module and one or more user input devices.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the logic executed by the one or more processors further cause the authentication and verification module to calculate a credit based on one of the diagnostic signal and the verification signal when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within the threshold from one another, wherein the driving behavior communication includes the credit.

17. A method for incentivizing green driving, the method comprising: receiving, with an authentication and verification module, a diagnostic signal from an onboard diagnostics module of a vehicle for a time period; receiving a verification signal from one or more auxiliary sensors for a concurrent time period; determining a validity of the diagnostic signal by: comparing the diagnostic signal with the verification signal from the authentication and verification module; identifying a difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal with the authentication and verification module; comparing the difference between the diagnostic signal and the verification signal with a threshold to determine whether the diagnostic signal is valid; and transmitting a driving behavior communication with the authentication and verification module to a remote server when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within a threshold from one another; and transmitting service request with the authentication and verification module to at least one of a driver and the vehicle in response to determining that the diagnostic signal is valid.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising applying, with the authentication and verification

module, one of a digital signature to the driving behavior communication and an encryption to the driving behavior communication prior to transmitting the driving behavior communication to the remote server to indicate that the driving behavior communication has not been tampered with.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising calculating a credit, with the authentication and verification module, based on one of the diagnostic signal and the verification signal when the verification signal and the diagnostic signal are within the threshold from one another, wherein the driving behavior communication includes the credit.
