University of Regina Carpool Platform

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WHY – The Problem

- University of Regina students and staff face significant daily commuting challenges that impact their schedules and budgets.
- Public transit routes can be slow, limited, or inaccurate, especially during off-peak hours.
- Driving alone means expensive fuel costs and limited parking availability on campus.
- Ride-hailing services like Uber are often too costly for regular daily commuting.
- Existing carpooling happens informally through social media, making it unreliable and unsafe.

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Business Opportunity

Empty Seats

↓

Many drivers travel to campus daily with empty seats that could benefit fellow commuters

Active Demand

↓

Riders are actively searching for affordable and reliable transportation options

Campus-Focused Solution

↓

A dedicated U of R platform can organize this demand effectively and safely

Triple Benefit

↓

Improves affordability, convenience, and trust for the entire campus community

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WHAT – HopIn

- A University of Regina–specific carpool and ride-sharing web application
- Designed to connect drivers and riders traveling to and from campus.
- Built exclusively for students, staff, and faculty.
- Unlike generic ride-sharing apps, HopIn focuses on safety, accountability and ease of use.

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WHAT – Core Features

User Profiles

Registration with U of R email, detailed driver and rider profiles for transparency

Ride Posting

Drivers post rides with departure time, price, route, and available seats

Smart Search

Riders search, compare options, and submit ride requests instantly

Accountability

Ratings, reporting tools, and drop-off confirmation for accountability

Driver Verification

License confirmation and background checks for enhanced passenger security

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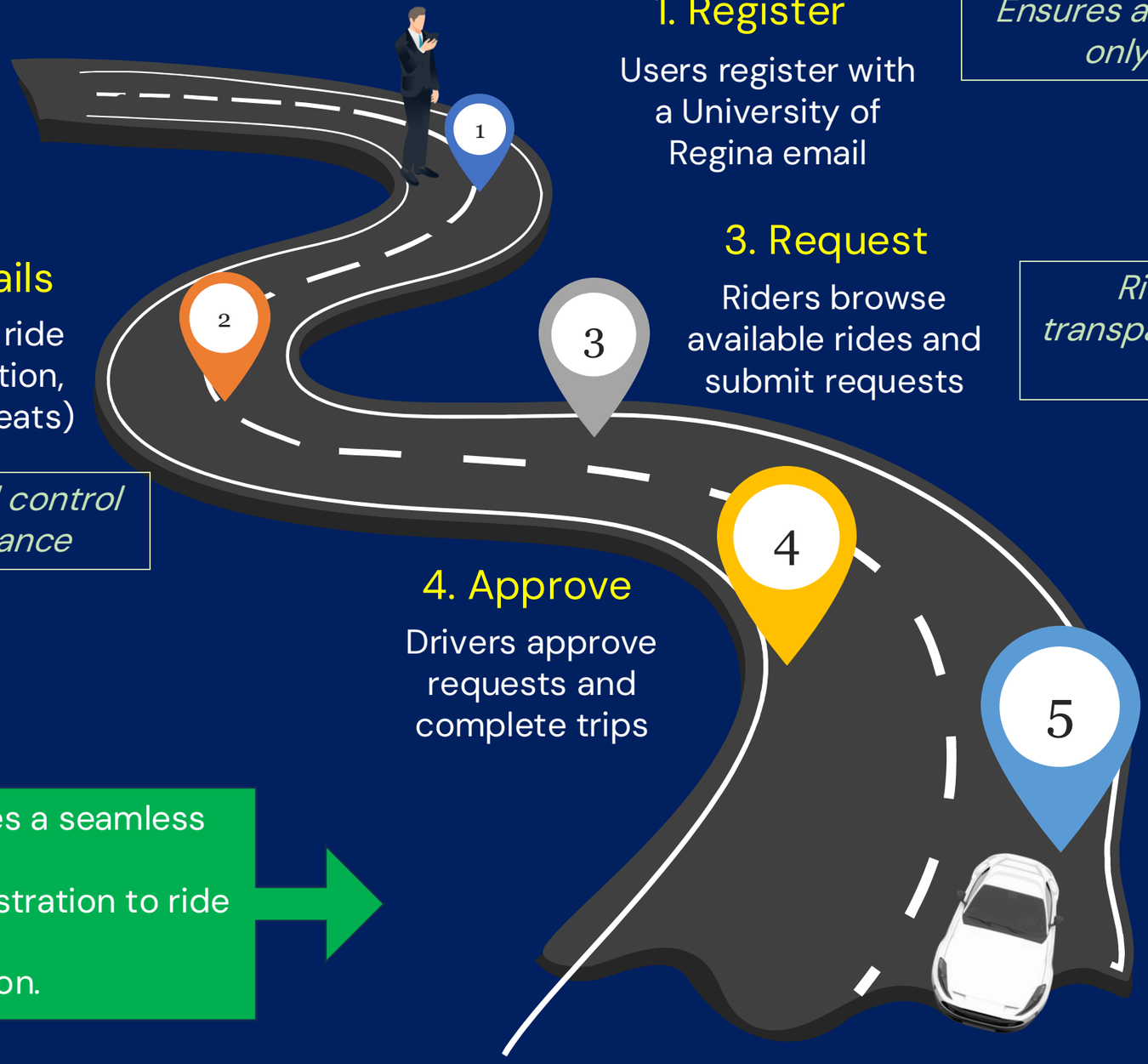
HOW – HopIn's Functionality



1. Register

Users register with a University of Regina email

Ensures a trusted campus-only community

2. Post details

Drivers post ride details (location, time, price, seats)

Drivers maintain full control over ride acceptance

3. Request

Riders browse available rides and submit requests

Riders benefit from transparent pricing and real-time availability

4. Approve

Drivers approve requests and complete trips

5. Rate

Both parties leave ratings after the ride

The mutual rating system builds accountability and helps maintain high service standards across the platform

The platform creates a seamless experience from registration to ride completion.

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HOW – Technical Approach

1

Architecture

Model-View-Controller (MVC) pattern for clean separation of concerns and maintainability

2

Domain Design

Core entities include User, Ride, Request, and Rating for robust data modeling

3

Backend

Secure database management for users, rides, transactions, and verification

4

Frontend

Intuitive interface for searching, posting, managing rides, and user interactions

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Options Considered

Use Existing Platforms

- Limited customization and control, generic features don't serve campus needs

Closed Pilot

- limited initial impact on the broader campus community but potential for growth

Dedicated UofR Platform ✓

- Best balance of control, safety, scalability, and campus-specific customization

Why Build HopIn?

✓ **Centralized Solution**

One reliable platform replaces scattered social media groups and informal arrangements

✓ **Enhanced Safety**

University email verification and ratings build trust beyond anonymous social posts

✓ **Affordable Access**

Cost-effective commuting option that reduces financial burden on students and staff

✓ **Future Growth**

Scalable model with potential to expand to other universities and institutions

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Conclusion

- HopIn addresses a real commuting challenge at the University of Regina by providing a safer, more organized, and affordable carpool solution.
- Fits perfectly within a 2-month development cycle while demonstrating strong software engineering and project management principles.
- This campus-focused platform transforms informal ride-sharing into a trusted, accountable system that benefits the entire U of R community. By connecting drivers with empty seats to riders seeking affordable transportation, HopIn creates value for everyone while building the foundation for future growth beyond our campus.

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Thank You!

Any Questions?

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