BUSINESS CASE	
Proposed Project	University of Regina specific carpool service HopIn
Date Produced	24th January 2026
Background	Users will be able to register as a carpooler and post when they are able to provide rides to the University. The carpooler can set their own price for rides. Users who are looking for rides can select and request a ride from the carpooler.
Business Need/ Opportunity	**<u>FOR UOFR ONLY</u>** Many University of Regina students and staff face daily commuting challenges in Regina due to limited transit convenience for some routes and schedules, rising costs of driving alone (fuel and parking), and the high expense of taxis/ride-hailing, while at the same time many drivers travel to campus with empty seats that could be used to help others. Currently, carpooling is often informal (group chats/social media), which makes it harder to find reliable matches, compare times and prices, and build trust between strangers. This project addresses that need by providing a U of R–focused carpool platform that matches riders and drivers using location, schedule, seat availability, and pricing, while improving safety and accountability through driver licence verification, drop-off confirmation, ratings, and reporting—making commuting more affordable, more dependable, and better organized. **<u>FOR WHOLE REGINA</u> <u>(FUTURE)</u>** In cities like Regina, daily commuting and short intercity travel (e.g., Regina–Moose Jaw–Saskatoon) often falls into a gap between options: public transit can be slow or limited depending on route and schedule, driving alone is costly (fuel/parking), and ride-hailing/taxis are convenient but usually too expensive for frequent commuting. Meanwhile, many drivers travel with empty seats, and riders actively search for lifts—but today that matching is fragmented across informal Facebook groups and classifieds, which makes it harder to compare schedules/prices and build trust. A dedicated carpool platform creates an opportunity to organize this existing demand into a safer, more reliable system by matching

	riders/drivers using location + time windows + price, and adding accountability features like verified drivers, trip completion confirmation, ratings, and reporting—making shared rides easier to adopt at city scale and across nearby cities.
Options	1. Do Nothing 2. Build a Dedicated Carpool Platform 3. Use/Adapt Existing Platforms Instead of Building from Scratch (e.g., form + database + simple portal, or partnership with an established rideshare marketplace) 4. Pilot Program with a Closed Community First (a restricted beta for one group (e.g., U of R students or one employer, then expand city-wide.)

Cost-Benefit Analysis

1. **Do Nothing :-**

   Costs: Commuting stays expensive/inconvenient for many people; carpooling remains scattered across group chats and posts; no consistent safety or accountability.

   Benefits: No development cost, no maintenance, no admin/moderation work.

2. **Build a Dedicated Carpool Platform :-**

   Costs: Time to build and test; basic ongoing costs for hosting/database; some ongoing effort to handle reports, disputes, and account issues.
   Benefits: A single reliable place to find/post rides with clear schedules, prices, and seat availability; improves trust through verification + ratings; can scale beyond one university and work for other Regina-like cities

3. **Use/Adapt Existing Platforms Instead of Building:-**

   Costs: Less control over features and rules (verification, drop-off confirmation, penalties); may require using multiple tools which can feel messy; possible platform fees.
   Benefits: Faster to launch; cheaper upfront; good for validating whether people will actually use it before investing in a full build.

4. **Pilot in a Closed Community First, Then Expand:-** **Costs:** Slower growth at the start because user base is limited; still requires some coordination and basic support. **Benefits:** Safer and easier to manage early; allows you to fix issues and improve matching before opening to the full city.
Recommendation
Option 4 will be best

University of Regina Carpool App

Users registered as a carpool:

- How many passengers they want/how many available seats
- Location (within Regina area)
- availability/schedule/times they will be driving to the University
- Asking price for rides

Users looking for rides:

- What times they need to be at the University
- Location they are in (within Regina area)
- Selects available rides/requests ride from carpool
- Price request

Safety:

- User must confirm drop off
- Carpooler must have drivers licence accepted by app/licence verification
- Rating system
- Carpoolers or riders can be reported and reprimanded by losing access to the website or not receiving funds for the ride

PROJECT CHARTER	
Project Name	HopIn
Date Produced	24th January 2026
Project Goals	Build a safe, easy-to-use carpool platform for University of Regina and similar institutions that helps people post and find rides based on location, schedule, available seats, and price, while improving trust and accountability through verification and feedback features.
Project Objectives	Allow users to register as Driver and/or Rider with location and schedule details. Enable drivers to post rides with time, pickup area, seats, and price. Enable riders to search/filter and request a ride; drivers can accept/decline. Mark rides complete using drop-off confirmation and collect ratings/reports after rides. Implement basic admin controls to review reports and suspend users when needed. Achieve maximum objectives to reach close to the goal using MVC approach and come up with at least a MVP on time.

Project Budget	Most likely zero as we will try to use free database,domain and other resources.
Project Sponsor	Group itself and/or university of regina
Project Manager	Youssef Abdelaziz

Additional Key Project Stakeholders
Project Team (Youssef,Suhayb, Jessica, Rida and Rudra) — Developers / Testers / UI-UX /Full Stack/ Documentation Course Instructor / Lab TA (Mr Tim Mccaig and Mr Adam Tilson) — Evaluator Target Users (Regina commuters: students, staff, workers) — End Users University/Regina Transportation Office (optional, future) — Potential Partner / Advisor

Overall Project Milestones	**Dates**
Project purpose determined, charter and business case	Jan. 26
Stakeholder engagement plan document, Project scope document, project requirements document	Feb. 2-6
Project roles and responsibilities document with separated or integrated RACI doc.	Feb. 2-6
GitHub project board and envisioned MVPs	Feb 9-13
Assorted diagrams (process, data, classes), Hi-Fi UI system design, and user questionairre	Feb. 16-27
Front-end development	Mar. 2-13

Back end development and iteration	Mar. 9-13
Testing and iteration	Mar. 16-31

Overall Project Risks

Low user adoption early on (not enough drivers/riders to match).

Safety/trust issues (fake profiles, misuse, disputes).

Privacy concerns (handling locations and schedules).

Technical reliability (bugs, downtime, incorrect matching/booking).

Moderating workload (handling reports fairly and consistently).