

I still can't decide which idea I want to pursue, so I researched both.

Process Description: Unitrans Idea

While researching bus apps, I found that there are two basic kinds: map based and text based¹. They both have their strengths and drawbacks, but my idea for a Unitrans only app would incorporate both types. The map based apps track the user's location and usually show close by bus stops that, when tapped, show the different bus lines that use that stop. The text based apps focus more on reading and tapping on the specific buses that the user wants. These seem to be more directed to people who already basically know which busses they need, while the map based apps can be used by people who may not know how to get around as easily.

As a current and avid user of the Unitrans bus lines, I already know where to look for accurate bus times. The current bus app within the UC Davis Mobile app constantly breaks down and is inaccurate, but the online Unitrans website is accurate and even tells you when it is possibly inaccurate². I want to use the information that is already available on the website and turn it into an app just for Unitrans. It would utilize both the text based portions of the website, like by having a tab for specifically what time each bus line comes, along with up to the minute predictions, and having a map to show where each bus is for the lines you want. Basically, I want to make the Unitrans website into an app that is well designed and, above all, works all the time.

In order to track the bus from minute to minute, there would probably have to be a gps tracker on it. There's already software that has been made for this³. Busfinder allows the user to track the busses and use the information stored on the interface to make decisions about how to change the route to be more efficient or to update the times that the bus will arrive at a certain stop. Maybe utilizing something like this would be useful, but Unitrans already has this information on their website. I think in order for this idea to be successful, I would need to collaborate heavily with the people who run Unitrans. Someone has already expressed interest in it, but actually being able to access their information is totally different.

1. <http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/18556/whats-the-best-iphone-bus-tracking-app/>

2. <http://unitrans.ucdavis.edu/>

3. http://www.transfinder.com/solutions/school_bus_gps_tracking

Process Description: Depression Helper

There are already some apps out there that help people deal with depression, anxiety, or other mental disorders that people may not necessarily know how to handle. Specifically what I would want to do for UC Davis students would be to have a forum where they could openly speak their mind about their stressors with classes, personal situations, or just generally feeling overwhelmed. There could also be tips the app provides or even a link to CAPS services as well, but the main focus would be anonymous user to user positive interaction.

I researched apps that claim to help people with depression, but they all seem to focus on self care ¹. According to this website, the “Best Apps for Depression of 2015” all seem to focus on getting into healthy habits, or reaching out to find a doctor or medication. None of them seem to offer a space where users can post their problems and allow others to help them. A big part of people struggling with depression is having friends who support you, and while this app isn’t a substitute for real friends, this could be a good first step for someone who may not be ready to admit to themselves that they are not ok.

While my app would mainly focus on the user’s interaction with others, there could also be a space for tips, both that users could post and clinically tested tips². This could be used as a resource for people who may not know how to go about helping themselves get into a more positive mindset, even though, with depression, it’s very hard. I want this to not only be a safe and supportive place for vulnerable people, but to also educate people about what depression and anxiety are, as they often come hand in hand. I want the misconceptions to be demystified for my users.

This interests me because I feel like more and more people that I come into contact with are depressed to some degree. They may not be clinically diagnosed, but I think there is definitely a trend with our generation and stressors we face as college students, leading us down the path to depression ³. I think making an app that would promote learning about depression, while simultaneously providing undergrads with reassurance that they are not the only ones who feel or have felt depressed or overwhelmed with college.

1. <http://www.healthline.com/health/depression/top-iphone-android-apps#2>
2. <http://www.adaa.org/tips>
3. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/theory-knowledge/201402/what-is-causing-the-college-student-mental-health-crisis>

1. <http://www.healthline.com/health/depression/top-iphone-android-apps#2>
2. <http://www.adaa.org/tips>
3. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/theory-knowledge/201402/what-is-causing-the-college-student-mental-health-crisis>