Team 55 Abstract

VeoRide scooters are an easily accessible mode of transportation for residents of College Park, Maryland. These electric scooters are mainly designed for students at the University of Maryland (UMD), but the total service area includes the surrounding community to include commercial and residential areas. VeoRide Inc. manages their devices with the Mobility Data Standard (MDS) and used this interface to provide a data set for all of the rides in October 2019 and 2020. This project aims to find patterns within the data to understand the general usage trends between the two years. Originally composed of 36,607 rides spanning 62 days, we cleaned the data and divided it by year. We then split the service area into three zones: the UMD campus, commercial zones, and residential areas. Using these classifications we analyzed the common types of travel, average distances, popular starting locations, and popular routes. We focused primarily on the campus area to determine how students use the scooters, particularly when entering and exiting campus. Finally, we compared all of the data between 2019 and 2020 and provided probable explanations for the differences. Our conclusions focus on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic and how new restrictions changed human behavior, particularly in regards to local travel.