Final Project Proposal: Urgent Business

Have you ever been out for the day, strolling down the street and realized that you need to go NOW? You run from store to café to restaurant in the hopes that someone will let you use the facilities and find a bit of relief. Of course you have; everybody goes! Wouldn't it be nice if it were easier to find a restroom with public access without all that trial and error? Wouldn't you like the peace of mind of knowing the kind of restroom situation you're walking into?

Urgent Business aims to provide you with an easy-to-use guide to public restrooms in your area. How badly do you need to go? Do you need a single stall, or will a multi-stall restroom do the trick? Do you need to know any secrets to gain entry? How cleanliness are you willing to forsake in the quest for a porcelain throne? Is that store even open right now? Urgent business will address all of these questions in a simple, friendly interface.

This mobile first application will be integrating Google maps to indicate your location and show you the proximity of all available restrooms. Users will be able to search via optional filters or the name of the business. Filters will include a sliding scale of cleanliness, single stall or multiple stalls, and easy of access (i.e. do you need a key, pass code, to buy something from the business, or can you simply walk in). The application will automatically check the current time against the business hours of any results that are returned, so you'll never be disappointed by a locked door when you thought you were finally going to have some sweet relief. There will also be a filter for users to determine how urgent their business is- if it is an emergency, all the filters will

be overridden and the application will point you to the nearest bathroom with public access.

Bathrooms will have a profile page with the business name, address, and hours. Icons will quickly let you know if you which filters apply. There will be a short description with any relevant information (Is the business busy enough that you can slip in unnoticed? Is one of the restroom locks a bit sticky?). Users will also be able to upload comments and photos of existing restrooms.

For the purposes of this project, the scope will be small. I will be sticking to the area of Davis Square in hopes of compiling a list of 10-15 restrooms. Down the road, I envision adding the capability of new user submissions in order to create a crowd sourced database and allow the area of restrooms to grow.

I thought a lot about the demographic for this application and I came to the conclusion that everybody goes, so it should be inclusive. Much of the information provided with the filters is pertinent to many types of people. For example, a homeless person looking to clean up, a diabetic person looking for a place to administer insulin, and a queer or transgendered person looking to avoid any questions may all want to select the single stall filter. Large groups may want to choose the multiple stall option. Urgent Business is for everyone!