

# VV-F: Material Intent of the Project Open-Source, Privacy-First Transit Route Planner with Offline Support

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November 25, 2025

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# 1 Excellence

## 1.1 1.1 Project Objectives and Innovation

This project proposes the creation of an open-source, privacy-first public transit route planner that functions both online and offline, with extended platform support (Android, iOS, and mobile Linux distributions such as postmarketOS). The system will focus on ethical data handling, transparency, and accessibility, distinguishing it from commercial solutions like Google Maps that depend on centralized data collection and user tracking [3].

The project allows users to plan routes based on multiple parameters — type of vehicle, number of transfers, preferred transit company, estimated duration, and route length — while maintaining offline capability for all features that do not require real-time updates. Its open-source nature encourages reuse, transparency, and community contributions, enabling independent verification that no user data is collected or monetized [8].

### **Key measurable objectives:**

- Develop a working prototype for at least one mobile platform.
- Achieve at least 85% routing accuracy when compared to existing online tools, such as Google Maps or Mapy.cz.
- Provide full offline map and route planning for at least one pilot area.
- Release the full source code under an open-source license.
- Create basic project documentation to enable others to test, use, or improve the application.

Although the team lacks prior experience, the project is designed as a learning-oriented initiative. Its purpose is to develop technical, research, and teamwork skills while contributing a small but functional open-source mobility solution [12].

## 1.2 1.2 Methodology

The development process follows an iterative and incremental approach. The team will begin by studying open data standards such as GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) [4] and OpenStreetMap (OSM) [10]. Early milestones focus on understanding the data formats, developing simple import and routing functions, and gradually extending features to include user preferences and offline storage.

Testing and evaluation will rely on comparing generated routes with official public transport timetables and known commercial apps. Progress will be tracked through Git version control, ensuring transparency and documentation of development steps [11].

Modern public-transport routing approaches, such as those described by Delling et al., demonstrate efficient techniques for multi-criteria and transfer-sensitive routing, which inform our prototype design [1].

## 1.3 1.3 Research Team and Learning Goals

The project is conducted by a small group of four first-year university students. None of the team members have prior experience with large-scale software or applied research, making this project primarily an educational and exploratory effort. Each student will

be responsible for one key domain — such as data processing, mobile interface, system architecture, or documentation.

While there is no formal Principal Investigator in the traditional research sense, the group operates collaboratively, with each member contributing equally. The work is guided by academic supervisors who provide methodological advice but allow full independence in implementation. The project’s main strength lies in the students’ motivation to learn, collaborate, and contribute meaningfully to open-source development [6].

## 2 Impact

### 2.1 2.1 Expected Impact and Benefits

Despite its modest scale, the project can generate measurable academic and social value. Its open-source nature ensures transparency and educational reuse by other students or developers. The resulting application prototype will demonstrate that even beginner teams can contribute to practical, privacy-respecting software [7].

**Expected impacts:**

- **Educational:** The team members gain practical experience with applied research and software development tools.
- **Scientific:** The project documents a case study in open-source, non-commercial software design for mobility planning.
- **Social:** Provides a transparent, data-respecting alternative to proprietary routing systems [2].
- **Technical:** Produces reusable open-source components that others may extend or integrate into their own projects.

The project also contributes to awareness about data privacy in public digital services and encourages students to adopt ethical principles in technology design.

### 2.2 2.2 Dissemination of Results

All project outputs — source code, documentation, and datasets — will be published publicly in a GitHub repository under an open license. A small project website will host the compiled app and explain the goals, methodology, and ethical principles. Dissemination will occur mainly within the university environment and through open-source communities [9].

If successful, the team plans to present the project at student technology fairs or conferences focused on open software and digital privacy.

## 3 Implementation

### 3.1 3.1 Work Plan and Milestones

WP	Title	Tasks and Deliverables	Duration
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WP1	Research and data preparation	Study GTFS and OSM standards; gather datasets; prepare import scripts	Months 1–3
WP2	Routing prototype	Implement routing algorithm using open data; verify correctness	Months 4–6
WP3	User interface and of-line support	Develop UI; implement offline operation for one region	Months 7–9
WP4	Evaluation and documentation	Compare prototype with commercial apps; documentation; publish results	Months 10–12

## 3.2 3.2 Project Management and Risks

The team will manage tasks collaboratively using Git and shared documentation platforms. Decisions are made collectively, promoting equal participation. Academic mentors may provide limited supervision.

### Identified risks:

Risk	Description and Mitigation
Lack of experience	May slow progress. Mitigation: learn from open-source examples, tutorials, mentor feedback.
Time management	Balancing university workload may reduce available time. Mitigation: weekly task planning.
Technical complexity	Features like offline routing are difficult. Mitigation: start simple and scale up gradually.
Data quality issues	Open datasets contain inconsistencies. Mitigation: choose a small pilot region first.

## 3.3 3.3 Budget & Resources

The project requires minimal funding — testing devices, repository hosting, and small dissemination costs. No commercial software licenses are needed [5].

## 3.4 3.4 Institutional Support

The project is supported by FIIT STU, which provides access to infrastructure, consultation, and academic supervision.

## References

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