

The 5 Most Common Vehicle Route Planning Pitfalls (And How To Avoid Them)



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Manual Route Planning Is Far From Perfect

Planning routes manually, as opposed to using route planning software, is a mistake. It'll make your employees less efficient and upset your customers.

Specifically, here are five reasons why manual route planning is bad for business:

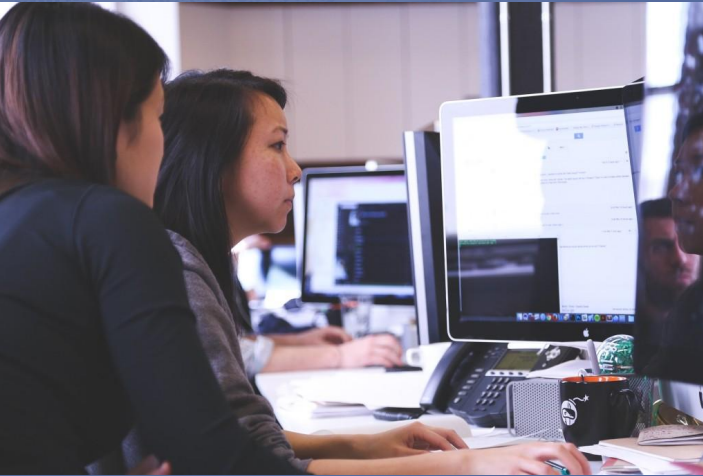


#1: It Takes A *Long Time*

Planning routes manually is quite time-consuming.

There's more to it than just figuring out which roads your drivers must take to get to your customers - you also need to account for traffic, construction, weather, customer availability, and other factors.

If you have dozens of customers and multiple drivers, that can take hours.



#2: The Results Aren't Always Accurate



After all that time and effort spent manually planning routes, there's no guarantee that the routes you come up with are efficient or even accurate.

Inefficient routes will waste time. Inaccurate routes will lead to your drivers getting lost, which wastes even more time.

If your driver is late to a stop, that's terrible for your reputation. You need to show up on time consistently, or your customers won't stay your customers for long. They'll leave you for one of your competitors.

#3: Higher Fuel Expenses

Inefficient/inaccurate routes don't just waste time - they waste gas, too.

The more efficient your route is, the less you'll need to spend on gas to visit all your customers.



#4: Legal Trouble



Deciding to plan your routes manually might also get you slapped with a lawsuit.

If your routes are inefficient, your drivers might need to speed to make it to all their stops on time. Driving recklessly like that puts them at much greater risk of getting into an accident. Your driver being at fault in a collision means you could face some serious (and expensive) legal consequences.

Planning routes without software also makes it hard to keep track of how many hours your drivers are working. You might accidentally violate federal [Hours of Service regulations](#), which can result in a hefty fine.



#5: No Oversight

Here's another thing wrong with planning routes without software - there's no way to track your drivers.

You see, workers of all kinds tend to slack off a bit when they're unsupervised, and drivers are almost always unsupervised. They might be stopping for snacks or even running personal errands while they're on the clock. You can't see them, so how do you know?

A faint, orange-toned map of New Orleans serves as the background for the top section of the slide. It shows the city's layout, including the Mississippi River, the French Quarter, and various landmarks like the New Orleans Cemetery and the New Orleans Country Club.

Route Planning Software Prevents These Problems

Route planning software guarantees that every route you give your drivers is the most efficient route possible. And instead of taking hours, planning your route will only take a minute - all you need to do is plug the addresses in, and the software will take care of the rest.

Final mile delivery software that has a GPS tracking feature is even better. With GPS tracking, you can see exactly where your drivers are and how fast they're going in real-time. Whenever you want, you can check in on a driver and make sure they're sticking to their route and staying on schedule.

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