METHOD FOR COOPERATIVE TRANSPORT OF PARCELS

Abstract: The system and methods disclosed allow cooperative transport of parcels by aggregating excess carrying capacity of participating individual transport agents planning on or actually engaging in travels. Parcels are accepted at a sorter where a transport agent, who is traveling generally in the direction the parcel needs to go, picks it up and carries it along to the next sorter. This process continues until the parcel arrives at the sorter closest to the final destination. This aggregation increases utilization efficiency of available modes of transport and results in many benefits including: saving energy by reducing overall fuel usage, decreasing overall vehicular pollution generation and congestion, and reducing wear and tear on transportation infrastructure.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US 07/83802

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - G06F 9/44 (2008.01)
USPC - 705/7
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B  FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) G06F 9/44 (2008.01)
USPC 705/7

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched 705/1, 8, 500

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB), GOOGLE
Search Terms Used cooperateS, delivers, sh§S, transports, optimS, trucking, neural network, heuristic, collective intelligence, distributed cognition, efficient, leg, swarm intelligence

C  DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2006/0053027 A1 (RIGGS et al.) 09 March 2006 (09 03 2006), entire document, especially para [0023J-0029] [0034], [0040J-0041], [0053]-[0056], [0068]-[0069], [0096], [0101]</td>
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[ ] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C [ ]

* Special categories of cited documents
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