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(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM FOR TOLL SERVICE ACTIVATION AND BILLING**

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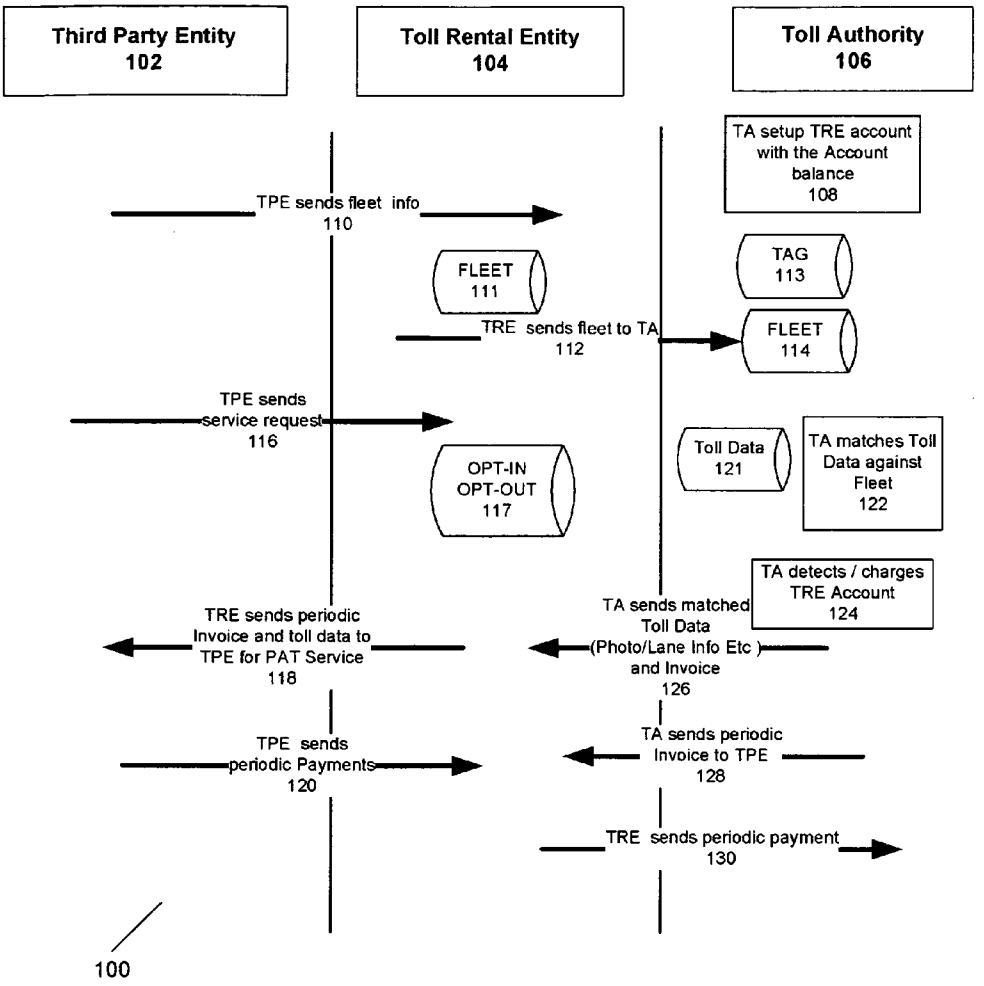
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system, method, and computer readable medium for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity, receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, sending toll usage data related to the service request to a third party entity, receiving a payment at the toll rental entity based on the service request, and sending a payment to the toll authority based on the toll usage data.



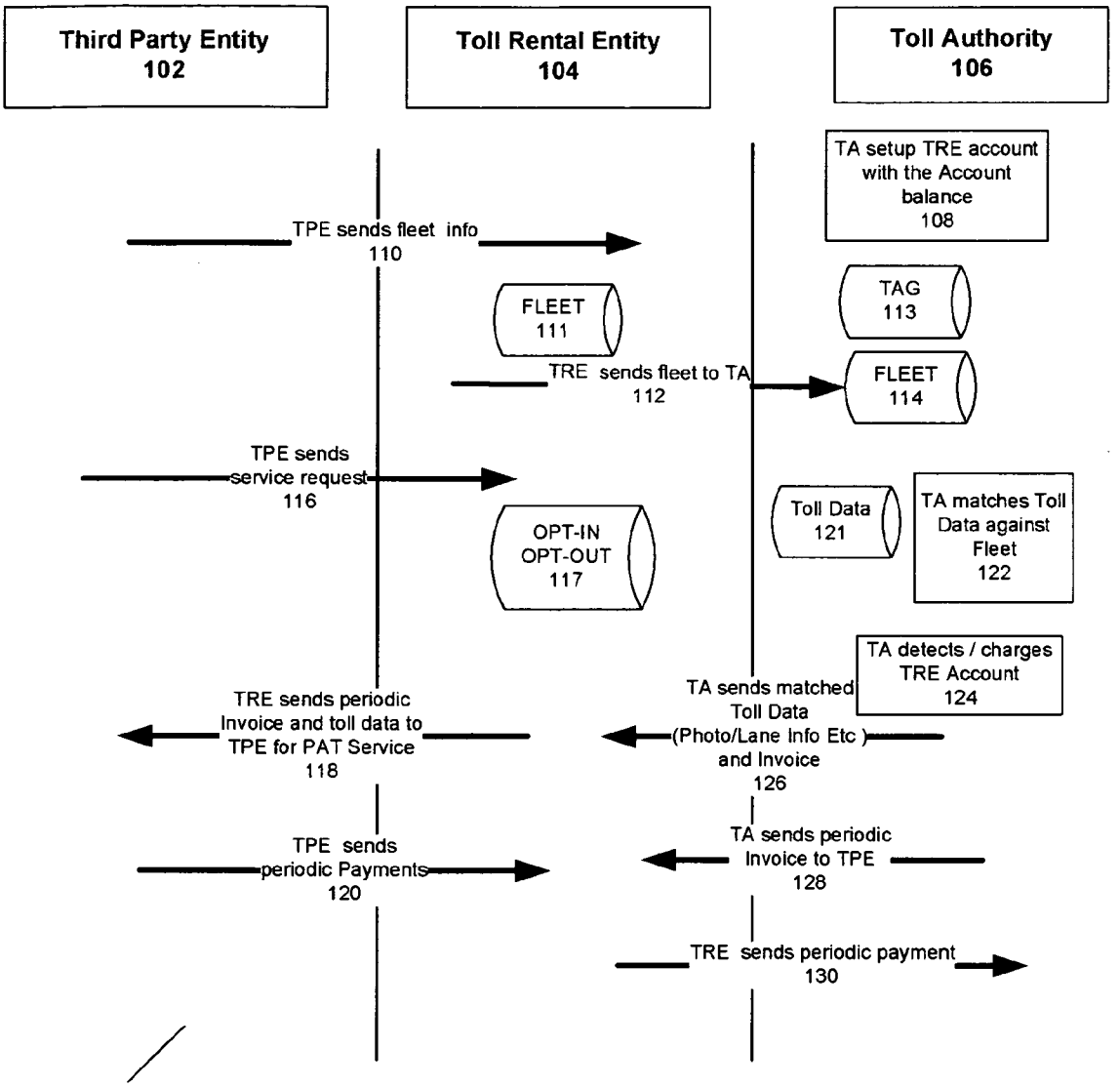

Third Party Entity
102
Toll Rental Entity
104
Toll Authority
106
TA setup TRE account with the Account balance
108
TPE sends fleet info
110
FLEET
111
TAG
113
TRE sends fleet to TA
112
FLEET
114
TPE sends service request
116
OPT-IN
OPT-OUT
117
Toll Data
121
TA matches Toll Data against Fleet
122
TA detects / charges TRE Account
124
TRE sends periodic Invoice and toll data to TPE for PAT Service
118
TA sends matched Toll Data (Photo/Lane Info Etc) and Invoice
126
TPE sends periodic Payments
120
TA sends periodic Invoice to TPE
128
TRE sends periodic payment
130
100

Fig 1

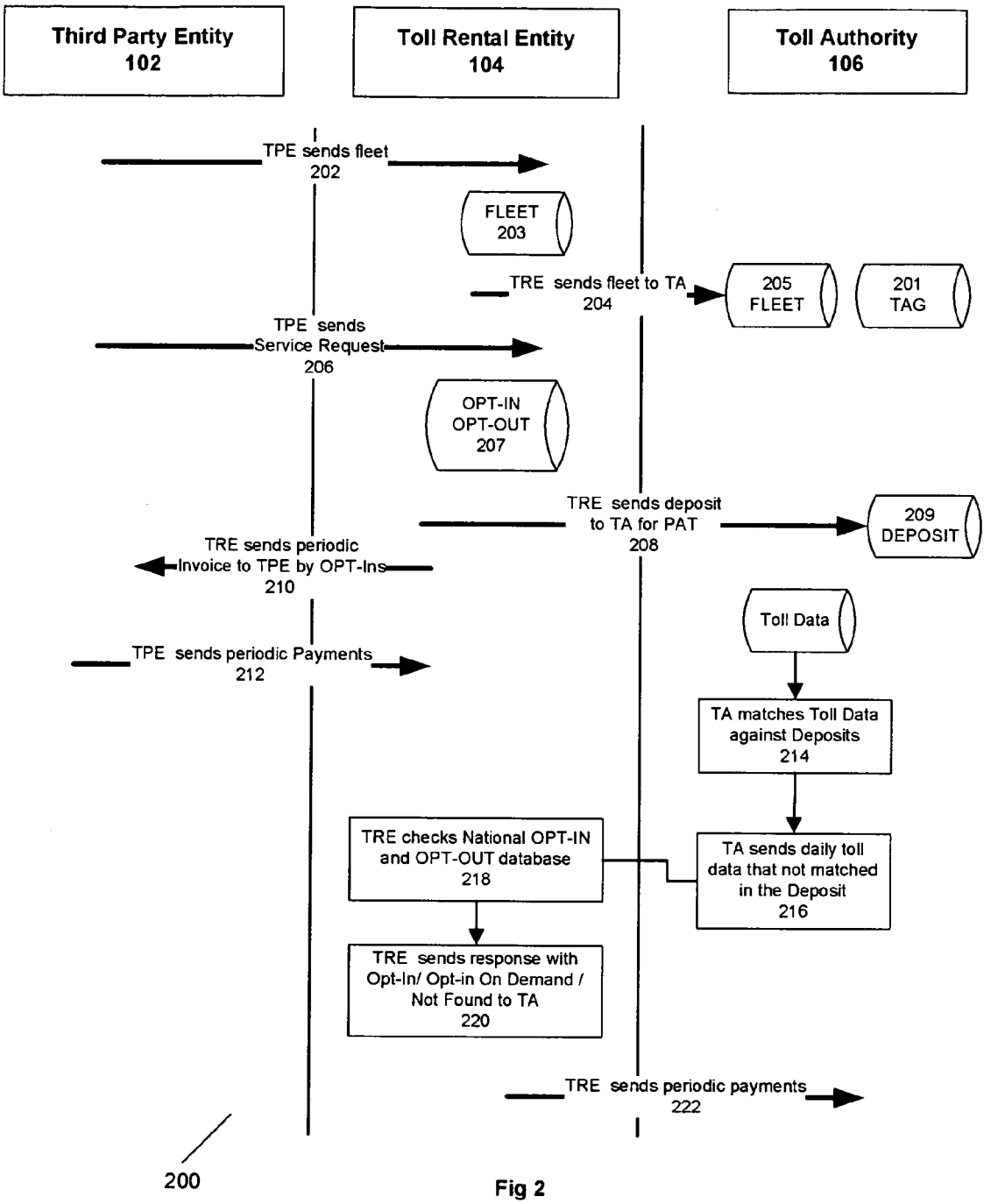

Third Party Entity
102
Toll Rental Entity
104
Toll Authority
106
TPE sends fleet
202
FLEET
203
TRE sends fleet to TA
204
205
FLEET
201
TAG
TPE sends
Service Request
206
OPT-IN
OPT-OUT
207
TRE sends deposit
to TA for PAT
208
209
DEPOSIT
TRE sends periodic
Invoice to TPE by OPT-Ins
210
Toll Data
TPE sends periodic Payments
212
TA matches Toll Data
against Deposits
214
TRE checks National OPT-IN
and OPT-OUT database
218
TA sends daily toll
data that not matched
in the Deposit
216
TRE sends response with
Opt-In/ Opt-in On Demand /
Not Found to TA
220
TRE sends periodic payments
222
200

Fig 2

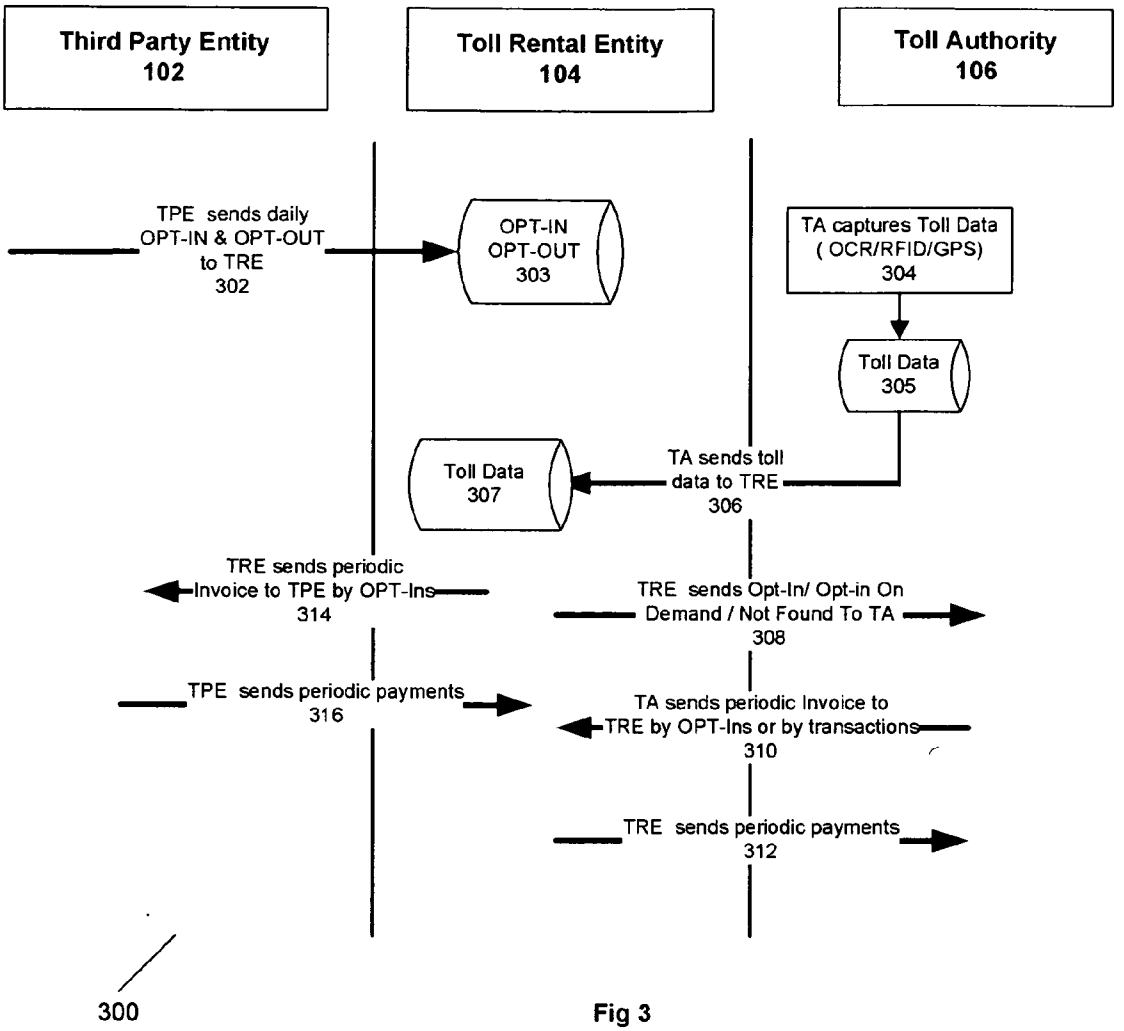

Third Party Entity
102
Toll Rental Entity
104
Toll Authority
106
TPE sends daily
OPT-IN & OPT-OUT
to TRE
302
OPT-IN
OPT-OUT
303
TA captures Toll Data
(OCR/RFID/GPS)
304
Toll Data
305
Toll Data
307
TA sends toll
data to TRE
306
TRE sends periodic
Invoice to TPE by OPT-Ins
314
TRE sends Opt-In/ Opt-in On
Demand / Not Found To TA
308
TPE sends periodic payments
316
TA sends periodic Invoice to
TRE by OPT-Ins or by transactions
310
TRE sends periodic payments
312
300

Fig 3

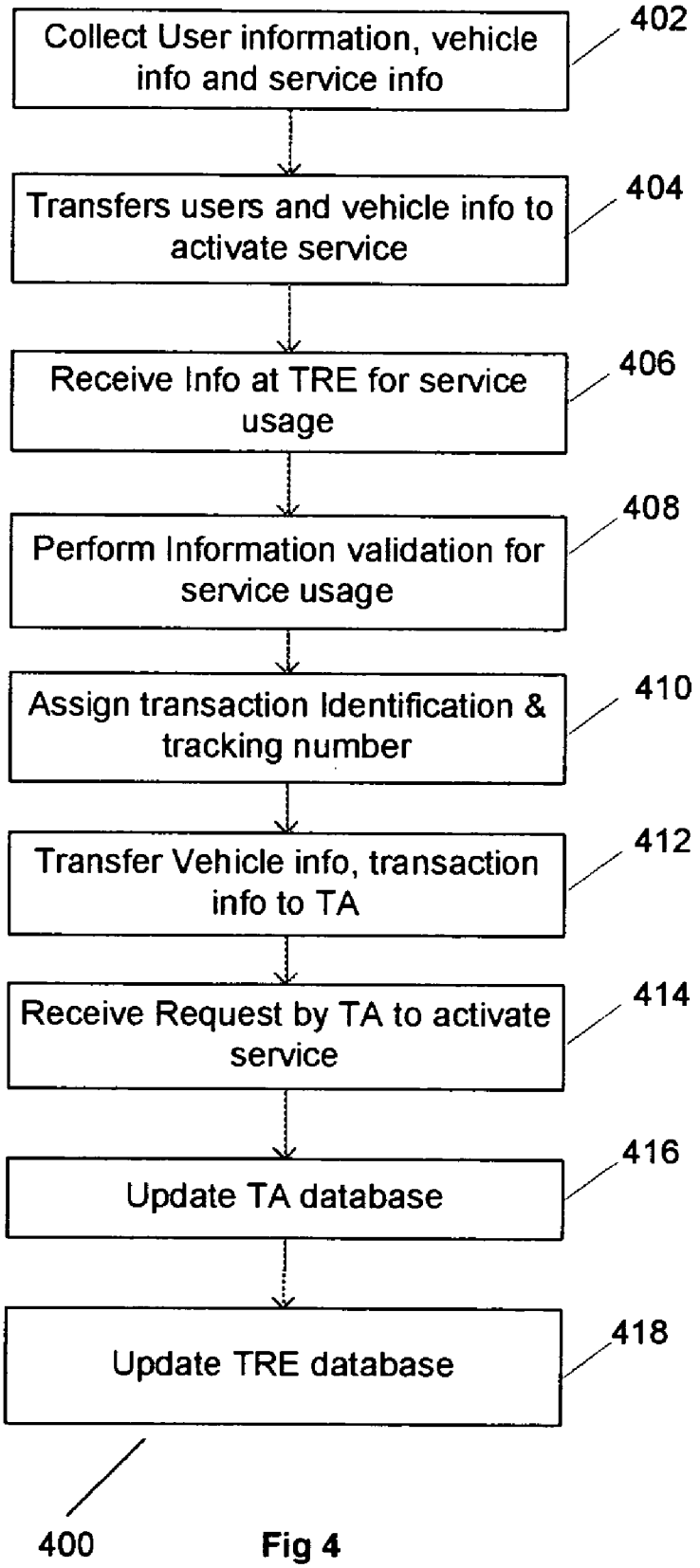

Collect User information, vehicle info and service info
402
Transfers users and vehicle info to activate service
404
Receive Info at TRE for service usage
406
Perform Information validation for service usage
408
Assign transaction Identification & tracking number
410
Transfer Vehicle info, transaction info to TA
412
Receive Request by TA to activate service
414
Update TA database
416
Update TRE database
418
400

Fig 4

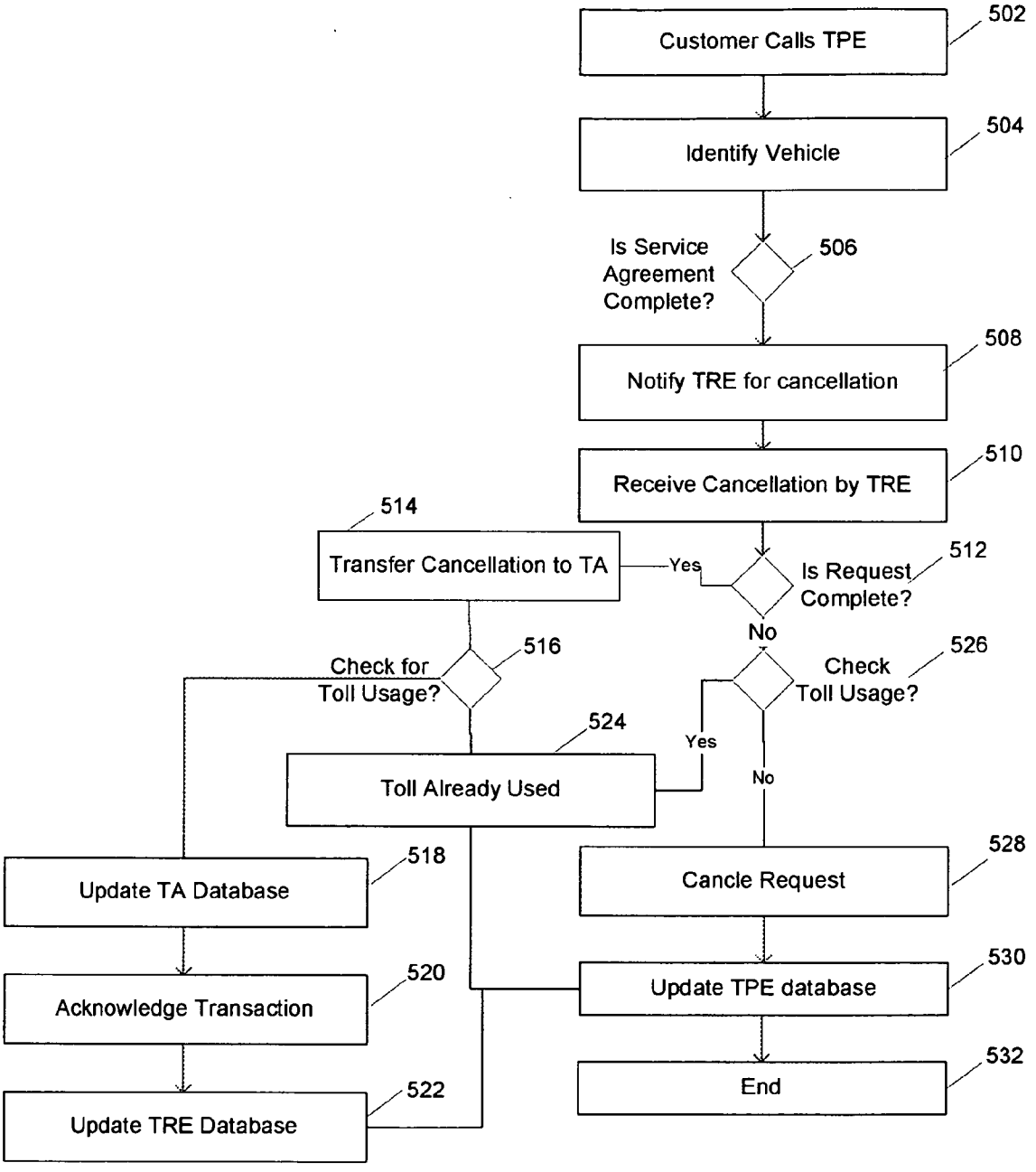

Customer Calls TPE
502
Identify Vehicle
504
Is Service Agreement Complete?
506
Notify TRE for cancellation
508
Receive Cancellation by TRE
510
Transfer Cancellation to TA
514
Yes
Is Request Complete?
512
No
Check for Toll Usage?
516
Check Toll Usage?
526
Yes
No
Toll Already Used
524
Update TA Database
518
Cancle Request
528
Acknowledge Transaction
520
Update TPE database
530
Update TRE Database
522
End
532
500

Fig 5

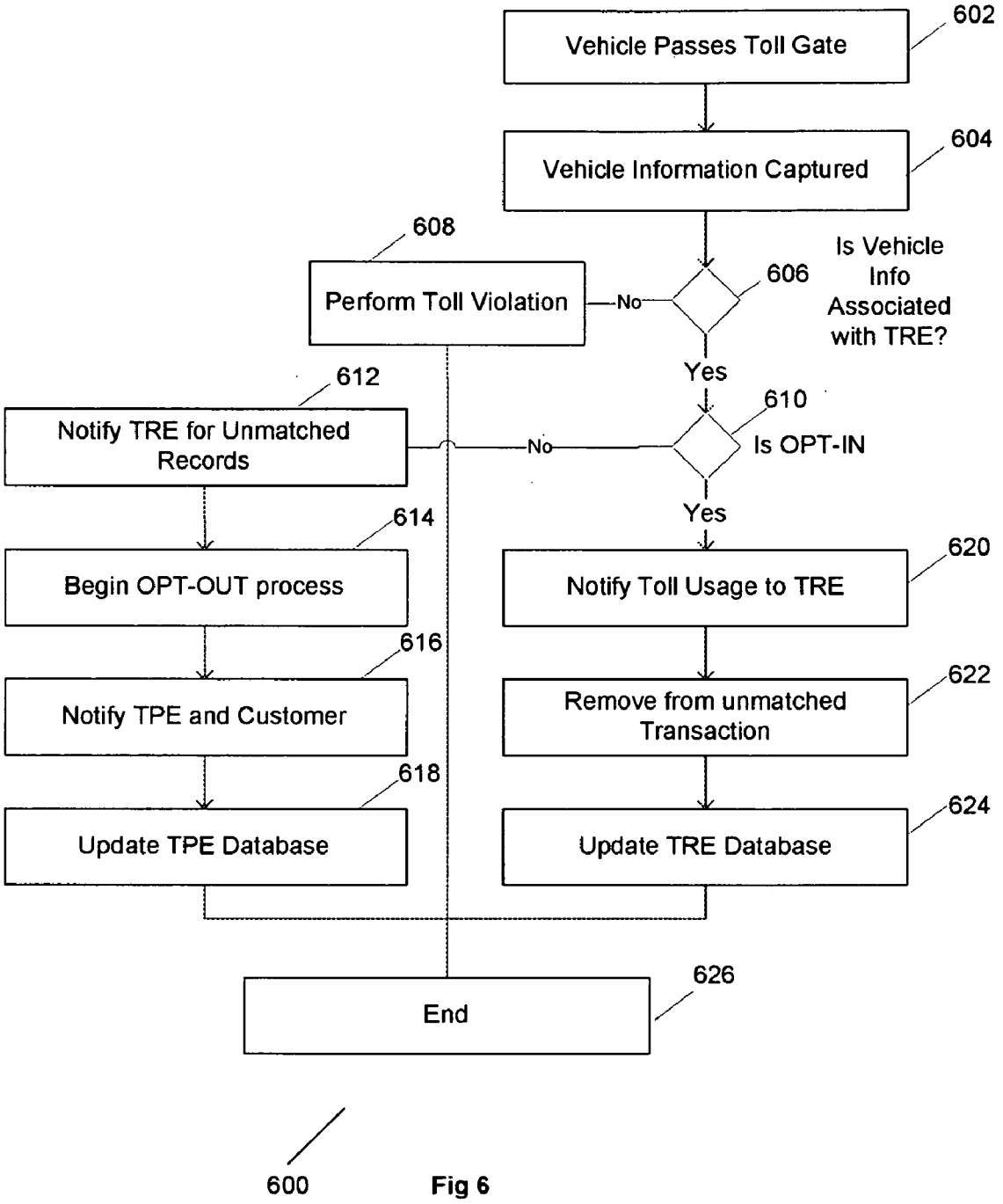

Vehicle Passes Toll Gate
602
Vehicle Information Captured
604
Is Vehicle Info Associated with TRE?
606
No
Yes
Perform Toll Violation
608
Is OPT-IN
610
No
Yes
Notify TRE for Unmatched Records
612
Begin OPT-OUT process
614
Notify TPE and Customer
616
Update TPE Database
618
Notify Toll Usage to TRE
620
Remove from unmatched Transaction
622
Update TRE Database
624
End
626
600

Fig 6

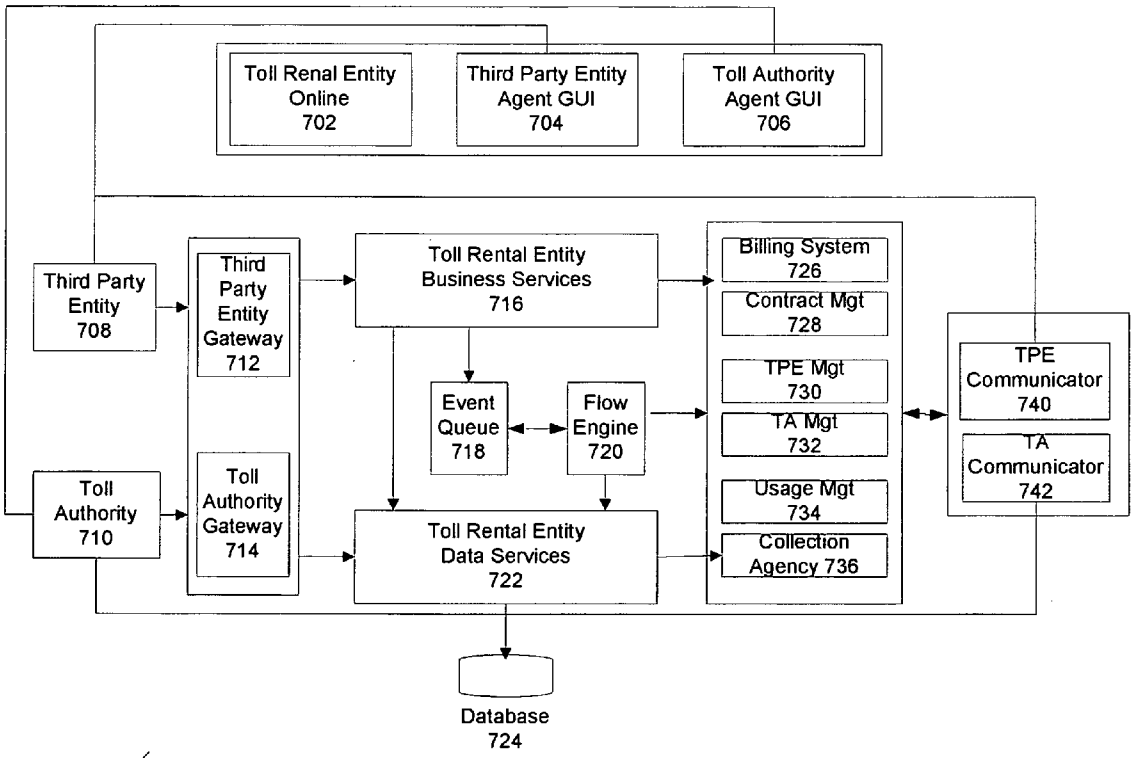

Toll Renal Entity Online 702
Third Party Entity Agent GUI 704
Toll Authority Agent GUI 706
Third Party Entity 708
Third Party Entity Gateway 712
Toll Rental Entity Business Services 716
Billing System 726
Contract Mgt 728
TPE Mgt 730
TA Mgt 732
Usage Mgt 734
Collection Agency 736
TPE Communicator 740
TA Communicator 742
Event Queue 718
Flow Engine 720
Toll Authority 710
Toll Authority Gateway 714
Toll Rental Entity Data Services 722
Database 724
700

Fig 7

SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM FOR TOLL SERVICE ACTIVATION AND BILLING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present patent application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/726,300, titled Toll Fee System And Method Using Prepaid Toll Pass, filed on Oct. 13, 2005, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/759,937, titled Business Process For Toll Fee System And Method For Vehicle Registration, Invoicing, Opt-In Services, And Toll Violations, filed on Jan. 18, 2006, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/763,097 titled Method And System For Toll Collection With Optional Service Capabilities, filed on Jan. 27, 2006, the entire contents of each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

[0002] The present patent application is also related to U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 11/125,521, titled Toll Fee System And Method, filed on May 10, 2005, to U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application Docket No. RTL008, titled System, Method, And Computer Readable Medium For Billing, and to U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application Docket No. RTL009, titled System, Method, And Computer Readable Medium For Billing Tolls, filed on Sep. 06, 2006, the entire contents of each of which are incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates generally to toll systems and methods and, more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to systems, methods, and computer readable media for guaranteed preauthorized toll service activation and billing for third party renters and a toll collection entities.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention incorporates by reference various information including: toll fee tracking systems and methods for automatic, non-contact, high-speed toll fee tracking and payment of vehicular tolls using a Pre-authorized Toll Pass, business processes for toll fee system and method for vehicle registration, invoicing, opt-in services, and toll violations, and to toll service systems and methods adapted to provide toll service to third party entity vehicles without having to stop at a toll authority. In such a scenario, a toll rental entity gathers all third party entity vehicle information such as, for example, license plate number, vehicle registration state, vehicle make, vehicle model and the like from third party entities to provide toll service to the third party entity vehicles. When a third party entity customer rents a third party entity vehicle with the toll rental service option, the toll rental entity receives such notification as opt-in service transaction from the third party entity and communicates the information back to the toll authority/toll collection entity to support the service for the third party entity vehicle.

[0005] The third party entity also transfers opt-out service information to the toll rental entity in the event the customer decided to change his/her mind to use the toll service. In the preauthorized toll service model, the toll rental entity guarantees payment to the toll authority for the toll service. The toll rental entity may provide the toll usage such as, vehicle information, transponder information, location information, time stamp, and vehicle picture. The toll rental entity might all send the third party renter information on demand for any future references.

[0006] If the customer is not opted for this service and violated the toll authority/toll collection entity by not paying at the toll authority/toll collection entity, then the toll authority/toll collection entity identifies third party vehicles by license plate number. The toll rental entity will then communicate with the third party entity to obtain rental violator information for later violation processing. Instead of charging the customer by toll usage, embodiments of the present invention charge the customer by the rental period.

[0007] In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity, receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, sending toll usage data related to the service request to a third party entity, receiving a payment at the toll rental entity based on the service request, and sending a payment to the toll authority based on the toll usage data.

[0008] In another embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity, receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to the toll authority (or authorities) based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service.

[0009] In a further embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to a toll authority (or authorities) based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out period for service, receiving toll usage data at the toll rental entity, matching the toll usage data with information related to the opt-in for service and the opt-out for service, and sending a payment related to the matched toll usage data.

[0010] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium comprises instructions for: receiving fleet information, receiving a service request related to the fleet information, sending toll usage data related to the service request, receiving a payment from a first entity based on the sent service request, and sending a payment to a second entity based on the toll usage data.

[0011] In yet a further embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium comprises instructions for: receiving fleet information, receiving a service request related to the fleet information, and sending a payment based on the service request if the service request consists of an opt-in for service.

[0012] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium comprises instructions

for: receiving a service request, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment based on a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service.

[0013] In yet a further embodiment of the present invention, a system for toll service activation and billing, comprises a toll rental entity that: receives fleet information, receives service requests, receives payments based on the service requests, sends toll usage data related to the service requests to a first non-toll rental entity, and sends a payment to a second non-toll rental entity based on the toll usage data.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] For a more complete understanding of the present invention and for further objects and advantages thereof, reference may now be had to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0015] FIG. **1** is a first flow diagram depicting messages sent between a third party entity, a toll rental entity, and a toll authority in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. **2** is a second flow diagram depicting messages sent between a third party entity, a toll rental entity, and a toll authority in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0017] FIG. **3** is a third flow diagram depicting messages sent between a third party entity, a toll rental entity, and a toll authority in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. **4** is a flow chart illustrating service activation in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. **5** is a flow chart illustrating service cancellation in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. **6** is a flow chart illustrating an opt-in and an opt-out process in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0021] FIG. **7** is a block diagram of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0022] Referring now to FIG. **1**, a flow diagram **100** is illustrated. The depicted messages are sent and received by a number of entities or modules including a third party entity **102** (such as a rent-a-car or other transport rental company), a toll rental entity **104**, and a toll authority **106**. The diagram **100** describes a fleet based data exchange where charges provided by the toll authority **106** are based on transactions and charges provided by the toll rental entity **104** are based on duration.

[0023] At step **110**, the third party entity **102** sends fleet information to the toll rental entity **104** which can store the information in a database **111** and/or send the information **112** to the toll authority **106** which can store it in a database **114**. At this point both the third party entity and the toll authority can initiate their processes in parallel. The third party entity **102** sends a service request **116** to the toll rental entity **104** indicating an opt-in or an opt-out of service for utilizing a toll tag or a toll reader device in a rented transport (or for utilizing a license plate). The toll rental entity **104** can store this information in an opt-in and/or opt-out database **117**.

[0024] The toll authority **106** sets up a toll rental entity account **108** with an account balance. This action may occur at any time in this process. As a transport with a toll tag (whose information is stored in a tag database **113**) utilizes the toll authorities' toll booth(s), toll data is gathered (and stored in toll data database **121**) and matched **122** against the fleet information with license plate number or by transponder. The tag database **113**, the fleet database **114**, and the toll data database **121** may be the same database. The toll authority **106** detects the matched toll data and charges **124** the toll rental entity account.

[0025] The toll authority sends **126** the matched toll data (including, for example, a photograph of the transport or other proof of the transport utilizing the toll booth or other toll authority structure) and an invoice to the toll rental entity **104** which sends **118** the toll data and the invoice (for example, periodically) to the third party entity **100** for preauthorized toll service. The third party entity **102** may also send payments **120** (for example, periodically) to the toll rental entity **104** which deposits **117** capital in the toll rental entity account. The toll authority **106** may also send **128** the toll rental entity **104** an invoice which can be paid **130**. These steps may be performed in various orders. For example, the depicted payments can occur before or after other depicted actions.

[0026] In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity, receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, sending toll usage data related to the service request to a third party entity, receiving a payment at the toll rental entity based on the service request, and sending a payment to the toll authority based on the toll usage data. The method also comprises sending an invoice to the third party entity by the toll rental entity, wherein the payment is sent during at least one of: consistently, periodically, gradually, completely, wherein the fleet information comprises at least one of a license plate number, a license plate state, a license state type, an RFID transponder identification, a vehicle identification number, a vehicle owner, a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle color, wherein the service request comprises at lease one of: a transaction based service request, a location based service request, a frequency based service request, and an occupancy based service request, wherein the receiving of the fleet information and the receiving of the service request occur during at least one of: at different times, at the same time, in real-time, in near real-time, in batch mode, serially, and in parallel, and wherein the service request comprises at least one of: an opt-in for the service, an opt-out for the service, a late opt-in for the service, and a late opt-out for the service.

[0027] Referring now to FIG. **2**, a flow diagram **200** is illustrated. The depicted messages are sent and received by a number of entities or modules including a third party entity **102** (such as a rent-a-car or other transport rental company), a toll rental entity **104**, and a toll authority **106**. The diagram **200** describes an opt-in (for service) based data exchange

where charges provided by the toll authority **106** are based on duration and charges provided by the toll rental entity **104** are also based on duration.

[**0028**] At step **202**, the third party entity **102** sends fleet information to the toll rental entity **104** which can store the information in a database **203** and/or send the information **204** to the toll authority **106** which can store it in a database **205**. The third party entity **102** sends a service request **206** to the toll rental entity **104** indicating an opt-in or an opt-out of service for utilizing a toll tag or toll reader device in a rented transport. The toll rental entity **104** can store this information in an opt-in or an opt-out database **207**.

[**0029**] The toll rental entity **104** sends **208** a deposit to the toll authority **106** for preauthorized toll service. Deposits are based on the service period mostly by duration. Deposits may be a flat fee for the toll authority. In this model, irrespective of the toll usage, the toll rental entity might pay the toll authority by the service period. Deposits can be sent real time or by batch. This deposit is stored and is managed in a deposit database **209**. As a transport with a toll tag (whose information is stored in a tag database **201**) utilizes the toll authorities' toll booth(s), toll data is gathered (and stored in toll data database **224**) and matched **214** against the deposits and/or the fleet information. The fleet database **205**, the tag database **201**, the deposit database **209**, and the toll data database **224** may be the same database. If the toll authority **106** detects the matched toll data the deposit account or another account is charged. Toll tag and license plate recognition can be used.

[**0030**] The toll authority preferably sends **216** the toll data daily that is unmatched in the deposit database **209** to the toll rental entity **104**, but may send such data at any time or at various times. The toll rental entity **104** checks **218** the opt-in or opt-out database **207** in order to rectify the unmatched data. The toll rental entity **104** sends **220** a response to the toll authority **106** with at least one of: an opt-in for service, an opt-in on demand for service (whereby a customer that initially opted out and then changed his/her might to opt-in later), opt-out service or vehicle data not found. If the toll rental entity **104** determines that an opt-in for service, or an opt-in on demand for service is found, a payment is sent **222** to the toll authority **106**. These steps may be performed in various orders. For example, the third party entity **102** sending payments **212** can occur before or after the third party entity sends a service request **206**.

[**0031**] In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity, receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to the toll authority based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service. The sending of the payment to the toll authority based on the service request occurs irrespective of toll usage data.

[**0032**] Referring now to FIG. **3**, a flow diagram **300** is illustrated. The depicted messages are sent and received by a number of entities or modules including a third party entity **102** (such as a rent-a-car or other transport rental company), a toll rental entity **104**, and a toll authority **106**. The diagram **300** describes an opt-in (for service) based data exchange where charges provided by the toll authority **320** are duration and transaction based, and charges provided by the toll rental entity **310** are duration based. The third party entity **102** sends **302** opt-in and opt-out information to the toll rental entity **104** which stores such information in a database **303**. The toll authority **106** captures the toll data, which can be received **304** via a number of sources such as OCR, RFID, and GPS, and stores the toll data in a database **305**. This information is sent or is downloaded to database **307**.

[**0033**] The toll rental entity **104** sends **314** an invoice to the third party entity **102** based on the individuals or entities opting-in, and sends **308** an opt-in, an opt-in on demand, or data not found to the toll authority **106**. Third party entity receives all the rental agreements/service requests from the third party entity and later matches the toll data from the toll authority. The toll rental entity also maintains a queue in the event the toll data comes before the third party service request. The toll rental entity maps toll data with the service request and sends the invoice to the third party entity periodically based on opt-in, opt-out or late/early opt-in and out-out. The third party entity **102** sends **316** payments to the toll rental entity **104**, receives **310** an invoice(s) based on opt-ins or by the transactions noted above and sends **312** payments to the toll authority **106** based on these invoices.

[**0034**] In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for toll service activation and billing, comprises receiving a service request at the toll rental entity, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to a toll authority based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service, receiving toll usage data at the toll rental entity, matching the toll usage data with information related to the opt-in for service and the opt-out for service, and sending a payment related to the matched toll usage data. The payment is sent to at least one of: the toll authority, and a third party entity.

[**0035**] Referring now to FIG. **4**, a flow chart **400** illustrating service activation is depicted. At step **402**, user information, vehicle information and service information is collected, at step **404**, users and vehicle information is transferred to activate service, at step **406**, information is received at a toll rental entity for service usage, at step **408**, information validation is performed for service usage, and transaction Identification and a tracking number is assigned at step **410**. The flow chart further discloses vehicle information and transaction information that is transferred or sent to a toll authority at step **412**, a received request by the toll authority to activate service at step **414**, and to update a toll authority database and a toll rental entity database at steps **416** and **418** respectively.

[**0036**] Referring now to FIG. **5**, a flow chart **500** illustrating service cancellation is depicted. At step **502** a customer contacts (via phone, computer, or any device) a third party entity. A vehicle is identified at step **504** and a check is made to determine if a service agreement for the customer and the vehicle is complete at step **506**. If it is not, further steps must be taken (for example, customer information or payment information must be received) in order to complete the service agreement. If it is, a toll rental entity is notified to cancel the service at step **508** and the cancellation is received at step **510**. A check for the completed cancellation request is made at step **512**. If it is, the cancellation is then send to a toll authority at step **514**, which checks for toll usage by the vehicle at step **516**. If no toll usage has occurred, the toll authority database is updated at step **518**, the transaction is acknowledged at step **520** and the toll rental entities database is updated at step **522**. If toll usage

has already occurred, verified at step **524**, a third party entity database is updated at step **530**. If the check for the completed cancellation request made at step **512** is not complete, toll usage may be checked at step **526**. If is not, the request for service cancellation is performed at step **528**, and the third party entity database is updated at step **530**. The flow chart ends at step **532**.

[**0037**] FIG. **6** is a flow chart **600** illustrating an opt-in and an opt-out process. As a vehicle passes a toll gate at step **602**, vehicle information (and optionally driver and/or passenger information) is captured at step **604**. At step **606**, a determination is made whether the vehicle information is associated with a toll rental entity. If it is not, a toll violation is performed at step **608** and the process ends at step **626**. If it is, at step **610**, a determination is made if the vehicle and/or the customer/driver or an entity has opted-in to the service. If the customer has opted-in and the deposit is received for the transaction, the toll rental entity is updated for the toll usage. If the toll authority could not match the deposit, the toll authority marks the transaction unmatched and sends it to the toll authority for the disposition status. The toll rental entity may pay the toll authority by transaction for the unmatched usage or it may be grouped with the OPT-IN or OPT-OUT or OPT-IN on demand and provide the payment accordingly.

[**0038**] In one embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium, or software of the present invention, comprises instructions for receiving fleet information, receiving a service request related to the fleet information, and sending a payment based on the service request if the service request consists of an opt-in for service. The computer readable medium further comprises instructions for sending a payment if a transport rental entity receives a valid toll usage during an opt-out for service, and sending the payment irrespective of toll usage data.

[**0039**] If the unmatched transaction is an opt-out process step **614**, the third party entity and the customer are notified of the process at step **616** and a third party entity database is updated at step **618**. If no opt-in for the service has occurred at step **610**, the toll usage is sent to the toll rental entity at step **620**, an invalid transaction is removed at step **622**, and a toll rental entity database is updated at step **624**

[**0040**] In another embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium comprises instructions for receiving a service request, if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment based on the service request, and if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment based on a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service. The computer readable medium further comprises instructions for receiving toll usage data and matching the toll usage data with information related to the opt-in for service and the opt-out for service, sending a payment related to the matched toll usage data, and sending the payment to a toll authority.

[**0041**] FIG. **7** is a block diagram of a system **700** that comprises a third party entity **708**, a toll authority **710**, and a toll rental entity **716** and **722**. These elements include an on-line or graphical user interface (GUI) via a third party entity agent GUI **704**, a toll authority agent GUI **706**, and a toll rental entity site **702**. The third party entity **708** and the toll authority **710** are connected to respective gateways **712** and **714**. In alternate embodiments, these connections may be wireless and may be made to other elements that connect to the toll rental entity **716** and **722**. The toll rental entity business services module **716** receives the rental agreements from the third party entity and toll usages from the toll authority/toll collection entity processes the information based on the matched or unmatched and also opt-in, opt-out, late opt-in/opt-out, early opt-in/opt-out of the transactions. The toll rental entity business services module **716** utilizes the event queue **718** and the toll rental entity data services module **722** for queuing the data persistence. The workflow engine **720** gets the notification from the event queue and based on the event queue business process will be executed. The workflow engine **720** uses billing system **726**, a contract management module **728**, a third party entity management system **730**, a toll authority management system **732**, a usage management system **734** and a collection agency module **736** for process execution. One or more of these elements may be positioned in different areas within the system and the functionality provided by two or more of these elements may be provided by one of these elements. Components **716**, **720**, and **722** use billing system **726**, contract management module **728**, the third party entity management system **730**, the toll authority management system **732**, the usage management system **734** and the collection agency module **736** for the business process implementation and execution.

[**0042**] Although an exemplary embodiment of the system of the present invention has been illustrated in the accompanied drawings and described in the foregoing detailed description, it will be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments disclosed, but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications, and substitutions without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth and defined by the following claims. For example, the capabilities of the invention can be performed fully and/or partially by one or more of the described or depicted elements. Also, these capabilities may be performed in the current manner or in a distributed manner and on, or via, any device able to provide and/or receive information. Further, although depicted in a particular manner, various modules or blocks may be repositioned without departing from the scope of the current invention. For example, information being sent to the toll rental entity can be sent to the third party entity or to multiple third party entities or may be sent to one of the entities in lieu of the other. Still further, although depicted in a particular manner, a greater or lesser number of elements and connections can be utilized with the present invention in order to accomplish the present invention, to provide additional known features to the present invention, and/or to make the present invention more efficient. For example, a cellular phone, RFID chip or other electronic device can be used to send, receive, and/or store any of the data described or depicted herein. Also, the information sent between various elements described or depicted herein, can be sent via a wireless source and/or a wired source and via a plurality of protocols.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for toll service activation and billing, comprising:

receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity;

receiving a service request at the toll rental entity;

sending toll usage data related to the service request to a third party entity;

receiving a payment at the toll rental entity based on the service request; and

sending a payment to the toll authority based on the toll usage data.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising sending an invoice to the third party entity by the toll rental entity.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment is sent during at least one of: consistently, periodically, gradually, completely.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the fleet information comprises at least one of a license plate number, a license plate state, a license state type, an RFID transponder identification, a vehicle identification number, a vehicle owner, a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle color.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises at lease one of a transaction based service request, a location based service request, a frequency based service request, and an occupancy based service request.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving of the fleet information and the receiving of the service request occur during at least one of at different times, at the same time, in real-time, in near real-time, in batch mode, serially, and in parallel.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises at least one of: an opt-in for the service, an opt-out for the service, a late opt-in for the service, and a late opt-out for the service.

8. A method for toll service activation and billing, comprising:

receiving fleet information at a toll authority via a toll rental entity;

receiving a service request at the toll rental entity;

if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to the toll authority based on the service request; and

if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the sending of the payment to the toll authority based on the service request occurs irrespective of toll usage data.

10. A method for toll service activation and billing, comprising:

receiving a service request at the toll rental entity;

if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment to a toll authority based on the service request; and

if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment to the toll authority if the toll rental entity receives a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service;

receiving toll usage data at the toll rental entity;

matching the toll usage data with information related to the opt-in for service and the opt-out for service; and

sending a payment related to the matched toll usage data.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the payment is sent to at least one of: the toll authority, and a third party entity.

12. A computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving fleet information;

receiving a service request related to the fleet information;

sending toll usage data related to the service request;

receiving a payment from a first entity based on the sent service request; and

sending a payment to a second entity based on the toll usage data.

13. A computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving fleet information;

receiving a service request related to the fleet information; and

sending a payment based on the service request if the service request consists of an opt-in for service.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13 comprising instructions for sending a payment if a transport rental entity receives a valid toll usage during an opt-out for service.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 13 comprising instructions for sending the payment irrespective of toll usage data.

16. A computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving a service request;

if the service request consists of an opt-in for service, sending a payment based on the service request; and

if the service request consists of an opt-out for service, sending a payment based on a valid toll usage during the opt-out for service.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 13 comprising instructions for receiving toll usage data and matching the toll usage data with information related to the opt-in for service and the opt-out for service.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 17 comprising instructions for sending a payment related to the matched toll usage data.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 17 comprising instructions for sending the payment to a toll authority.

20. A system for toll service activation and billing, comprising:

a toll rental entity that:

receives fleet information;

receives service requests;

receives payments based on the service requests;

sends toll usage data related to the service requests to a first non-toll rental entity; and

sends a payment to a second non-toll rental entity based on the toll usage data.

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