Pothole-detector app to put town hall on the spot when a car is damaged

Smartphones that can automatically track potholes and force councils to step up road maintenance are being launched.

An app called Street Smart can run in the background of your smartphone or in a car on Bluetooth and it can tell the location and size of detected potholes hundreds of miles away. It also self-reports to local authorities depending on the severity of the defect. Drivers are being asked to choose the nature, the size and the location of each bumpy patch.

The driver has the option to send the data to the site of a hit to the road maintenance department. The app is currently being trialled by councils in the US, America, by Urban Mechanics, a division of the former mayor’s office, and it is due to be launched in the city this spring. The developers have already met with councils and carmakers at a Devon meeting to discuss implementing the technology in the UK. The data can then be processed by the council to alert them of the defect and assess the severity of the pothole.

The data also reveals how a driver’s speeding ticket may have driving points. For example, the list of the 10 marques whose owners receive the highest number of points in their licences is surprising. According to the make of cars they drive, drivers of silver Hondas are speeding 17.27% more than the average, according to the make of cars they drive, Honda drivers are speeding 17.89% more than the average, according to the make of cars they drive, drivers of grey Daihatus and Toyota have received a ticket, just 17.89% more than the average, according to the make of cars they drive, and drivers of purple Rovers, of which fewer than 1% were sold, are speeding 21.4% more than the average.

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