

Navigation systems are important but there are problems you should know about

By: Lisle Anderson

Many people use Navigation systems when they are driving to an unknown location. They use the system to find the best route and to alert them to construction delays or accidents along the route. Some people even use Navigation systems to notify them when police are active in the area.

The Collier County 911 service uses a Navigation system to route their emergency vehicles to your home.

Uber is a new ride sharing service that is receiving a lot of media attention. When you ask Uber to set up a ride, Uber identifies your pick-up location & address from the GPS in your smart phone. That allows their Navigation system to route them to your exact location.

Navigation systems are used for important services today and their use is increasing.

When these Navigation systems work correctly there are important benefits. But things don't always work the way they are supposed to. Numerous people have had their delivery service, taxi or contractor call them to say they are at the back gate to the Strand and can't get in the gate? It is also common to find that the building you are Navigating to is not where the system says it is?

Many of the houses and condos in the Strand do not have the correct street address in the Navigation systems or their address is at the wrong locations. One neighborhood had the location of 80 homes shown on the golf course next to their neighborhood. Another neighborhood had the location of all the homes shown in the middle of a lake. I scheduled an early morning Uber ride to catch a flight at the airport. It was dark out and there was a heavy fog. The Uber driver navigated to the address in his Navigation system but that was nowhere near where my condo is and he couldn't find my condo in the fog. This was very frustrating but it could have been serious if it happened with a 911 emergency call instead.

There are things each of us can do to correct these problems. Google Navigation is the most popular Navigation system. I worked with Google to correct the problem of Google Navigation routing people to our back gate. I am working with Apple, TomTom and Bing Navigation systems to make the same correction in their systems.

You can correct your home address location in the Google Navigation system.

You can submit a request to the Collier County 911 system to verify that your home address is in their database and at the correct location. The instructions are posted on the Master Association web site at <http://thestrandmaster.com/index.html>.