

Master route planning and stop wasting valuable miles

Extra miles, traffic delays and unrealistic schedules can eat into your margins. A better route planning strategy can help you reduce waste, support your drivers and keep customers informed.

The hidden cost of inefficient routing

Higher costs

Unnecessary mileage and avoidable idling increase fuel use and add wear to tyres, brakes and other components.

More delays

Poorly sequenced stops and overlooked access requirements can lead to late arrivals and extra customer calls.

Added pressure

Plans that leave too little time for traffic, breaks and unloading can increase pressure on your team.

Navigation and route optimisation

Basic car navigation

Usually focuses on guiding one vehicle to a destination. Depending on the tool, it may offer:

- Directions between selected locations.
- Estimated arrival times and traffic updates.
- Alternative routes when delays occur.

Do not assume a car navigation tool accounts for commercial vehicle dimensions, load limits or delivery schedules.

Professional route optimisation

Helps planners organise journeys around business needs. Depending on the software, features may include:

- Efficient sequencing of multiple stops.
- Delivery windows and unloading times.
- Vehicle capacity and availability.
- Commercial vehicle restrictions.
- Driver schedules and planned breaks.
- Tracking or operational data integrations.

Features and integrations vary. Confirm that your chosen system supports your vehicles and operational requirements.

Five essentials for better route planning

01 Match the route to the vehicle

Consider vehicle height, width, weight and load capacity, together with site access and delivery restrictions. Drivers must continue to follow road signs and assess conditions on the road.

02 Allow for traffic and disruption

Review available traffic information, road closures and roadworks. Build in sensible contingency time and update plans when conditions change.

03 Learn from previous journeys

Compare planned and actual journey times. Use recurring congestion, waiting times and unloading delays to improve future schedules.

04 Sequence stops around customer needs

Balance mileage with delivery windows, service times and vehicle capacity. The shortest route may not be the most practical or cost-effective option.

05 Build in breaks and realistic working time

Allow for applicable drivers' hours and working time requirements, as well as loading and unloading. Planning software supports the process but does not guarantee compliance.

Where better planning can make a difference

Lower fuel use

Reducing unnecessary miles and avoidable idling can help lower the fuel needed to complete your work.

More reliable deliveries

Achievable schedules and clearer arrival estimates help your team manage customer expectations.

Less unnecessary vehicle wear

Cutting avoidable mileage can reduce wear and help you make better use of existing vehicles.

Better support for drivers

Practical routes and realistic timings give drivers a more manageable plan for the working day.

Reduced journey emissions: Using less fuel through more efficient journeys can help reduce associated emissions. Results depend on your vehicles, routes and operating conditions.

Turn planning into a practical routine

01 Establish your starting point

Record mileage, fuel use, journey times and on-time deliveries. Identify repeated delays and avoidable backtracking before changing your approach.

02 Use tracking to understand what happens

Where available, use vehicle tracking to compare planned routes with actual movements and investigate recurring delays or excessive idling.

03 Ask your drivers what needs improving

Gather feedback on access problems, difficult delivery points and unrealistic timings. Use that knowledge to create more workable plans.

04 Review fuel spend alongside mileage

Compare fuel card transactions with vehicle mileage and journey records. Use compatible integrations or regular reports to investigate unusual patterns.

05 Measure, refine and repeat

Review results against your starting point. Adjust routes as customer needs, vehicle availability and road conditions change.

Bring your fleet information together

Route planning

Organise stops, vehicle allocation and timings around the work your business needs to complete.

Vehicle tracking

Understand vehicle movements and use journey information to review how plans perform.

Fuel cards

Keep fuel purchasing records organised and review spend alongside operational data.

Your checklist: Check vehicle suitability and access; allow for traffic, unloading and breaks; learn from journey data; involve drivers; compare fuel use and mileage.

Could your fleet be travelling smarter?

Speak to Fleetmaxx Solutions about route planning, vehicle tracking and fuel cards to help you take control of your fleet running costs.

Talk to the Fleetmaxx team →

General guidance only. Software features and integrations vary by provider. Savings depend on your operation. Route planning tools do not replace road signs, driver judgement or your responsibility to meet applicable legal requirements.