© April 2025 | IJIRT | Volume 11 Issue 11 | ISSN: 2349-6002

Disaster-Aware Smart Navigation: Alert Verification, Live Routing, and Multi-Modal Travel Management

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Abstract: **In the face of increasing natural and human-made disasters, traditional navigation systems often fall short in guiding users through safe and accessible routes. This research introduces an AI-powered disaster-aware navigation system that dynamically adapts to real-time conditions such as floods, roadblocks, accidents, and construction zones. The system allows area incharges to mark hazards directly on the map, while users can request alerts for unreported disruptions. It integrates advanced features including AI-generated alternate routes, multilingual voice assistance, live location tracking, travel time estimation. Designed with a dual interface for both authorities and normal users, the platform ensures proactive disaster management and public safety through seamless communication, verification, and routing mechanisms. This system surpasses existing navigation platforms by combining artificial intelligence, geospatial data, and real-time public input to enhance emergency responsiveness and resilience.**

Keywords: **Disaster-Aware Navigation, AI Routing, Emergency Mapping, LeafletJS, Alert Request System, Flood Tracking, Real-Time Route Planning, Public Safety Navigation, OpenStreetMap, Hazard Marking.**

Navigation technologies have become an indispensable part of modern transportation and daily commuting. However, conventional navigation applications such as Google Maps and Waze are primarily designed for regular conditions and traffic monitoring. These platforms lack the capability to respond dynamically to emergency scenarios such as natural disasters, blocked roads, or hazardous zones. During such events—floods, road collapses, accidents, or construction activities—critical road networks may become inaccessible, and the absence of timely updates may lead travelers into danger zones or long delays. This highlights a significant gap in the real-time responsiveness and situational awareness of existing navigation systems.

To address this gap, this research proposes a novel Disaster-Aware Navigation System named *Righty-Navigation*. This system integrates multiple modules to ensure safe and intelligent routing during disasters. Unlike traditional navigation apps that depend only on user-reported traffic data, Righty-Navigation combines authoritative inputs and AI-powered routing logic. The system empowers area-specific authorities (referred to as *area incharges*) to mark disaster-affected roads directly on the map, enabling real-time hazard visualization. These updates are then made accessible to the general public for safer navigation decisions.

The architecture includes a dual-role design—one for authorities and another for normal users. Authorities have privileged access to mark alert zones by specifying the type of disruption (e.g., flood, accident, roadblock) and additional metadata such as affected travel modes (car, bike, or walking). On the other hand, public users can submit alert requests based on their live observations when a hazard is unreported or misrepresented. These requests are routed to the authorities through an approval interface, ensuring a community-driven yet validated alert system.

Further enhancing its functionality, the platform includes AI-powered alternate route generation. In case a primary route is blocked due to a marked hazard, the system automatically suggests safe alternate paths optimized for different travel modes. The application also offers live user location tracking and precise travel time estimation for car, bike, and walking—calculated based on the total distance and predefined average speeds.
Built using open-source technologies such as OpenStreetMap, LeafletJS, and Nominatim APIs, the system is lightweight, scalable, and adaptable for rural and urban use cases alike. Unlike commercial platforms, Righty-Navigation prioritizes emergency awareness and safety over commercial features, making it particularly suitable for disaster management teams, public safety officers, and vulnerable communities in disaster-prone regions.

This paper outlines the complete technical implementation of the system, explores its unique features, compares it with existing solutions, and proposes enhancements for a more robust disaster navigation ecosystem.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Navigation systems have evolved rapidly over the past two decades, significantly enhancing how users plan and optimize their travel routes. These advancements primarily focus on dynamic routing, traffic prediction, and user convenience. However, limited attention has been given to disaster-specific navigation, particularly in handling real-time emergency road blockages, environmental hazards, and public safety integration.

1. Waze – Crowdsourced Traffic Navigation

Waze is one of the most widely used community-based traffic and navigation apps. It allows users to report accidents, hazards, police activity, and traffic jams. While Waze efficiently handles everyday traffic situations, it lacks:

- Structured involvement of official authorities to validate or update emergency-related information.
- Support for disaster-specific zones like floods or collapsed roads.
- A structured approval system for reported alerts.

Waze also does not consider the impact of hazards on different travel modes like biking or walking, which is crucial during disasters when roads may only be partially accessible.

2. Google Maps – Real-Time Navigation with Limited Disaster Awareness

Google Maps supports real-time navigation, traffic updates, and rerouting features. It integrates with services such as Google Crisis Map to display large-scale disaster updates. However, these updates are often global in scope, lacking localized disaster inputs from the ground level.

- It does not allow area-specific authorities to mark or validate hazard zones.
- Users cannot submit localized alert requests that need approval.
- It does not offer a mechanism to classify hazards based on travel mode impact.

3. INRIX – Mobility Analytics Platform

INRIX offers deep analytics in urban mobility and is often used for city planning and traffic analysis. Although it uses real-time data for congestion and vehicle flow predictions, its services are primarily targeted at enterprises and governments, and not at individual users navigating disaster-prone routes. INRIX does not provide:

- A real-time visual route blocking interface.
- Interaction between citizens and emergency responders or incharge authorities.
- Features for hazard-type categorization or route prioritization based on safety.

4. Existing Government Disaster Portals

Several government agencies maintain disaster management portals and apps, such as NDMA India, MySafeLA, and FEMA Mobile App (US). These platforms aim to provide alerts and preparedness tips rather than navigation assistance. While helpful in broadcasting warnings, they do not offer:

- Real-time rerouting based on road status.
- Integration with a navigation map interface.
- User-based feedback or interaction for local road updates.

5. Research Gaps Identified

From the above comparison, several key limitations emerge in the current landscape:

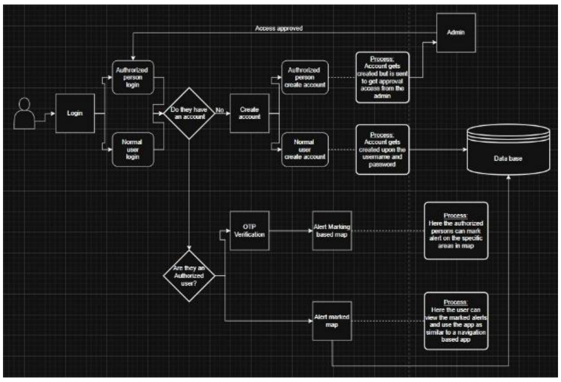
- Lack of AI-based alternate route generation considering disaster-specific obstructions.
- Absence of authority-user communication models within navigation systems.
- No system offering multi-modal travel risk assessment (car, bike, walk).
- Missing approval workflows for citizen-reported hazards.
- Inadequate handling of local alert data in rural/underrepresented areas.

Motivation for This Research

In disaster-prone areas, such as flood-hit regions or landslide zones, the absence of a reliable, community-supported and authority-validated navigation system can cost lives. A platform that not only maps affected areas but also incorporates feedback, approval, and AI-backed rerouting becomes a critical public utility.

Thus, this paper addresses the gaps by proposing a system that integrates authority control, public engagement, and AI-enhanced navigation intelligence, ensuring both safety and adaptability in real-world scenarios.

Architecture



METHODOLOGY

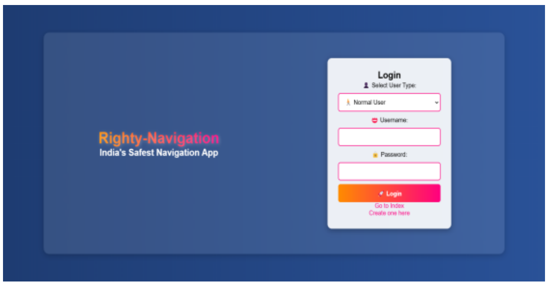
The proposed Disaster-Aware Navigation System, titled Righty-Navigation, is designed as a modular web application that integrates real-time map interaction, user input, AI-based routing, and authority-level disaster management. The system architecture follows a client-server model with user-role-based interfaces and intelligent routing layers powered by open-source tools.

System Workflow Overview
The system involves two types of users:
- Authorities (Area Incharges): Authorized to mark alert zones on the map.
- Normal Users: General public users who access the navigation system and submit alert requests.

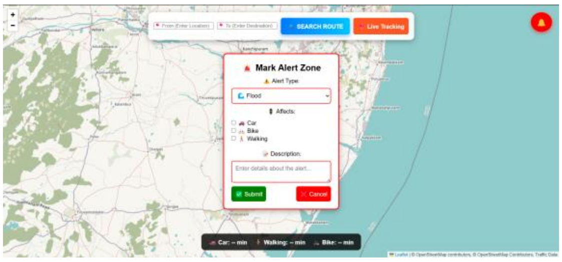
The methodology is categorized into the following main modules:

1□. User Interface Design (Frontend Development)
Technologies Used:
- HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript
- LeafletJS for map rendering
- OpenStreetMap & Nominatim for geolocation

Features:
- Responsive, modern UI for login, navigation, and alert management
- Interactive map with search functionality (from–to location)
- Travel mode selector (Car, Bike, Walk)

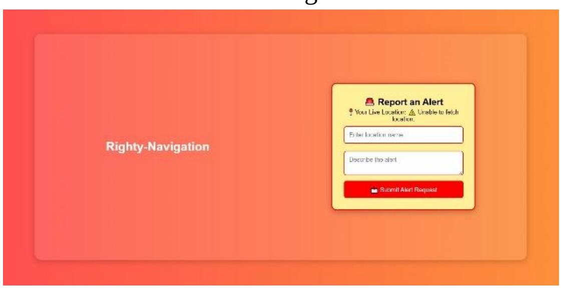


2□. Disaster Alert Marking (Authority Module)
Process:
- Authority logs in using credentials.
- On the map, clicks on a specific location to open a popup window.
- Popup contains:
  - Alert Type (Flood, Roadblock, Accident, etc.)
  - Affected Modes (Car, Bike, Walk)
  - Description Box
- On submission, a red drop pin is added on the map with the provided details.



3. Alert Request System (Normal User Module)
Process:
- User submits a request form with:
  - Live location
  - Alert type
  - Description
- Request is routed to the authority dashboard (approval page).
- Authority can approve or reject the request and then manually mark the alert on the map.

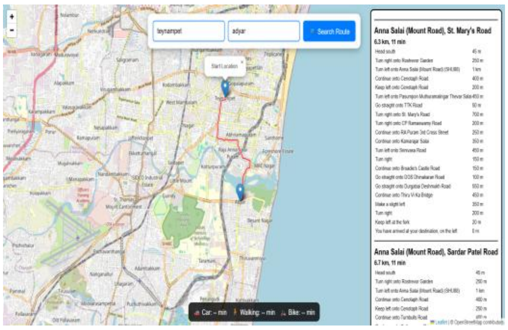
Advantage:
- Creates a verified two-way communication between users and incharges.



4□. AI-Powered Alternate Route Generator
Routing Engine:
- Leaflet Routing Machine (with OpenStreetMap)
- Custom route logic for filtering blocked paths

Functionality:
- If a selected route passes through a marked alert zone, the system:
- Flags it as hazardous

- Automatically suggests an alternate route



5□. Live Tracking and Traffic Overlay
Geolocation API is used for:

- Fetching current location of user
- Continuously updating position on the map

Traffic Layer Integration (OpenStreetMap HOT layer):

- Provides live traffic density visualization
- Overlayed beneath custom map layers

6□. Notification System for Authorities
Features:

- A notification icon at the top-right shows the number of user-submitted alert requests.
- On click, redirects to the approval interface.
- Approved alerts are added to the authority's disaster map.

CONCLUSION

In an era where climate-related disasters and road emergencies are increasingly impacting public mobility and safety, the need for an intelligent, responsive, and community-aware navigation system is more critical than ever. This paper presented a comprehensive solution through the development of an AI-powered Disaster-Aware Navigation System, designed to provide dynamic routing and real-time hazard awareness during disaster conditions.

The proposed system, Righty-Navigation, bridges the critical gap left by traditional navigation applications by incorporating live hazard updates, AI-generated alternate routes, and a dual-user framework comprising both authorities and public users. By allowing authorities to mark disaster zones and enabling the public to submit real-time alert requests, the platform ensures a verified, scalable, and community-driven disaster response model.
The integration of core functionalities such as travel time and distance calculation, live user tracking, and disaster-specific route obstruction checks has demonstrated the platform's potential to improve safety and minimize delays during emergency scenarios. The user-friendly web interface, built using open-source technologies like LeafletJS and OpenStreetMap, ensures accessibility, adaptability, and ease of deployment across various regions and devices.

The system was further validated through a practical case study simulating urban flooding in Chennai, highlighting the model's efficiency in reducing hazard exposure, improving response time, and enabling informed decision-making for users and emergency responders alike.

This research contributes to the advancement of intelligent transport systems by offering a novel approach to real-time disaster navigation and risk mitigation. It lays the foundation for future enhancements involving predictive analytics, integration with public disaster databases, and offline accessibility—bringing us closer to safer and smarter mobility during times of crisis.

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