Mobile Apps for Trucking?

Mobile applications that deal with public transportation -- such as Uber and Lyft – are already commonplace in the private sector. With just a few clicks on a mobile device, you can schedule a ride, be picked up and transported to your destination, and then pay and rate the driver directly through your phone. Fast, convenient, simple.



What if that same concept could also be used in the trucking industry – connecting shippers with carriers? Well, that's exactly what several new applications such as Cargomatic and Convey are doing. Similar to Uber and Lyft, these apps allow shipping companies to find truckers in their area who are willing to pick up and deliver their cargo. Shippers go online and provide the shipment information. Then, using the app on their smart phones, carriers – if they are in the area and have room on their trucks – can choose to accept the job. Once onboard, shipments can then be tracked by the shipper using the app and/or GPS.

SHIPPER PROCESS

- 1. Provide shipment information:
 - Origin and destination
 - Requested pickup date and time
 - Description of shipment (weight/dimensions)
- 2. Shipment will be viewable to all carriers in the immediate area. ((With option to cancel a shipment at any time prior to it being accepted by a carrier.)
- 3. Shipment is awarded to first carrier to accept.
- 4. Once accepted, Cargomatic will exchange phone numbers of shipper and carrier.
- 5. Cargomatic will notify shipper if no carrier is available.



While applications like Cargomatic and Convoy focus on making a positive contribution to the shipping industry, the replacement of middlemen linking shippers to truckers is being looked at a disruptive by some. Nevertheless, the benefits of these mobile applications are undeniable:

- Quick and easy access to carriers
- Instant pricing and fast payments
- GPS tracking
- More jobs, less hassle
- Greater profits

As technology evolves and more shipper-to-trucker mobile applications are being released (\$63 million in sales in 2015 alone), the trucking industry is driving straight into the digital age. With so many benefits, technology is bring-ing shipping logistics – a once slow and paper-intensive process -- to a whole new level. Fast. Convenient. Simple.

