

# GPS for car navigation

- Thinking of buying GPS for car to help find addresses
- I understand...
  - powered by cigarette lighter
  - come with maps that can be updated
- Recommendations...
  - buying tips?
  - vendors?
  - is theft a problem?
  - any req'd car hardware (e.g. audio/Bluetooth)?



# My experience using GPS receiver

- 2006 - Garmin Nuvi 350 GPS (\$800)
  - spoke the street name instead of *turn right at next intersection*
- Powered by cigarette lighter, wall charger and windshield suction cup mount included
- Theft not an issue
  - not leaving the GPS in the car
  - with a \$800 device, wouldn't tempt chance



# Maps and lifetime maps updates

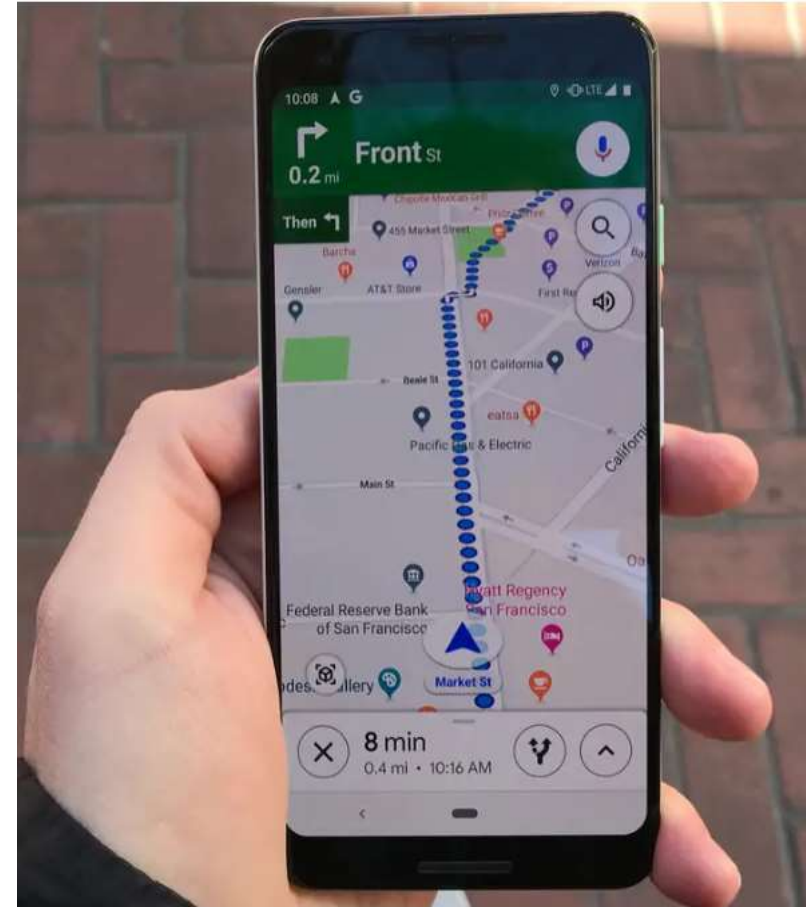
- Nuvi 350 came with map of Canada and US
  - yearly map updates \$90
- 2007 - bought Nuvi SD card for Europe - \$375
  - navigated Amsterdam streets on foot
- 2010, bought Nuvi Map for life for North America - \$147:
  - full maps no longer fit internal memory and SD memory card slot limited in size
  - had to pick regions of Canada/US to store in GPS
  - map encoding taking hours
- Traffic data available for cities that broadcast it
  - special FM receiver required

# Stand-alone GPS vs smart phone

- Good comparison article
  - <https://www.thegpsstore.com/Standalone-GPS-vs-Smartphone-GPS.aspx>
- Most smart phones let you use *Google Maps* app
  - good
    - free up-to-date world-wide maps
    - free traffic data (and alternate routes provided)
    - same functionality as stand-alone GPS receiver
    - can use in offline mode (save maps to Google Maps while on WiFi or in good cell service)
  - bad
    - need to have location on
    - uses data to get maps (unless you save maps in advance) and traffic update
- Stand-alone GPS prices down significantly
  - some models still expensive

# Buying stand-alone GPS

- Don't—use your phone!
- If you really want one
  - reputable brands – Garmin, TomTom, Magellan, etc.
  - research models. Check YouTube for actual usage
  - pick vendor with easy returns (e.g. Best Buy, Amazon, etc.)
- Look for features
  - same size screen as your phone
  - lifetime map update
    - some can update over WiFi without need for a PC
  - maps for regions that you need
    - or SD card slot—buy additional map for other regions
  - voice commands
  - Bluetooth to phone (hands-free phone calls)



# Careful where you are using GPS

- Travelling by plane with boss
  - GPS for car navigation not common at the time
- While plane taxiing, boss said,
  - *Let's say I want drive to Boston to see my daughter*
- Entered *Boston* as destination
- GPS calculated itinerary and said very loudly,

***Please drive to the highlighted road***