## **Uconnect®: Putting Your Car to Work for You**

By Aamir Ahmed, Global Uconnect® Marketing Manager, FCA US LLC

The ironic thing about new technology is that so much of it is developed to make our lives less complicated, yet so much of it seems to have the opposite effect. Here at FCA US LLC (formerly Chrysler Group LLC), we believe the most effective technology is the kind that integrates seamlessly into daily life, to the point we barely notice using it.

As a manufacturer of automobiles, we're continuously developing innovative new features that improve the driving experience, adding the connectivity people want, for example, without distracting drivers from the actual task at hand: driving. We also understand that busy real estate agents count on tools widely available in the digital age—powerful navigation, hands-free texting and so on—and our goal is to provide these tools, and more, in the safest, most intuitive way possible. The solution we've arrived at is <a href="Uconnecto">Uconnecto</a>, a hands-free, in-vehicle communication and entertainment system available in select FCA vehicles, including the Jeep® Grand Cherokee, Chrysler 200 and 300, Dodge Durango and others.

## Uconnect features helping lead to focused drivers

As the name implies, the purpose of Uconnect is to keep drivers connected, but to do so in the safest way possible; that is, with their eyes still on the road. Features like hands-free calling and voice-text reply allow drivers to leave their smartphones out of reach—the best place for them—while remaining in contact with clients and other agents, an absolute necessity for real estate agents who spend more time in their vehicles than they do in an office.

Not limited to phone calls or texting only, voice-command capability factors into the Uconnect system's available navigation tool as well. Gone are the days of pulling over to manually input the address of a new listing into your vehicle's navigation system. With select Uconnect systems\*, you simply tell the system where you need to go. If it's a fuel-up you're looking for rather than a specific address, you can tell the system to navigate to the nearest gas station or coffee shop, depending on the kind of recharge you need. Basic services or points of interest are just a few words away with the One-Step Voice Destination Entry available through Uconnect.

## Easy to use right from day one

Complementing the powerful voice command features are things like Wi-Fi (available in daily, weekly or monthly subscriptions), traffic alerts and weather maps, all of which make the Uconnect system even more appealing to real estate agents on the go. What is most appealing, arguably, is how effortless from day one you'll find the system is to use.

Designed by the collective effort of multiple groups in FCA, including experts in user experience and human-machine interface, Uconnect is the culmination of countless hours of testing and design work, all of it done with usability in mind. Whether the task is syncing a smart phone, navigating to the home of a new client or simply tuning into your favorite radio station, we've engineered solutions that have very little learning curve. More to the point, we've created a system that will not sit unused because it's too complicated, but one that is accessible for anyone, from the most tech savvy to the most technologically inexperienced.

## **Coming down the road from Uconnect**

Since the Uconnect system first appeared in 2004, we've steadily introduced updated versions of the technology. Model year 2015 was no exception. Available in many new vehicles are features we believe drivers will come to think of as indispensible. A smart new way to find your car in a crowded parking lot, a monthly "vehicle health report" to help you track your vehicle's maintenance needs, an app that will let you unlock your doors from almost anywhere, a simplified way to request emergency assistance—only with an ever-growing list of innovations like these will FCA and Uconnect remain leaders in the industry, something to which we are deeply committed. Stay tuned to see what innovation looks like in 2016 and beyond.

**Remember:** FCA is NAR's official automobile manufacturer and offers REALTORS® an exclusive \$500 cash allowance + oil changes for 2-years at no-extra-charge. View details and rules at **REALTOR.org/FCA**.

\*Not all features available with every Uconnect system. Please visit <u>www.driveuconnect.com</u> for more information on currently available systems and services.