



Information Alert

State-Federal Relations Division

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Drone Pilot Program Selections

May 11, 2018

On May 9, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [announced](#) the selection of [10 state, local and tribal governments](#) as participants in the [Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) Integration Pilot Program](#), a three-year drone pilot program. The participants include:

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Lee County Mosquito Control District, Florida.
- University of Alaska at Fairbanks.
- The city of San Diego, California.
- North Carolina Department of Transportation.
- Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Tennessee.
- The city of Reno, Nev.
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, Virginia.
- North Dakota Department of Transportation.
- Kansas Department of Transportation.

The pilot program was established by a [presidential memorandum](#) in October giving DOT the authority to enter into agreements with at least five sites to experiment with both expanding drone authorities, such as flights over people or at night, while allowing state and local governments to issue reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. DOT received 149 applications for the program.

In a separate but highly related occurrence, the Office of Management and Budget, as part of its Spring 2019 Unified Agenda, which is an updated schedule on administration rulemakings, included a note that the agency was planning a forthcoming proposal concerning the remote identification of drones. This is the first time the administration has officially confirmed this rule, which many say is a necessary and important step in the evolution of commercial drone operations. Specifically, the administration indicated it's targeting a May 2019 publication timeframe for a proposed rule on the issue. In March, regulators outlined a four-tiered approach to broaching remote identification (read [NCSL's Info Alert](#) for more details).

Stay tuned to NCSL for additional drone alerts as Congress continues to consider its 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act. For additional information, please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Kristen Hildreth](#) (202-624-3597).