



PREPARING YOUR LOCALITY FOR DRONE DELIVERY

— A Guide for Virginia Cities, Counties & Towns —



Drone delivery is taking flight in Virginia.

Local governments play a key role in ensuring safe, compliant, and community-supported operations that create real benefits for residents and businesses.



IMPROVE
SAFETY



SAVE TIME &
RESOURCES



REDUCE
EMISSIONS



EXPAND ACCESS
FOR ALL

1 UNDERSTAND FEDERAL & STATE ROLES



- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates all airspace and flight operations, including drone delivery.
- Localities may regulate land use, zoning, noise ordinances, property access, and permitting for ground infrastructure.
- The Virginia Department of Aviation can provide a model ordinance provide subject matter experts and licenses or registers all airports and vertiports.

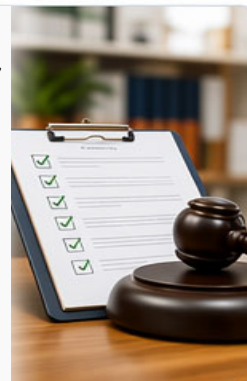


5 REVIEW LOCAL ORDINANCES



Local governments cannot regulate flight paths, but they can regulate ground-based aspects of operations. Typical considerations include:

- Zoning and permitting for takeoff/landing sites-By Right or does it require a Special/Conditional Use Permit
- Operational hours with considerations for noise both at the Distribution Center as well as the final point of delivery



2 UNDERSTAND FEDERAL & STATE ROLES

Drone delivery can support:



- Medical delivery (pharmacy, lab samples)
- Emergency supplies & disaster response
- Commercial package delivery
- Support for remote or underserved areas
- Infrastructure inspections



6 UNDERSTAND FEDERAL & STATE ROLES



Drone delivery networks must integrate with local emergency planning:

- Establish communication protocols with police, fire, and EMS
- Share maps of operational areas and flight corridors
- Identify Points of Contact for drone delivery operations
- Train responders on how to manage downed or malfunctioning drones



3 BEGIN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EARLY



- Host informational sessions and Q&A events.
- Publish FAQs about drone noise, privacy, and safety.



4 PLAN FOR DRONE INFRASTRUCTURE

Designate safe and accessible areas for ground infrastructure, such as:



- Drone delivery mailboxes or secure pickup stations
 - Site Plans for Vertiports/Distribution Hubs
 - Ingress and Egress from Distribution Center
- Additional considerations:
- Safety buffers
 - Fire Code compliance for charging stations



8 CREATE A ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A Drone Delivery Readiness Plan may include:



- Assessment of community needs and benefits
- Review of ordinances and zoning
- Identification of potential infrastructure sites
- Engagement with potential operators
- Public education and communication plans
- Emergency response coordination



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