

# **UAS Considerations for Local Transportation Agencies and Other Local Agencies**

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## **Abstract**

Unmanned Aerial Systems or Vehicles (UAS/UAVs), also commonly referred to as drones or small UAS (sUAS), are increasingly used for a variety of applications. Simplified operations under Part 107, in combination with advancements technology and lower prices has resulted in a dramatic increase in the market for recreational and commercial applications, as well as applications by local transportation agencies. This research examines the regulatory framework for sUAS operation, as well as activities conducted by state departments of transportation (DOTs), local transportation agencies, and other local agencies. Activities by state DOTs with sUAS include bridge inspections, mapping and surveying, inspection of communication towers, construction, aerial photogrammetry, road condition assessment, traffic incident response and disaster/emergency response. Activities by local transportation agencies often include construction inspections, enforcement and fire or emergency response. Results of a survey indicate that many local agencies would be interested in using a sUAS, although they may not currently have access to a sUAS and a qualified remote pilot.