

Uncrewed Aircraft & Commercial Drone Program

Ann B. Richart, AAE Aviation Director
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WSDOT UAS Coordinator

- Eddy Hensley – eddy.hensley@wsdot.wa.gov
- Position established within WSDOT Aviation in 2020
- Primarily an advisory role with WSDOT for other agencies and the public
- Assist with UAS training and program development for state agencies
- Coordinates with local governments
- Acts as state-level coordinator during emergencies
- Coordinates with FAA on system development
- Assist with the advancement of uncrewed systems
- Serves as a member of the WSDOT Aviation AAM Team

UAS in WSDOT

WSDOT regions are drone owners/operators

- Scope and oversight of construction activities
- Support of environmental activities
- Support of emergency response activities
- Infrastructure inspections
- Interest in using drones to paint over graffiti
- Telling the WSDOT story
- Concerns over Chinese technology (SB5755, 2023-24)

UAS in Emergency Services

- Imaging of disaster area
- Search and rescue
- Delivery of supplies
- Communications relays
- Weather/wind monitoring

UAS at WSDOT Aviation

Airport Inspections

- Capture obstructions/obstacles
- Flight safety



UAS and the Public

- 700 Commercial Drones registered in Washington
- Planned uses to move products around medical campuses
- Systems being developed to deliver consumer products to doorsteps
- Pizza delivery

Advanced Air Mobility

- Electric and alternatively propelled
- Crewed and autonomous
- eVTOL eSTOL eCTOL
- AAM can provide emergency services much more quickly than conventional methods at reduced cost and noise
- AAM can reduce noise and emissions and make modern transportation alternatives available to underserved remote communities
- AAM can be an alternative to our reliance on personal cars

UAS and eVTOL



WSDOT Aviation's Role

- Assist in safe and smart use of drones
- Work with industry and FAA to understand new technology and emerging uses
- Plan for future uses of technology
- Develop infrastructure
- Support Washington's role in global aerospace industry
- Assist in the development of drone programs

Questions?

For additional information about
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems, please contact:

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