

2018 Research Symposium

Using UAS for Agency Applications

& STIC Annual Meeting

INNOVATION TITLE

Using UAS for Agency Applications

STUDY TIMELINE

Jan 2018 – Ongoing

INVESTIGATORS

Daniel Delabruere, VTrans Rail & Aviation Bureau

VTRANS CONTACTS

Jennifer Davis, Aviation Operations
Rollin Tebbetts, Aviation Operations

MORE INFORMATION

[POSTER](#)

[IMAGES](#)

This fact sheet was prepared for the 2018 VTrans Research and Innovation Symposium & STIC Annual Meeting held at the State House in Montpelier, VT, on **September 12, 2018** from 8:00 am– 1:00 pm.

Fact sheets can be found for additional projects featured at the 2018 Symposium at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/2018symposium>

Additional information about the **VTrans Research Program** can be found at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

Additional information about the **VTrans STIC Program** can be found at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/boards-councils/stic>

Introduction

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology, commonly referred to as “Drones”, provide new capabilities for capturing data. VTrans is in the process of developing a UAS program to take advantage of this emerging frontier. Having an internally controlled program provides greater responsiveness while ensuring safety of operations and compliance with Federal regulations.

Action Taken

VTrans has purchased a UAS platform and started regular training missions to train its operators. Procedures have been developed and continue to be refined for training, equipment and safety checklists, and mission flight requests. VTrans has received a federal grant to further invest in purchasing equipment and software required by the program.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Scoping is currently underway to assess the required capabilities of the UAS program, which will inform equipment and software needs.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

The UAS program will be able to quickly deploy for emergency situations, providing aerial shots and reaching areas that may be difficult and dangerous to assess using other methods. This information can also be streamed to decision makers and responders in near real-time. Other applications include infrastructure inspection, construction site monitoring, and updating aerial imagery.

