Advanced Transportation

"UAS [Unmanned Aircraft Systems] present opportunities to enhance the safety of the American public, increase the efficiency and productivity of American industry, and create tens of thousands of new American jobs."

Safely integrating drones into our national airspace.

In 2017, President Trump directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program, which the President signed into law with the 2018 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act. In May 2018, the Department of Transportation (DOT) selected 10 state, local, and tribal governments as participants in the Program.

Data gathered from these pilot projects will form the basis of a new regulatory framework. Safe integration of drones into national airspace will have immediate benefits for commerce, photography, emergency management, public safety, precision agriculture, and infrastructure inspections.

Encouraging integration of safe new transportation technologies.

As part of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act, the Trump Administration is establishing new conditions for the recreational use of drones. In January 2019, DOT proposed new rules to allow drones to fly at night and over people without waivers under certain conditions and to further integrate drones safely into the national airspace system. DOT also announced the Unmanned Aircraft System Safe and Secure Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This proposal identifies major drone safety and security issues that may pose a threat to other aircraft, to people on the ground, or to national security. It solicited recommendations to reduce these risks as drones are integrated into our national airspace.

Encouraging safe integration of automated vehicles into transport systems.

In October, DOT released new guidance for automated vehicles, entitled. "Preparing for the Future of Transportation: Automated Vehicles 3.0". This report encourages the safe integration of automated vehicles into the multimodal surface transportation system.

Advancing the development of civil supersonic aircraft.

In October, as part of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act, the Trump Administration is taking a new look at supersonic air travel. The legislation initiates rulemaking activities on civil supersonic aircraft noise and supersonic flight-testing. Additionally, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continued research on methods to reduce sonic booms, completing a pivotal test flight in November. In December, NASA and an outside partner began final design and initial manufacturing of the X-59 Quiet SuperSonic Technology (QueSST) aircraft that will study how reducing sonic boom could lead to acceptance of supersonic flight over land.