

Research at a Glance

# Technical Brief

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## UAS (Drone) Peer Exchange

The 2017 NJDOT Peer Exchange was held on October 3-5th in Trenton, New Jersey. The panelists included state DOT UAS leaders from Delaware, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, as well as UAS leaders from the FAA, New Jersey State Police, and the NJ State Forest Fire Service.

### Research Problem Statement

The use of drones by public sector agencies such as the NJDOT is progressing at an exponential rate. Each state has funded ground breaking research and is expanding their UAS program with limited funding and guidance.

Our peer exchange for successful policies, procedures, and practices for drone technology in transportation was designed to leverage the quality and effectiveness of research efforts by sharing best practices and management innovations.

Peer exchanges, an eligible activity for Division T2 deployment funds, served as an excellent opportunity to share experience and successful practices in the area of drone use in transportation.



## New Jersey Department of Transportation

### Research Objectives

To share policies, procedures, and best practices in the use of drone technology for transportation.

### Methodology

The basic approach was to invite UAS leaders from other state DOTs to meet in New Jersey to discuss and review its process for a specific focus area. The host agency shared policies and procedures prior to the meeting. During the peer exchange, panel members met with managers, staff, stakeholders, and customers to gain further insight into the host agency's program.

### Results

The peer exchange successfully shared UAS experiences, research, and best practices among the panelists. Each state presented an overview of their UAS initiatives and explained the rationale and “lessons learned” in developing their program.

#### Research Project Manager

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**Figure 1: Peer Exchange Panelists**

**Back: (L-R)** Glenn Stott - NJDOT (Host); Andrew Mihaley - MassDOT  
**Front: (L-R)** Basil Yap – NCDOT; John Melville – PennDOT; Merrill Atwater – KansasDOT; Terrence McKenna – MassDOT; Josh Thomas - DelDOT