Overview of December 4, 2018 Unmanned Aerial Systems Information Exchange Forum

January 22, 2019

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Overview

Unmanned Aerial System Information Exchange Forum:

A Dialogue For Public Works/Transportation, GIS, and Procurement Staff

December 4, 2018 | Wilde Lake Interfaith Center | Columbia, MD

- Funding Sponsors:
  – Baltimore Metropolitan Council
  – Maryland State GIS Committee (MSGIC)
  – KCI Technologies

- BMC/BRTB Supporting Committees:
  – Baltimore Region GIS
  – Transportation & Public Works
  – Baltimore Region Cooperative Purchasing Committee

- Agenda Developed with Input From:
  – MDOT SHA
  – MACo

- Over 150 Attendees from All Over Maryland:
  – Public and private sectors
  – Academia and non-profits
  – Local, regional, state, and federal agencies

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9:30 a.m.   **Introduction and Purpose of Forum**

Eileen Singleton, Principal Transportation Engineer, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:35 a.m.   **Welcome**

Michael Kelly, Executive Director, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:45 a.m.   **Getting Started and Regulatory Framework**

- Unmanned and Unbound: The Future of Commercial UAS
  - Justin Towles, Founding Partner, Ascension Global
  - Pam Cohn, Managing Partner, Ascension Global
- Getting a UAS Pilots License: Why You Need It and What It Takes to Get It
  - Professor Scott Jeffrey, Center for Mapping and Analysis Program Director, Community College of Baltimore, Catonsville
  - Dr. Doug Williams, Aviation Technology Program Director, Community College of Baltimore, Catonsville

10:30 a.m.   **Federal, State, and Local UAS Overview**

- Update from Federal Highway Administration
  - Connie Yew, Team Leader for Construction Management, Office of Infrastructure, Federal Highway Administration
- Overview of Maryland Association of Counties Activities to Support Local UAS Use
  - Robin Eilenberg, Research Director, Maryland Association of Counties
- Summary of Maryland Department of Transportation UAS Activities
  - Laurie Goudy, IT Director, MDOT State Highway Administration
  - Ross Cutts, Engineering Geology Field Manager, MDOT State Highway Administration

11:35 a.m.   **Sponsor Lightning Round**

- Maryland State GIS Committee (MSGIC)
- KCI Technologies, Inc.

11:50 a.m.   **Lunch and Networking**

12:40 p.m.   **Local and State Use Cases of UAS Part 1: Public Sector Perspective**

- Queen Anne's County Drone Program: A Local Government Approach to Drones
  - Sam Stanton, GIS Coordinator, Queen Anne's County GIS
  - Tyler Pease, GIS Specialist II, Queen Anne's County GIS
- Maryland Transportation Authority Crash Response and Reconstruction
  - Cpl. Mike Lamont, Commander – Collision Reconstruction, MDTA Police
- Procurement of UAS for Local Use
  - Kim Cluney, Program Manager, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works

2:00 p.m.   **UAS on the Leading Edge of Technology**

Matt Scassero, Director, UAS Test Site

2:20 p.m.   **Break**

2:35 p.m.   **Local and State Use Cases of UAS Part 2: Private Sector Perspective**

- Why UAS Will Help Your Organization
  - David Headrick, Project Manager, KCI Technologies, Inc.
  - Dustin Henry, Assistant Director, KCI Technologies, Inc.
- UAS Photogrammetry: Stormwater Management Existing Conditions Survey
  - Eric Cooper, Associate – Chief of Surveys, Wallace Montgomery & Associates
- Pushing Engineering & Construction Boundaries with UAS
  - Bryan Haynie, Vice President/Chief of Surveys, Century Engineering, Inc.

3:35 p.m.   **Panel Discussion: Key Points from the Day**

- Facilitator: Ross Cutts, Engineering Geology Field Manager, MDOT SHA
- Procurement: Andrew Hime, Purchasing Agent and Michelle Kraft, Buyer, Anne Arundel County
- GIS: Patrick Callahan, GIS Manager, Office of Information Technology, Prince George's County
- DPW /Transportation: Jeff Hobbs, Chief of Surveys, Howard County Department of Public Works
- Private sector: Al Wainger, Vice President, Michael Baker, Inc.

4:25 p.m.   **Closing Remarks**

Mara Kaminowitz, GIS Coordinator, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

4:30 p.m.   **Adjourn**

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Highlights

- Professors from the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) explained the requirements needed to get a commercial UAS pilot's license.

- MACo continues to advocate for more control of UAS regulation by local government in their own jurisdictions.

- Presentations also covered federal and state policy, along with the current and future state of UAS services as a commercial enterprise.

- FHWA staff provided examples of how the Every Day Counts program will help foster innovation in the UAS field.

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Highlights (cont.)

- The director of the University of Maryland UAS Test Site provided a look at where UAS technology may go in the future and some of the technical issues to consider such as sensors packages, airspace integration, balancing cost vs. quality, and cybersecurity.

- Agencies are already using UAS in the field, both in-house and contracted, for functions including:
  - crash reconstruction
  - storm water management
  - construction site monitoring
  - bridge inspection

Highlights (cont.)

- The final session featured a panel of representatives from different sectors (GIS, DPW, procurement, consultant) sharing what they learned at the event.
  - They discussed government contracting and procurement, UAS regulations, how to better coordinate between the public and private sectors, and economics of UAS programs.
  - One concern from the panel was that with constantly emerging technology, an organization that purchases a UAS risks having it become obsolete before they can use it.
  - The panel also discussed a comparison of the benefits of contracting vs. developing capacity internally.
  - Speakers from the private sector discussed how UAS services are forcing a change in how contracts are billed from hourly to a model based on the amount of data acquired.

Presentations

- Available at:
  - https://sites.google.com/
    a/baltometro.org/decemb
    er-4-uas-forum

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For More Information

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Mara Kaminowitz | GIS Coordinator

410-732-0500 x1030 | mkaminowitz@baltometro.org | www.baltometro.org

Eileen Singleton | Principal Transportation Engineer

410-732-0500 x1033 | esingleton@baltometro.org | www.baltometro.org

@BALTOMETROCOUNCIL   @BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL   @BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL