



Building An Even Better **Brandon**-The Route 7, Segment 6 Project

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight FAQ

What are Unmanned Aircraft Systems?

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, are remotely piloted aircraft. The most common type of UAS that most people are familiar with are small quadcopters used by hobbyists.

Why are these UAS flight occurring?

These UAS flights are being carried out to document the construction along the Route 7 corridor in Brandon, VT.

How often will the flights occur?

The flights will occur bi-weekly during the construction period.

Who is carrying out these flights?

The flights are being done by the University of Vermont (UVM) in collaboration with Dubois & King and the Town of Brandon. UVM has carried out over 600 UAS flights throughout the United States. Personnel carrying out the flights are licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). All FAA rules and regulations will be followed.

What type of UAS will be used?

The UVM team will be flying the senseFly eBee. The eBee is a small, lightweight (1.6lb), fixed-wing UAS made out of EPP foam. It operates autonomously, following a predetermined flight plan, taking pictures at preplanned intervals. An operator can override the flight plan and take control, but images are not accessible until the eBee lands. Due to the lightweight construction, the eBee is very safe. Unlike popular quadcopter drones, if it were to suffer a power failure it would glide to the ground as opposed

to fall straight from the sky. A short video showing UVM carrying flight operations with the eBee is available on YouTube - <https://youtube/6hA831P4To>

What type of data will be collected?

Still, overhead pictures will be acquired. The images are similar to what is available via popular online mapping services, such as Google Maps. The images are acquired from a top-down perspective.

Will this violate my privacy?

The imagery collected is done in a manner that adheres to all local, state, and national laws. People will be visible in the images, but the images lack the resolution to obtain any personally identifiable information (e.g. identify a person). On any given day, there are a number of satellites capturing imagery of Brandon, VT. In addition, the State of Vermont contracts with private companies to acquire imagery using manned aircraft for mapping purposes very few years, which is then publicly available. Private companies, such as Google and Microsoft also use a variety of aircraft and satellites to update their publicly available online maps. Fundamentally, the UAS imagery acquired for this project is no different.

Can I shoot the UAS out of the sky?

The UAS will be flying in federally regulated airspace. Interfering with flight operations in any way, including shooting down the drone, would be a violation of federal law and may lead to criminal prosecution.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

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