UTC Project Information	
Project Title	MPC-636 – Strategic Deployment of Drone Centers and Fleet Size Planning for Drone Delivery in Utah
University	University of Utah
Principal Investigator	Cathy Liu, Ph.D.
PI Contact Information	Associate Professor Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering University of Utah Phone: (801) 587-8858 Email: cathy.liu@utah.edu ORCID: 0000-0002-5162-891X
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	USDOT, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology \$30,000  Utah Department of Transportation \$50,000
Total Project Cost	\$80,000
Agency ID or Contract Number	69A3551747108
Start and End Dates	October 30, 2020 to July 31, 2022
Brief Description of Research Project	In a 2017 report by the RAND corporation, analytical methods for calculating the total energy consumed by a mix of delivery trucks and drones were developed and shown to be highly dependent on the layout of distribution centers as well as distance traveled by delivery vehicles. This suggests that the city layout, i.e., street connectivity and other network parameters, are important considerations for energy-conscious policies. While industry stakeholders must determine the market viability of drone delivery, they are not required to calculate the external and indirect costs that may be associated with this burgeoning industry. Furthermore, the unstructured airspace proposed by some stakeholders can have an undesirable monopolistic effect caused by the computational aspects of this approach. The research proposed here will produce a state-wide drone network, and hence a structured airspace, that can potentially increase the accessibility of the airspace while ensuring a higher degree of safety.
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)  Place Any Photos Here	
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	
Web Links	

ReportsProject Website