Fall 2025

The Sky Above Your City Just Changed Forever: Your 120-Day Drone Readiness Action Plan

The federal government has launched the most aggressive drone integration timeline in U.S. history through executive orders and new federal rulemaking that will fundamentally transform the skies above all American cities.

Under these federal directives and the comprehensive Part 108 BVLOS regulations now open for public comment, rules for routine drone deliveries, automated emergency response, and comprehensive airspace management are being finalized with implementation expected by Spring 2026. This isn't a distant future scenario. It's happening now, and your city needs to be ready..

These aren't incremental policy adjustments. We're talking about the most aggressive timeline for drone integration in U.S. history.

The First Executive Order:

"Unleashing American Drone Dominance," mandates the Federal Aviation Administration to publish rules that will enable routine Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations within 240 days. This regulatory shift moves the industry from predominantly line-of-sight operations to autonomous, long-range missions that can extend miles from the operator. The implications will be impactful and immediate: medical deliveries to underserved communities, automated critical infrastructure inspections, and emergency response capabilities that can deploy faster than ground-based teams.

The Second Executive Order:

"Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty," establishes comprehensive security frameworks for expanded drone operations. It creates federal task forces for counter-drone operations, mandates detection and tracking capabilities for critical infrastructure, and provides state and local agencies access to airspace security technologies and data. This isn't just about managing more aircraft—it's about establishing airspace awareness systems for low-altitude airspace that can distinguish between authorized commercial operations and potential security threats to your community.

The Regulatory Framework:

Part 108 Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) rules, released August 5, 2025, establish the operational structure these executive orders mandate. The 731-page regulation creates permit pathways for smaller operations (25-100 drones) and certificate pathways for larger fleets, mandates detect-and-avoid technology and Remote ID broadcasting, and requires Automated Data Service Providers for drone traffic management and strategic deconfliction services. These changes represent the most significant shift in low-altitude airspace regulations in decades.

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Why This Matters for Your City Right Now

The Part 108 BVLOS regulations and executive orders mandate that drones can soon operate beyond visual line of sight without waiver requirements, meaning companies can automate flights across your city for deliveries, inspections, and emergency response.

Simultaneously, new federal requirements demand comprehensive tracking and security systems for all drone activity above critical infrastructure, public events, and government facilities.

For city leaders, this creates an unprecedented responsibility.

You're now responsible for dealing with low-altitude airspace above your community. This includes coordinating delivery drones with police helicopters, ensuring emergency responders can access airspace instantly, and maintaining security around schools, stadiums, and government buildings.

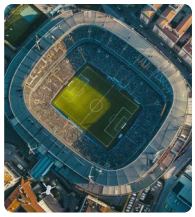
But the economic implications for cities are massive.

Cities with efficient drone operation frameworks will attract logistics companies, emergency service providers, and infrastructure inspection firms. Meanwhile, communities without proper systems risk becoming less competitive for business investment and federal funding opportunities..

Do you have infrastructure that will be impacted?

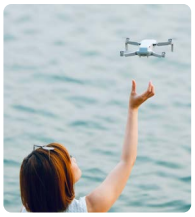

low Altitude


Delivery Systems


Stadiums


Construction


First Responders


Hobbyists

Your City's Critical Timeline: What Must Happen When

NEXT 30 DAYS

Build Your Foundation

Establish Your Drone Governance Structure Immediately:
Create a cross-departmental working group including representatives from public safety, planning, IT, legal, economic development, etc. This team will coordinate all drone-related policy decisions and implementation across city departments.

Assess Your Current Capabilities and Gaps:
Inventory existing drone operations across police, fire, public works, marketing, and other relevant departments. Identify what technology, training, and policies you already have versus what Part 108's permit and certificate pathways will demand.

Begin Stakeholder Engagement:
Start conversations with local businesses about their drone operation plans. Reach out to delivery companies, infrastructure inspection firms, and emergency service providers to understand the demand you'll soon face under the new BVLOS regulations.

Prepare for Federal Funding and Law Enforcement Partnership Opportunities:
With Part 108 regulations now released for public comment (August 5), new federal grant programs will become available for cities to purchase drone detection and tracking equipment. Additionally, federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security are exploring how to integrate local law enforcement into joint anti-drone operations, particularly for protecting mass gathering events and critical infrastructure like military bases.

Research these grant programs now and begin preparing applications to secure funding for both airspace security systems and enhanced law enforcement capabilities.

60 DAYS

Develop Your Framework

Draft internal drone operation policies.
Develop comprehensive policies covering crew and asset management, equipment safety, cybersecurity, data privacy, workflow procedures, security protocols, and audit requirements. These policies must align with Part 108's corporate responsibility model, where companies—not individual pilots—ensure staff training and mission readiness for both permit and certificate operations.

Create external drone operation policies.
Establish takeoff and landing ordinances, create permit processes for commercial operators seeking Part 108 authorizations, and develop enforcement mechanisms for violations. Your legal team should begin crafting liability frameworks and data privacy protections that accommodate both permitted and certificated drone operations.

Design your public communication and engagement strategy.
Residents will soon see dramatically more drone activity under Part 108 BVLOS operations. Create communication protocols to keep communities informed about increased aerial activity, safety measures, and the benefits these operations will bring.

Evaluate technology platform requirements.
You'll need systems to coordinate multiple drone operations simultaneously while maintaining security monitoring and integrating with Automated Data Service Providers (ADSPs). Start evaluating drone operations management systems that can handle Part 108's complexity and ADSP coordination requirements.

Plan for drone identification systems.
Part 108 ensures BVLOS drones broadcast Remote ID—digital identification visible to law enforcement and air traffic systems. Plan how your city will integrate this identification system with existing IT infrastructure and emergency dispatch systems to distinguish between authorized operations and potential security threats.

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Your City's Critical Timeline: What Must Happen When

90 DAYS

Implement Core Systems

Deploy your drone operations management system.
This is your air traffic control system for urban drone activity. It should coordinate multiple operators, provide real-time situational awareness, and integrate with Part 108's required Automated Data Service Providers (ADSPs) for strategic deconfliction and security monitoring systems.

Train your teams.
Law enforcement, emergency responders, and city staff need training on all drone regulations, safety protocols, and response procedures. This training should cover both managing your own permit or certificate operations and responding to unauthorized activity under the new BVLOS framework.

Establish security protocols for critical infrastructure.
Implement detection and monitoring systems around stadiums, power plants, government buildings, and other sensitive facilities. These systems must distinguish between authorized drone operations and potential security threats while accommodating increased BVLOS activity.

Consider applying for federal pilot programs.
If your city is prepared and wants to become a test site, the FAA will soon request proposals from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to pilot advanced aircraft operations under Part 108. These programs often require partnerships with private companies and offer significant economic development opportunities. The federal government will choose five pilot test sites for advanced supply and cargo drone deliveries. Selections will be finalized in 2026.

120 DAYS

Prepare for Launch

Finalize operational procedures.
Test your systems with simulated city drone operations. Conduct tabletop exercises with multiple departments to ensure coordination protocols work under pressure for both permitted and certificated operations.

Complete technology integration.
Ensure your drone operations system integrates with existing emergency dispatch, traffic management, work order management and public safety systems. Test data capture, storage, Remote ID monitoring, and ensure iron-clad audit trail capabilities required under Part 108.

Launch public awareness campaigns.
Educate residents about the benefits of city drone integration while addressing privacy and safety concerns. Transparent communication builds public support for increased BVLOS operations in your community.

Onboard into Part 108-compliant ADSP network.
To coordinate your BVLOS operations with other commercial operators in your region, your organization must connect to FAA-approved Automated Data Service Providers. Look for a Drone Operations Management System (DOMS) that meets Part 108's consensus standards for airworthiness acceptance and provides the strategic deconfliction services required for safe separation.

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Your Competitive Advantage Window

The next 120 days represent a critical competitive advantage period.

Cities that act now to implement a comprehensive drone operations management system will be positioned to capitalize on new opportunities the moment Part 108 takes effect.

Early adopters will attract businesses, create new revenue streams, improve emergency response capabilities, and enhance public services.

Meanwhile, cities that wait until Spring 2026 will find themselves scrambling to manage an increase in drone activity requests from delivery companies, emergency services, and inspection teams. Without proper coordination systems, they risk operational chaos, safety incidents, and missed economic opportunities.

Beyond Compliance: The Multi-Billion Dollar Economic Opportunity

The global commercial drone market, valued at $30 billion in 2024, is projected to reach $55 billion by 2030—representing one of the fastest-growing technology sectors. For cities, this isn't just about managing more aircraft; it's about positioning your community to capture a significant share of this economic transformation.

The U.S. alone is expected to create over 100,000 new drone-related jobs before the end of 2025, spanning everything from drone operations and maintenance to data analysis and airspace management. Cities that establish comprehensive drone frameworks early will become magnets for these high-tech jobs and the companies that create them.

The cost savings are equally compelling. A recent comprehensive economic analysis in Australia projects $48 billion in cumulative cost savings from 2020 to 2050 from drone adoption across industries like infrastructure inspection, emergency response, and delivery services. For cities, this translates to more efficient public services, reduced operational costs, and enhanced emergency response capabilities.

The security technology market represents another major opportunity. The drone detection market alone is projected to grow from $730 million in 2024 to $3.4 billion by 2030, creating opportunities for cities to not only enhance their security capabilities but also attract security technology companies and federal investment.

These changes unlock entirely new industries for your community. Medical deliveries to underserved neighborhoods become routine. Infrastructure inspections shift from dangerous manual processes to automated, data-rich surveys that prevent failures before they happen. Emergency responders gain aerial situational awareness within minutes of any incident.

Part 108 prioritizes American-made drone technology through country-of-manufacture requirements, creating opportunities for domestic manufacturers while reducing foreign dependence. Cities that establish clear, efficient frameworks will become magnets for drone-related businesses and federal investment, while those without proper systems risk missing out on the largest shift in logistics and public safety operations in decades.

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The Technology Foundation You Need

Managing this transformation requires sophisticated drone detection, tracking and identification systems.

When delivery drones, emergency response aircraft, and infrastructure inspection operations all need simultaneous access to urban airspace, you need real-time traffic management that can provide automated deconfliction and comprehensive security monitoring.

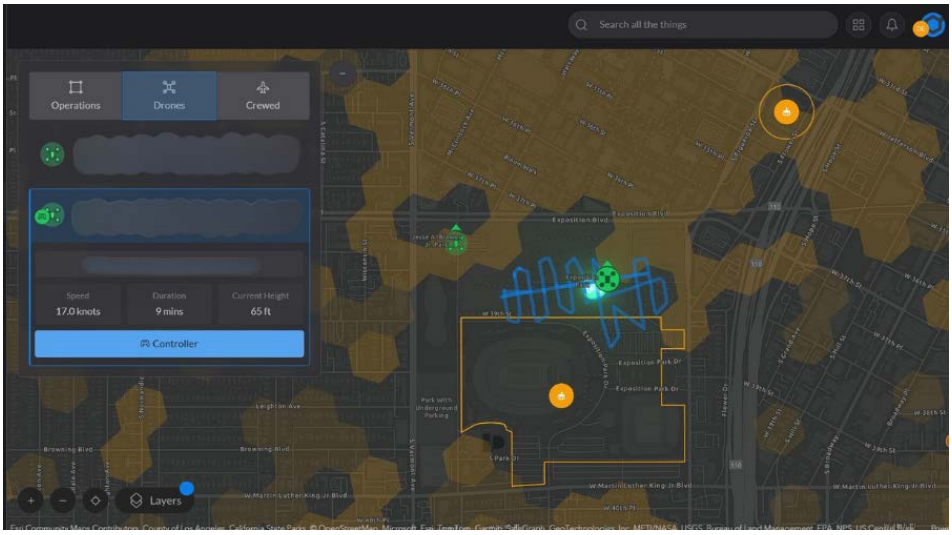
Airspace Link's AirHub® Portal is a Drone Operations Management System (DOMS) that provides cities with this exact capability.

As the established air traffic control system for drones, we've been building the operational infrastructure Part 108 now mandates. Our platform already manages over 100,000 monthly users across 6,000 unique businesses and government agencies, and growing daily

AirHub® Portal includes an Operation Center that delivers strategic insight and situational awareness into all drone operations above your city. Whether coordinating multiple emergency response teams, monitoring delivery operations, or tracking airspace activity near sensitive facilities, the system provides everything city leaders need to maintain control and ensure skyway safety.

Your Next Step

The window between now and Spring 2026 determines whether your city becomes a leader in the new drone economy or a follower that will need to get in line due to onboarding bottlenecks and demand going to the early movers. The infrastructure exists, the technology is proven, and Part 108 regulations are being finalized. What matters now is action. Start building your city's drone operation capabilities today. The communities that prepare now will reap the benefits of safer skies, enhanced emergency response, improved infrastructure monitoring, and new economic opportunities.



The skyways above your city just changed forever. Make sure your city is ready to manage it and prosper from it.

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Your 120 Day Action Plan