

Planning and Zoning workshop 7Oct2026 video notes

Amazon Prime Air stores and handles data from its delivery drones using end-to-end [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\)](https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/transportation/amazon-prime-air-drone-delivery-expansion) integration, keeping real-time navigation processing on-board while routing flight planning, aerial imagery, and geospatial maps through secure cloud clusters.
<https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/transportation/amazon-prime-air-drone-delivery-expansion>

Planning and Zoning workshop 7Oct2026 video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oH6E0ExJTv0&ra=m>

Minute:

7:30-why? Customers want it.

7:45-what the drone looks like with height & weight info

8:30-60% of what customers want meet the 5 lb, shoe box size like diapers, airpods. Per FAA, can go 7.5 miles from facility and they fly around 70mph

11:20-lots of camera and sensors on the drone, like a back up camera on a car.

13-Flight paths-

21:30-"we need local land use approval"



16:14-drops from 13'

33:30-THIS drone is approved by the FAA to go 7.5 miles from launch site (ie future drones might go much further)



questions

35-they need 18' diameter to do a drop

37:24-the red zones is a no fly so no flying and no delivery

37:38- do you need a launch pad to do drone delivery

Ed Prince Q

40—can the 18' needed for delivery include the road for small lots like in Cherry Grove. Answer: No, roads are not included in the 18' needed. The 18' must be on the delivery property.

40:39-Did Amazon do a study of the lot sizes in the community to see if we have a lot of lots that do qualify.

40:55-Yes, Amazon looks to see the number of Amazon prime members and are they accessible and if not we will look elsewhere.

41:50 (Ed Prince)-If you were located in the county, would you even need our permission, would we even get a say in this or is it just up to the FAA?

Answer-no, you cannot stop the drones.

42:55-Ed-so if people outside NMB do not want drones, they do not have a say. Amazon answer is "no".



46: the purple area on the map, what is that, questionable area

Answer-Class C area, because of the traffic there, they must get FAA authorization

Horton

46:50-you can only deliver to single family homes, you cannot deliver to condo complexes?

Answer-yes, currently. We have tried it in other locations, and getting the open space, and consent from multiple owners for delivery zones. So currently no commercial properties.



47:33-how many accidents?

49-how often do you have to reapply to the FAA. Answer-further distance or change the drone or relocate the launch/land pad would require FAA approval because they are autonomous drones, not being driven by a human.

50:33-what kind of feedback did you get from the Florida (beach) community. Answer-they are a real success story and NO problems there.

51:42-Amazon-I would have to double check but we have no plans to be on the beach



How many jobs will it create

52:51-will it eliminate any current jobs? Answer-no.

55-at an altitude of 100 feet what would the drone noise level be. A-between 45 and 60 db

55:20-at 13 feet in someone's yard; A-around 65 to 68 db. 68 db at take off.

55:51 But I failed to say before that the process from when it descends, drops the package and reassembles is 25-30 seconds.

56:21-are the people loading the packages required to wear hearing protection.

Answer-YES.

57:30- any injuries due to drones in 2025? Answer-no



57:55 The blue area on the map, it looks like nothing east of the waterway is going to be servicable other than the little sliver that says NMB on the map, and that would have to go out into the ocean and back, is that correct.

A-we have no plans to go out into the ocean and back in



60:30-right now, without the land use approvals, could you launch your drones. A-no, we would break your land use law.

Harry asks question

60:53- You said you had an FAA environmental analysis done.

A-we had an overall programmatic one done in July. The environmental one at the local level, I think they are still working that. They reach out to state agencies, that is what really provides the FAA what they need to conduct that. Each region has an FAA region and that is who can be reached out to.



62:22-time of day, you have civil twilight-sunrise to sunset. Is that set by the FAA?

A-yes it is. It is another limitation under the FAA

Q-do local authorities have the ability to superced that, like from 9am to 5pm for delivery.

A-you would have to work with the FAA on that.

63:18 Jim Wood asks questions

A lot of federal programs have a public comment period, does your application have a public comment period?

A-no, because we have a nationwide programmatic approval from the FAA. In some states, the state will initiate a public comment period.

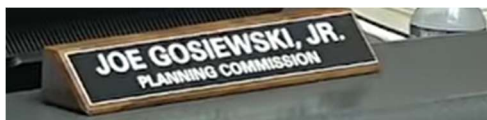


66:07-Asked if city staff had any questions. No.

***66:18 Airport Authority rep speaks-he is with the Horry Co Dept of Airports. We were consulted maybe a couple of months ago. The airports position is centered around Grand Strand airport (approaches, safety). We have general, training, military. We want airspace protected. We are not necessarily opposed.

We would be consulted if it impacted the airport, otherwise it is FAA.

68:20 No fly and restricted appear to mean the same thing.



69:20 There appears to be a police drone that could be used in the restricted area but apparently the cost is prohibitive. So if police can buy a drone that could be used in that red no fly zone/area, could others?

Horry Rep

There are other drones, usually manually operated, but they need to get FAA authority to operate. Even when the airport uses a drone, we have to get FAA authority and the tower would have to be notified. So I do not think they are one and the same.



70:03-banner plan flies very low altitude. How will a drone know where that plane is.

Horry Co- that is part of the FAA review process. The red zone is so expansive to protect flights to and from the airport. Banner and helos are a bit different. The red zone should encompass the majority of the flight activity. FAA also controls helo tours on the beach.

72:24-Suzanne stands to speak. You have a report, emails we have received, 32 different people in the emails, most are barefoot residents, most are concerned about repetitive noise, overflights, neighborhood quality of life, flight frequency, future expansion, any enforceable local protections, crashes, wildlife, battery fires, property values, coastal character, main request is to postpone 60-90 days, obtain flight volume, noise and set back info, obtain city attorney opinion. Most use language that they are not opposed just want complete info.

1h14:22 no additional impervious area (deleting 24 parking spots). No staff issues.

Community	Land Use Controls & State Limits
Tolleson, AZ	State law preemption; local siting authority for commercial drone delivery in residential zones or within 150 ft
Ruskin, FL	Florida state preemption; qualifying drone ports permitted in nonresidential areas, subject only to generally applicable setbacks and landscaping
Hazel Park / Pontiac, MI	Local zoning, site-plan and physical-facility rules apply; drone operations are largely preempted by Michigan law
Papillon, NE	Commercial remodel/improvements permit documented for Amazon site; no local drone ordinance identified
Kansas City, KS	General zoning controls, including setbacks, height, parking, screening, and permitted uses; no drone-specific local ordinance identified
Baton Rouge, LA	General controls apply: site plan; dimensional, parking/loading, and landscaping standards; applicability depends on the specific site/use
North Randall, OH	Local planning, zoning, building-permit, and inspection requirements apply; no drone-specific local ordinance identified
Waco, TX	Zoning ordinance site-development standards, including building setbacks and orientation; no drone-specific local ordinance identified
Richmond / Houston, TX	Unincorporated Fort Bend County; no zoning or certificates of occupancy; County Fire Code and Fire Marshal compliance review apply

What Controls & Limits Do They Have? OCTOBER 7 WORKSHOP

1h21:23 options-City Council CAN act



1h21:46-Ed Prince points out that Amazon could go outside of NMB and get Horry Co permission to launch and they could fly into NMB

1h23:27-(person next to Ed) points out that it is mostly Barefoot and park point, the parkway group residential, then it is county and Myrtle Beach. It is unfortunate everyone does not get a vote.

1h24:30-**Harry**-what happens if we deny. Suzanne-it would then go to city council as a major amendment, immediately.

The SC 2027 law does not impact this. We can control the land and that is it. Is there any kind of ordinance we could create to control noise.

Suzanne-yes, traditional zoning to restrict launches etc.

1h26:05-For Jim: you said the staff has no questions is that because we have so limited options.

Suzanne, yes.



1h27:16-if you make changes and can fly to 10 miles, do you have to come back to us?

Amazon-maybe, depends on if the change is on the ground.

1h32- is there a limit on the number of drones in a neighborhood at one time?

A-no

1h33:05 Once there is FAA approval, there is no annual approval.

1h33:55 why are you spending so much money and hiring drone operators already?

Amazon does not answer hiring question.

1h34:50 Pamela Gibson speaks-Can you go to MB and ask for a 7.5 mile area as well.

Amazon-we could but we are just looking for a single metropolitan area. Delivery circles can overlap (ie in the future we could have twice as many drones).

We are not limited by # of drones, we are limited by flights per day.

1h37:02 Have you received noise complaints due to multiple drones?

A-we have but it has generally been about the number of drones not the noise.

1h39:25-can HOAs restrict the drones

Amazon-an HOA can say we cannot land in the HOA but cannot say we cannot fly in the area of the HOA

1h43-we have not withdrawn the CT application, in fact, it has been approved by them.

1h45 We have not done a study of wildlife, the state will tell us of any wildlife issues.

1h47-Do you plan on expanding to condos?

A-we are planning more communities, but currently we are not planning on commercial (condo) delivery.

1h49-since so many homes are now STRs, it could be pretty steady traffic to those rentals

1h52:30 Councilman Fred Coyne-who pays if there is a crash

Answer-Amazon