



MICHIGAN CENTRAL

# Advanced Aerial Innovation Region at Michigan Central

## Bringing Innovation to Our Skies

Michigan Central and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) have launched the nation's first cross-sector, advanced aerial urban initiative called the [Advanced Aerial Innovation Region](#)—creating a hub of innovation that will position the state as a leader in next-generation aerial mobility and drone technology in the heart of Detroit.



Covering a 3-mile radius around Michigan Central, this two-year project provides a first-of-its-kind open, shared infrastructure and services for commercial drone development. Additionally, the initiative is focused on creating high-skill jobs, advancing policy, and driving the adoption of drone technology to benefit our community.

The goal of the Advanced Aerial Innovation Region is to attract startups, catalyze new jobs, advance policy, and drive adoption of drones in

commercial applications. In collaboration with federal regulators and local municipalities, the region provides access to airspace and infrastructure to safely develop and test new use cases for drones.

### **Come Fly with Us**

The Advanced Aerial Innovation Region offers open access to shared resources and services, allowing pilot programs to test and evaluate drone solutions focused on:

- Addressing accessibility, safety, and tech equity
- Regulatory challenges by testing potential commercial drone uses
- Use cases ranging from delivery of medical supplies, consumer goods and manufacturing materials to infrastructure inspection

The program provides valuable insights for optimizing conditions, validating and expanding commercial applications, meeting demand, and economic feasibility. The results have the potential to mobilize the entire advanced aerial mobility ecosystem of operators, startups and industry stakeholders by breaking down existing barriers to commercial development.

Flight data from all pilots will feed the initiative's overarching goal to drive drone operations beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). By gaining BVLOS approval, Advanced Aerial Innovation Region participants can accelerate commercial drone development and unlock a variety of potential uses in Southeast Michigan, including extended-range delivery.

[\*\*Click Here to Get Started\*\*](#)

## Partnerships Driving Progress

Participating drone operators will have access to concept and operational support from our partners Newlab and Airspace Link in addition to Michigan Central's cross-sector stakeholders and strong partnerships that bring together the unprecedented expertise and resources.



### About Michigan Central

Michigan Central is a cultural district and innovation community in Detroit, where innovators, designers and entrepreneurs come together to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges, particularly those involving physical, economic and social mobility. By providing access to cutting-edge tools and resources, Michigan Central empowers global innovators, culture makers, and community members to collaborate on groundbreaking solutions and test them in real time in the real world. Since opening in April 2023, Michigan Central has already become a thriving ecosystem that is home to more than 80 startups, and brings entrepreneurs, artists, Fortune 500 companies, philanthropy, governmental institutions, investors, creative thinkers and the larger Detroit community together to collaborate and test ideas in one place. Learn more at [MichiganCentral.com](https://MichiganCentral.com).