Request for Information (RFI) Solicitation

Autonomous Pharmaceutical Delivery Pilot Project

1. Introduction

The Beta District (https://www.thebetadistrict.com), in partnership with Memorial Health, DriveOhio and the City of Marysville, seeks input from vendors and technology providers regarding their capabilities to support a pilot project for autonomous pharmaceutical delivery. This RFI aims to develop an understanding of industry capabilities to deliver innovative, secure, and compliant solutions for short-range medical logistics.

2. Beta District Background

The Beta District is a collaborative group of local and state governments along with business partners leveraging Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and other technical assets in support of innovations in Smart Mobility. A 35-mile stretch of US Route 33, connecting the Cities of Columbus, Dublin, Marysville, and East Liberty, Ohio, defines this hub of the automotive industry in Northwest Central Ohio.

Designated the "33 Smart Mobility Corridor" in 2016 after being awarded an Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant from the Federal Highway Administration, the Cities of Dublin and Marysville, Union County, and the Union County Port Authority, formed a Council of Governments with a governing board to leverage the assets implemented through the grant. The Beta District is the organization created by the Council of Governments to manage investment, program development, and administration of the "33 Smart Mobility Corridor".

The assets and resources of The Beta District include but are not limited to a 35-mile redundant fiber optic network that extends from the two world class data centers in Dublin to the Transportation Research Center in East Liberty, wireless transmitters placed along the route in support of Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) research and testing, Connected Intersections within each member municipality, devices, systems, and data supporting an environment of testing or validation of Smart Mobility technology innovations. It is the goal of The Beta District to offer real world environments for Smart Mobility innovators to test their innovations on real city streets, live traffic, with actual mobility challenges to address with local and State government partners.

In addition to infrastructure, technical assets, production systems, and facilities, The Beta District offers access to local subject matter experts, proximity to a robust automotive supply chain manufacturing sector, freight, delivery, and logistics organizations, globally recognized testing facilities, multiple world class research universities, and a coalition of institutes, corporations, investors, and service providers focused on partnering in the pursuit of safety, efficiency, and optimization of the mobility environment.

The Beta District was formed to coordinate the planning, investment, and development of programs supporting the testing and validation of Smart Mobility innovations presented by businesses and entrepreneurs. The constituent members of the Council of Governments, Dublin, Marysville, and Union County seek to create a hub of innovation along their defined corridor, while generating economic activity and economic development activated by the presence of these innovations.

2. Pilot Background & Objectives

This pilot initiative proposes the use of autonomous delivery technologies to transport prescription medications from Dave's Pharmacy to Memorial Health Hospital in Marysville, Ohio. The goal is to evaluate the feasibility, safety, efficiency, and regulatory compliance of using sidewalk robots, unmanned aerial systems, or autonomous vehicles (AVs) for short-range medical logistics in a real-world healthcare setting. The project supports Memorial Health's "Meds-to-Beds" program, which ensures patients receive critical discharge medications before leaving the hospital—improving continuity of care, reducing readmissions, and enhancing patient outcomes. The delivery route spans approximately 0.7 miles through the town center, offering an ideal environment to test and validate autonomous delivery in a real-world healthcare setting.
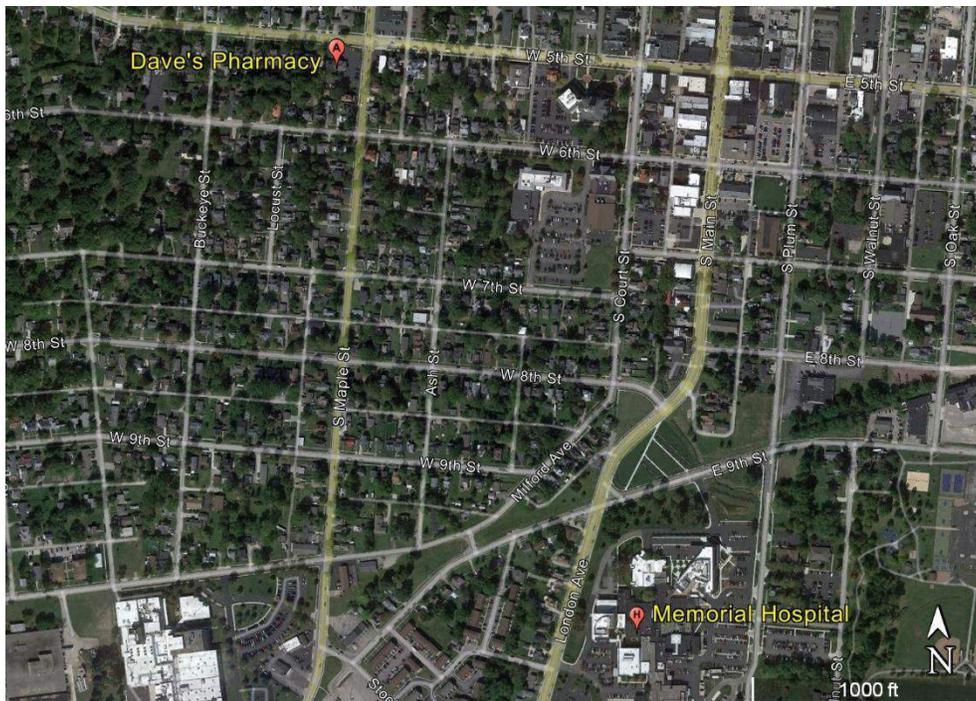

Figure 1: Project Location Map

Pilot Objectives:

1. Enhance Patient Safety and Quality of Care: Timely access to discharge medications is critical to recovery and reducing hospital re-admissions.
2. Improve Operational Efficiency: Autonomous delivery reduces reliance on human couriers and enables multiple deliveries per day.

3. Leverage Smart Infrastructure: Marysville's existing smart transportation infrastructure provides a supportive environment for AV testing.
4. Support Vulnerable Populations: Ensures medication access for patients who may face barriers to obtaining prescriptions post-discharge.

3. Scope of RFI

The Beta District invites responses from vendors and technology providers with solutions in one or more of the following areas:

- Sidewalk delivery robots
- Unmanned aerial vehicles/drones
- Autonomous ground vehicles (AVs)
- Real-time tracking technologies
- Mission control and priority systems
- Integration with healthcare and pharmacy systems

4. Potential Operational Scenario

This autonomous delivery system focuses on secure medication transport. It ensures medications are handled by authorized personnel and uses stringent quality checks. Real-time GPS tracking monitors the vehicle's location, and secure storage prevents unauthorized access. The system complies with Ohio Board of Pharmacy regulations, FAA regulations in the event of aerial delivery, and the Ohio Revised Code.

To initiate a delivery request, healthcare providers or authorized personnel will enter the details into a secure online portal. This includes patient information, medication type, quantity, and desired delivery time. Once the request is submitted, it is verified for accuracy and compliance with regulations.

The autonomous delivery vehicle (ground vehicle, drone or robot) then receives the delivery command and undergoes a pre-departure check to ensure all systems are operational. Medications are loaded into secure compartments by the pharmacy within the autonomous delivery vehicle, ensuring that only authorized personnel can access them.

As the vehicle begins its journey, real-time GPS tracking monitors its location, ensuring the route is followed precisely and any deviations from the route are flagged. Additionally, environmental sensors continuously assess applicable conditions (road, weather, traffic) to optimize delivery times while maintaining safety standards.

Upon reaching the destination, the vehicle docks at the designated location and securely delivers the medications to the authorized recipient. Verification processes, including biometric checks or secure codes, confirm the identity of the recipient and allow access to the medication compartment.

Finally, the vehicle records the completed delivery and sends an update to the system, notifying healthcare providers of the successful transfer. This ensures transparency and accountability throughout the delivery process.

5. Regulatory Requirements & Compliance

A. Sidewalk Delivery Robots
- Compliance with Marysville and Ohio laws for robot operation on public sidewalks.
- Requirements for unmanned delivery devices under Ohio Revised Code.
- Tamper-proof containers/onboard storage.

B. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Drones
- FAA Part 107 compliance for commercial drone operations.
- Permissions for takeoff/landing zones at pharmacy and hospital.

C. Autonomous Ground Vehicles
- Compliance with Ohio Revised Code and DMV regulations.
- Adherence to Marysville traffic laws.
- Tamper-proof containers/onboard storage.

D. General Compliance (All Modes)
- Ohio Board of Pharmacy rules for secure transport and chain of custody.
- HIPAA and data privacy compliance.
- Proof of insurance and liability coverage.
- Climate-controlled/climate insulated storage.

6. Critical Questions for Respondents

A. Company Background
1. Provide a general background on your company
2. Indicate how long you have been in business and whether you have or are currently performing work or deploying technology in Ohio.

B. Technology & Operations
3. Describe your proposed delivery solution(s), technology or system.
4. What makes your solution unique or innovative?
5. How do you ensure safe and reliable operation?
6. How would the chain of custody be maintained?
7. Can your solution provide climate-controlled storage?
8. How does your system provide real-time GPS tracking?
9. What are your operating speeds?
10. What limitations, if any, are required with your operating design domain?
11. What limitations, if any, do you have with operating hours?
12. How well does your solution operate in adverse weather conditions?

C. Regulatory & Compliance
1. How does your solution comply with relevant regulations?
2. What processes verify authorized personnel?

3. How do you ensure data privacy and HIPAA compliance?
4. Have you worked with any of the regulatory agencies mentioned before?

D. **Integration & Scalability**
1. How will your solution integrate with existing workflows?
2. Can your solution be scaled?
3. What other partners or solution providers are necessary for you to support a pilot project?

E. **Testing, Reliability & Risk Management**
1. What is your approach to pilot testing?
2. What risk management protocols are in place?

F. **Timeline & Support**
1. What is your proposed product development and implementation timeline?
2. What support and maintenance would you provide under a pilot?

G. **Optional Information**
1. Provide any case studies or references.
2. Respondents may also add any other relevant information they wish to share with the Beta District, DriveOhio and Memorial Health related to their interest in this opportunity.

7. Submission Instructions

1. The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 16, 2026.
2. Provide written responses electronically in PDF format to the Beta District Executive Director via email at doug@thebetadistrict.com. Include the email title - Autonomous Pharmaceutical Delivery Pilot – Company Name
3. Questions regarding the Beta District or the RFI can be directed to Doug McCollough at doug@thebetadistrict.com. Questions regarding Memorial Health and requirements for the secure delivery of pharmaceuticals can be directed to Leslie Yoder at Leslie.yoder@memorialohio.com.

8. Next Steps

The issuance of this RFI does not guarantee that a pilot will be conducted, nor does a response to the RFI constitute a relationship with the Beta District. As a follow up to this RFI, the Beta District may, based on the responses received, issue a formal request for proposal. The Beta District, in conjunction with Memorial Health and DriveOhio may also invite select respondents to this RFI to one or more workshops to present their solutions and discuss feasibility, innovation, cost-effectiveness, and project alignment. Final partner(s) may be selected based on the workshop outcomes to integrate solutions into the pilot program.