



UAS-Related Research at NDSU's Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute

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Dr Raj Bridgelall's research at North Dakota State University's Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute examines Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), autonomous aircraft, and drones as emerging components of transportation and logistics systems. His work focuses particularly on using drones for cargo delivery, rural freight, infrastructure monitoring, and healthcare logistics. ([North Dakota State University Bio](#))

A central theme of his work is whether drones can shift some freight from roads to the air, potentially reducing highway wear, congestion, and exposure to roadway crashes—especially in rural and remote areas. His research uses machine learning, GIS, market forecasting, transportation modeling, and technology assessment to identify where drone-based freight services could be economically and operationally viable. ([CTIPS](#))

His work also examines the technology and infrastructure needed for AAM, including VTOL aircraft, propulsion efficiency, batteries and hydrogen systems, vertiports, autonomous drone corridors, and integration with conventional transportation networks. ([MDPI](#))

Additional research investigates drones equipped with advanced sensors and AI for transportation infrastructure inspection—including roads, bridges, railroads, pipelines, and other assets. The research identifies potential advantages in speed, safety, cost, and the quantity of information collected. ([UGPTI](#))

Most recently, Bridgelall examined statewide drone-delivery networks for rural areas, developing methods for locating multimodal hubs while considering population, airport proximity, and infrastructure readiness. ([Wiley Online Library](#))

Raj Bridgelall — Selected Research on Advanced Air Mobility and Drones

2026

- Nyan, B. D., Bridgelall, R., & Tolliver, D. (2026). *Beyond Drone Delivery: A Scoping Review of Advanced Air Mobility in Healthcare Logistics*. **Sustainability**, 18(17), 8942.
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- Bridgelall, R. (2026). *Designing Statewide Drone Delivery Networks in Rural Contexts: A Multiobjective Approach*. **Journal of Advanced Transportation**, 2026, Article 9985293.
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2025

- Badshah, I., Bridgelall, R., & Thompson, E. A. (2025). *GIS-Enabled Truck–Drone Hybrid Systems for Agricultural Last-Mile Delivery: A Multidisciplinary Review with Insights from a Rural Region*. **Drones**, 9(12), 868.
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- Askarzadeh, T., & Bridgelall, R. (2025). *Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness of Drone Applications in Bridge Condition Monitoring*. **Infrastructures**, 10(3), 63.
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- Bridgelall, R. (2024). *Spatial Analysis of Middle-Mile Transport for Advanced Air Mobility: A Case Study of Rural North Dakota*. **Sustainability**, 16(20), 8949.
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- Bridgelall, R. (2024). *Aircraft Innovation Trends Enabling Advanced Air Mobility*. **Inventions**, 9(4), 84.
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- Askarzadeh, T., Bridgelall, R., & Tolliver, D. (2024). *Monitoring Nodal Transportation Assets with Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles: A Comprehensive Review*. **Drones**, 8(6), 233.
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- Bridgelall, R. (2024). *Locating Electrified Aircraft Service to Reduce Urban Congestion*. **Information**, 15(4), 186.
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2023

- Bridgelall, R. (2023). *Data-Driven Deployment of Cargo Drones: A U.S. Case Study Identifying Key Markets and Routes*. **Algorithms**, 16(8), 373.
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- Bridgelall, R. (2023). *Unlocking Drone Potential in the Pharma Supply Chain: A Hybrid Machine Learning and GIS Approach*. **Standards**, 3(3), 283–296.
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