

## Amazon Scout Testimony

Thank you Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo and members of the committee for the opportunity to participate in today's hearing. My name is Jeff Cleland and I lead state and local transportation policy at Amazon. I am excited to join you today in support of Amazon Scout, our personal delivery device.

Amazon is proud of its growth in the state of Maryland. In fact, we have invested over \$5 billion in our people and operations this past year, growing to over 29,000 full- and part-time employees at our fulfillment and sortation centers, delivery stations, Whole Foods Markets, a regional Air Hub, and an Amazon Book Store. That is why we are excited to support (H B 0595), which creates a personal delivery device statute allowing devices like Amazon Scout to operate in Maryland.

In January 2019, Amazon launched Scout, a fully electric, autonomous delivery system that operates in pedestrian areas like sidewalks and crosswalks. Our device is the size of a small cooler that you would bring to a beach, and operates at about the same speed as the average person walks. Scout is 100% electric and is helping Amazon drive towards our goal of making all Amazon shipments net zero carbon, with 50% of all shipments net zero carbon by 2030.

Safety is Amazon's top priority, and Scout was designed for safe operations. Scout is readily visible to others and is able to stop, or safely navigate around pedestrians, pets, and other obstacles.

Scout is currently operating in select neighborhoods in four communities: Snohomish County, Washington; Irvine, California; Atlanta, Georgia; and Franklin, Tennessee. Customers, neighbors, and even local pets are at first curious about Scout, but, we have seen that the device quickly becomes a normal, welcome part of the neighborhood.

We are starting in suburban areas but hope to expand to additional communities in the future. Suburban sidewalks are some of the least utilized infrastructure in certain regions, and this is a safe, innovative, and environmentally friendly last-mile delivery option.

We are excited that other states are considering similar legislation. To date, more than 15 states and the District of Columbia have passed personal delivery device legislation, with North Carolina being the most recent.

Thank you for the opportunity to share more information and please let me know if you have any questions on Amazon Scout.