



**Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 726**

**Presented by Jeff Cleland, State and Local Transportation Public Policy Lead, Amazon.com**

**03/03/2021**

Thank you Chairman Smith 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 in support of Amazon Scout, our personal delivery device.

Amazon, and myself as a resident, are proud of our growth across the state of Maryland. In fact, we have invested over \$5 billion in our people and operations these past few years, 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 SB 726, 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. Scout is about 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. On top of the small size and pedestrian-like speed, Scout is readily visible to others with state of the art lighting, and is able to stop, or safely navigate around pedestrians, pets, and other obstacles that you would see on a suburban sidewalk.

Scout is currently delivering packages to Amazon customers in FOUR communities across the US: 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 these 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, 12 states and the District of Columbia have passed personal delivery device legislation, with North Carolina being the most recent.

Thank you Senator Feldman for sponsoring and Chairman Smith for co-sponsoring SB 726, and thank you to the committee for the opportunity to share more information about Amazon Scout.