



# Lincoln Trail

Area Development District

~ established 1968 ~

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Jan. 15, 2025

Media Contact: Megan Blaney  
Heartland Communications Consultants  
megan@heartlandcommunicate.com  
631-431-3011

### **Lincoln Trail Area Development District announces acquisition of new drone fleet**

**Elizabethtown, KY** - The Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) hosted a press conference at the Historic State Theater in Elizabethtown Wednesday afternoon announcing the acquisition of a new fleet of advanced drones. Funded through grant support and a public-private partnership with Lincoln National Bank to advance local disaster preparedness, these state-of-the-art search and rescue drones will enhance regional emergency response efforts.

Prompted by recent natural disasters such as the deadly, long-tracked tornado that struck Western Kentucky in 2021 and disastrous flooding that devastated Eastern Kentucky in 2022, these new drones will play a critical role in supporting area emergency managers during emergencies. The drones will be utilized for search and rescue missions, recovery operations, structural damage assessments and more following natural disasters and other critical events.

The press conference followed LTADD's annual meeting. The event included several distinguished attendees, including Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, Marion County Judge/Executive David Daugherty, LTADD Executive Director Daniel London, elected officials from state and local government and area emergency managers.

"Kentuckians have experienced the pain caused in the wake of natural disasters, but through it all, have remained resilient and prepared to help their neighbors rebuild," said Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear. "When disaster strikes, every second counts. This technology will provide first responders with the ability to more efficiently respond to emergencies, and I commend LTADD for their work in securing this fleet for Kentucky communities."

Seven of the eight counties served by LTADD previously received an aerial search and rescue drone, ensuring local readiness and rapid response. These include Breckinridge, Grayson, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington. Hardin County received an upgrade to an existing drone.

In addition to the county-assigned drones, LTADD has acquired two specialized drones with advanced capabilities to be used as-needed throughout the region. One features enhanced surveying and structural analysis functions, while the other is equipped for underwater operations, providing versatile support for a range of emergency scenarios. In the event of a large-scale incident, all drones can be deployed collectively, creating a powerful, coordinated response network across the region.

"By providing these tools to each individual county, we are enhancing our ability to protect and serve our communities in their most vulnerable moments," said LTADD Board Chair and Marion County Judge/Executive David Daugherty.

With the funds, LTADD also acquired a response vehicle and established a Community Support Team. This team includes a civil engineer, an engineer technician with expertise in environmental matters, a hazard mitigation specialist and a GIS specialist, all prepared to assist during natural disasters or other emergencies.

"Investing in the safety and resilience of our region reflects our commitment to this community and the people that call it home," said Lincoln National Bank President Doc Meredith. "These new additions will without a doubt strengthen area emergency response efforts and save lives."

This new fleet will supplement a previous donation made by LTADD in 2023. That year, LTADD received grant funding through the CARES Act to purchase seven aerial drones for Breckinridge, Grayson, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, and Washington counties. Hardin County received equipment to update its existing drone: additional batteries and a P1 camera.

"By working together and leveraging modern technology, we're building a stronger, safer future for the communities we serve," said LTADD Executive Director Daniel London. "I'm deeply grateful to everyone who played a role in securing the grant funding for these life-saving tools and to Lincoln National Bank for their generous donation, which made this critical investment in our community's safety possible."

###

#### **About The Lincoln Trail Area Development District:**

The Lincoln Trail Area Development District was created as a nonprofit corporation on March 23, 1968. The organization was designated as a public agency in 1972 through KRS 147A, with legislative action creating area development districts. LTADD includes the eight west-central Kentucky counties of Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington. To learn more, visit [ltadd.org](http://ltadd.org). The LTADD Board of Directors is composed of elected officials from the counties and communities within the District, as well as non-elected citizen members representing a cross-section of the region's social and economic institutions. To learn more, visit [ltadd.org](http://ltadd.org).