

**PORT OF SEATTLE**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Item No.** 9a

**Date of Meeting** February 14, 2013

**DATE:** February 13, 2013

**TO:** Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

**FROM:** Tom Barnard, Research and Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Challenges for Warehouse and Distribution Centers in the Kent/Auburn Valley

**BACKGROUND:**

The Port Commission will host a Policy Roundtable discussion on industrial business growth in the Kent-Auburn Valley on Thursday, February 14, 1 p.m. in the Auburn City Council Chambers.

The Policy Roundtable will touch on the goals and needs of warehouses/distribution centers and manufacturing in the Kent-Auburn Valley, including issues such as industrial land policy, transportation and other infrastructure needs and funding, incentives for business expansion, obstacles to growth, future business projections, competitiveness, and government policies that foster or discourage growth.

The topic of industrial growth is closely connected to the Port's Century Agenda vision of adding 100,000 Port-related jobs to the region in the next 25 years. The Commission is engaging regional leaders to support the Century Agenda through external efforts and partnerships under four Regional Initiatives. One of the Regional Initiatives is to "strengthen access to global markets and supply chains for Northwest businesses." Moving goods efficiently in and out of the Kent-Auburn Valley, accessing global markets and protecting and growing industry is important to the vision of 100,000 jobs and the ultimate success of the Century Agenda.

In addition to Commissioners Tom Albro, Bill Bryant, John Creighton and Rob Holland, participants in the roundtable will include:

- Pete Lewis, Mayor of Auburn
- Suzette Cooke, Mayor of Kent
- Dan O'Neal, Washington State Transportation Commission Chair

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T. Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

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- Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma Commission President
- Dave Freiboth, Executive Secretary of the M.L. King County Labor Council
- Tom McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Puget Sound (CAMPS)
- Steve Kidd, President of CIM-tech
- Bart Byrnestad, Panattoni Development Company