PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA
STAFF BRIEFING

Item No. 7b

Date of Meeting February 9, 2016

DATE: February 1, 2016

TO: Ted Fick, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Michael Ehl, Director, Aviation Operations

SUBJECT: South Satellite Narrow-body Aircraft Gating Briefing

SYNOPSIS

In anticipation of a significant aircraft gate capacity deficiency in coming years, Airport staff has identified a number of potential modifications, which could potentially serve to mitigate the gate shortage presently forecasted. Specific to this briefing is the identification of three narrow-body aircraft parking positions in the footprint of the existing South Satellite ramp area in the near-term and how it will benefit passengers and airlines; a review of construction alternatives explored to add the positions; and recommended next steps for delivering the project.

BACKGROUND

With the rapid growth in enplanements and operations at Sea-Tac Airport expected to continue, and with the upcoming construction activities that will take existing gates out of service during construction for several years, the Airport will experience a severe shortage of contact gates, i.e., gates with a passenger loading bridge connection between the aircraft and terminal building.

The Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) calculations forecast the need for 11-13 hardstand parking positions (narrow-body equivalents) by 2020. During SAMP's review of South Satellite gating, an opportunity was identified to provide additional narrow-body parking positions in advance of the construction of new SAMP facilities. The South Satellite Narrow-body (SSAT NB) Project was conceived to seize that opportunity and reduce the need for hardstand operations.

Staff has been working, and will continue to work, with airlines to identify projects or operational modifications that can mitigate or delay the need for remote hardstand enplaning and deplaning of passengers. At the December Airline Airport Affairs Committee (AAAC) meeting, all airlines in attendance expressed strong support for the SSAT NB Project. After the AAAC meeting, a Majority in Interest ballot was distributed, and on January 22, 2016 staff received notice of approval for this project.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- Computer slide presentation

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

- May 26, 2015 – 2016-2020 Aviation Business Plan Discussion
- April 28, 2015 – Sustainable Airport Master Plan Update (Focus on Hardstand operations challenge 2016-2024)
- January 27, 2015 – Sustainable Airport Master Plan Update
- October 7, 2014 – Sustainable Airport Master Plan Activity Forecast and Facilities Challenges Briefing