

SEATTLE PORT COMMISSION MOTION  
REGARDING TAXI SERVICES  
FROM SEATTLE-TACOMA AIRPORT

**Statement in Support of the Motion**

The Port of Seattle Commission (“Commission”) regards the provision of clean, safe and regular taxi service from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (“Airport”) as a matter of high importance to travelers using our airport facilities. This service is part of the basic traveler experience in using the Airport and may also be the traveler’s first introduction to the Puget Sound region.

As part of the efforts to continually improve taxi service in an environmentally friendly way, the Commission places a high value on specific measures to respond to the problem of “deadheading.” This term refers to the practice of taxis dropping off passengers at the Airport without picking up new passengers from the Airport, and/or taxis dropping off passengers at destination points in the City of Seattle or King County without returning with fares destined for the Airport. Deadheading occurs for a number of economic, regulatory and contractual reasons.

The recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new taxi service contract stipulates that those wishing to provide that service must describe in detail what approach the proposers will use to effectively reduce deadhead trips from the airport. The RFP specifically states that the goal to minimize deadhead trips will become part of the terms of the agreement to which the proposers must adhere or risk early termination of the agreement.

The Commission also recognizes that this issue should be addressed in part by regulatory agreements between the Port of Seattle, King County, and the City of Seattle. The Port of Seattle would like to go on record as encouraging such an agreement, and is willing to assist any dialogue that will move that process forward.

**Motion**

The Commission hereby:

1. Directs the Port’s Chief Executive Officer and the President of the Commission to arrange a meeting or meetings during the first quarter of 2010 with the political leadership and other appropriate officials of the City of Seattle and King County, to discuss the deadheading problem with the intent of finding solutions that address this issue.
2. Expects and directs that any contract awarded to a taxi service provider through the RFP process will require the selected provider and the Port to negotiate in good faith to accommodate and incorporate any such solutions within the terms of the agreement.
3. Directs Port staff to report back to the Commission during the course of 2010 on the status of discussions with the City of Seattle and King County regarding the deadheading problem.