

Terminal 91 Neighbors Advisory Committee Annual Report 2009

The Terminal 91 Neighbors' Advisory Committee (NAC) is pleased to provide the Port of Seattle Commission with this report of its activities for the year 2009.

Composition of NAC

NAC community representation is comprised of eight voting members, and two alternates. Representatives serving their communities for the 2009 term were:

Magnolia Community Club

Randell Thompsen (Pres., MCC)

Gene Hoglund

Fred Rapaport

Nancy Bainbridge Rogers

Steve Erickson (Alternate)

Kevin Patrick (Alternate)

Queen Anne Community Council

Ellen Monrad (Chair., QACC)

Don Harper

Kirk Robbins

Jim Smith

Ron Mason (Alternate)

Bruce Laing served as NAC Chair and Cecil Gray served as Interim Chair during 2009. Their services were provided through Executive Services Corps of Washington, a non-profit organization. Christa Dumpys, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Coordinator for the Queen Anne and Magnolia District, provided a valuable link between NAC and the City. Pam Xander, of Xander & Associates, provided environmental consulting services and prepared summaries of each NAC meeting. Marie Fritz is the primary Port representative and staff support for NAC. Additional Port staff that attended one or more meetings in 2009 are: Dan Burke, Rosie Courtney, Sally del Fierro, Joseph Gellings, Mark Griffin, Joe McWilliams and Paul Meyer. Marni Heffron, Heffron Transportation, briefed NAC on traffic studies prepared for the Port.

Meetings

NAC met monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. The principal activity was dialog among NAC members and between NAC and Port staff regarding Terminal 91 and the North Bay area. NAC also discussed issues geographically adjacent, or outside NAC's purview, that could affect Port operations within the NAC area. Staff participation included briefings, updates, and responses to NAC questions and concerns. Detailed summaries of each meeting are available.

General Value of NAC

The Magnolia Community Club and the Queen Anne Community Council affirm that NAC has a constructive and positive value to both the Port and neighboring communities. Participants all view the forum and its meetings to be informative, cooperative, and a desirable forum for discussion and consensus building. The underlying NAC agreement has proven effective for its purposes to date.

Ongoing Critical Issues for NAC

During 2009 the issues below were the most significant to NAC. Further details on several of these subjects are described in the next section "Of specific interest to the Commissioners".

1. **NAC Agreement.** Reaching an understanding, captured in writing, between the Port Commission and NAC as to what would constitute a written "trigger" for a potential amendment of the formal NAC agreement. This is an unresolved issue from 2008.
2. **Cruise Operations.**
3. **North Bay.**
 - a. Proposed North Bay development — its status, its design, and its impacts.
 - b. Environmental Impact Statement – status and review.
 - c. SEPA Planned Action Ordinance (PAO).
 - d. Potential vehicle access through the north end of North Bay.
 - e. Emergency access in the event the Magnolia Bridge is closed.
4. **Traffic.**
 - a. Traffic impacts from Cruise ship operations at Pier 91.
 - b. EIS Traffic Study.
 - c. Maintaining adequate access to and from Port facilities and nearby neighborhoods as City and State transportation projects are proposed and developed (Viaduct, Mercer, BAT lanes).

Of Specific interest to the Commissioners

Plans for development and operations at both Terminal 91 and North Bay raise the potential for conflicts with provisions of the Short Fill Redevelopment Agreement (Agreement). NAC believes, and both Port Commissioners and staff have mutually agreed, the following approach is desirable and will be the approach taken: Port staff will informally "scope" specific issues and use the scoping process as a basis for discussion with NAC. This informal dialogue will be completed prior to any formal triggering or proposals regarding the existing Agreement.

NAC Strongly urges the Commission to assert that proposed Viaduct replacement components intended to substitute for the existing "north portal" be satisfactory to serve the Port's clients (current and prospective future tenants and users of the Piers and North Bay) prior to the Port financially supporting a viaduct replacement. This issue should be addressed not in global objectives, but by negotiating very specific details related to Alaskan Way, West Mercer connection to Elliot, and Nickerson Street.

Traffic Congestion is Worsening Along The 15th Avenue W/Elliott Avenue W Corridor. Congestion along the 15th Avenue W. and Elliott Avenue W. corridor has been increased by the loss of lanes during rush hour by the City's implementation of the BAT lanes and by the traffic associated with the cruise ship industry relocation to Pier 91. The Port's plan to increase the number of cruises departing from Pier 91 will add more traffic to the corridor. We urge SDOT to continue to work on signal coordination along the 15th Ave W-Elliott Ave W corridor and improvements to West Mercer Place to help alleviate impediments to traffic flow. Congestion along this corridor impacts the Port of Seattle, West Queen Anne, Ballard, Magnolia and Interbay. More needs to be done to address this unsatisfactory traffic situation.

Other Matters

NAC appreciates the invitations it has received to Port sponsored events, such as the Fall "101" educational tours and the Cruise Terminal tour prior to the start of cruise season.

NAC extends an invitation to each and all commissioners to attend a NAC meeting at your convenience. Meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM at the Port's third floor east conference room.

The NAC thanks the Port Commissioners for the opportunity to provide this annual report on behalf of the Magnolia and Queen Anne communities. We will be happy respond to any questions or concerns you might have.