

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA
STAFF BRIEFING

Item No. 7a
Date of Meeting March 23, 2010

DATE: March 17, 2010

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Stan Shepherd, Manager Airport Noise Programs 
Diane Summerhays, Director of Community Development 

SUBJECT: Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study Update

SYNOPSIS:

At the beginning of the meeting, Port staff will provide the Commission with an update about the follow-up to the February 23 Commission Roundtable, the February 24 public workshop and other emerging Part 150 items of interest. The Commission will then take public comment on the Part 150 Study. Public comment taken at a Commission meeting, while always welcome, is not intended as a substitute for public participation in the series of public workshops for the Part 150 Study. The next public workshop will be held in May/June.

PART 150 UPDATE:

On February 23, airport staff briefed the Port Commission on the definition and content of Sea-Tac Airport's Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 150 Noise Study (Part 150), which was just getting underway.

The staff briefing focused on the key study elements, including the public participation plan and recommended approach to flight track change proposals that might arise during the study. This briefing was followed by a Commission-sponsored roundtable discussion about the Part 150 process with elected officials from cities in the vicinity of the airport. Attendees included Rose Clark, Deputy Mayor of Burien; City Manager Tony Piasecki sitting in for Mayor Bob Sheckler of Des Moines; Linda Kochmar, Mayor of Federal Way; George Hadley, Mayor of Normandy Park; Terry Anderson, Mayor of SeaTac; and Jim Haggerton, Mayor of Tukwila. These representatives provided the Commissioners with their thoughts on the process, expectations about how it will be managed and suggestions for study items and other related topics.

Feedback from the Commission Roundtable

COMMISSION AGENDA

T. Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

March 17, 2010

Page 2 of 2

All Part 150 technical suggestions and process recommendations that came up during the roundtable discussion are currently being reviewed for feasibility within the Part 150 regulation guidelines. A summary of what was heard at the roundtable discussion and the responses will be provided to the Commission on March 23 and to the Highline Forum on March 24.

First Public Workshop

The first Part 150 Study Public Workshop was held on February 24 in Des Moines at Mount Rainier High School. In attendance were roughly 150 participants, including elected officials from the airport communities and staff from the offices of county, state and federal representatives.

The major goals of the public workshop were to provide information about the process itself and especially to provide significant opportunity for those in attendance to have their concerns heard by the consultants and Port staff and officially recorded for inclusion into the study. This was accomplished by dividing the audience into 15 breakout discussion groups – each with roughly 10 participants. Every group was managed by a professional facilitator. The facilitators asked questions aimed at eliciting the issues of greatest concern and what steps the participants hope can be taken to reduce noise.

Evaluations were distributed to all attendees to gather feedback on ways to improve the workshops in the future. Additionally, all of the facilitators at the meeting carefully recorded everyone's comments. A preliminary review of the evaluations confirms that most of the comments received about the process were generally favorable, but did include a number of suggestions for improving the workshops such as starting the meeting later in the evening.

Based upon the facilitators' summary notes, which will be combined into one comprehensive report, all suggestions provided by the community will be evaluated for inclusion in the study. At the next public workshop in late spring/early summer, the consultants will report back to the attendees on what was heard on February 24 and what suggestions and recommendations can feasibly be included as part of the Part 150 Study and which ones cannot and why.

A preliminary summary of what was discussed in the workshops indicates that the areas of concern include the following highlights: use of the 3rd runway, sideline noise, inclusion of a hush house, expansion of the sound insulation program and use of DNL as the required noise metric.

The comprehensive public workshop report, assembled by the consultants, will be discussed in detail at several upcoming meetings including the Commission meeting on March 23, at the Highline Forum on March 24, and at the next public workshop scheduled for the late spring/early summer. The report will be made available on the dedicated Part 150 web site and summarized in Air Mail, the airport community newsletter.

COMMISSION AGENDA

T. Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

March 17, 2010

Page 2 of 2

The next Part 150 public workshop is scheduled for May/June, and wide public participation is encouraged since the recommendations developed by the Part 150 team will draw heavily on the concerns and suggestions elicited in the workshops. While public comment is being taken at the March 23 Commission meeting, and will be taken at future Commission meetings, it is not intended as a substitute for public participation in the Part 150 workshops.

OTHER DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BRIEFING:

February 24, 2010, Public Workshop Report.

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS:

February 23, 2010 – Briefing and Policy Roundtable with Elected Officials on the Part 150 Noise Study.

November 23, 2009 – Request to increase the authorized amount of the contract for Part 150 Noise Study consultant services up to \$2.5 million, representing an increase of \$1.5 million.

June 23, 2009 – Request to execute a Part 150 Noise Study contract for consultant services in the amount of \$500,000 - \$1,000,000.

