

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

**COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Item No.** 7a

**Date of Meeting** August. 9, 2011

**DATE:** August 3, 2011

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

**FROM:** Joe McWilliams, Managing Director, Real Estate Division

**SUBJECT:** Presentation by Waterfront Seattle on Central Waterfront planning

The City of Seattle currently is engaged in a broad-based effort to plan for development of new public spaces along the city's central waterfront. The Waterfront Seattle project, along with the Alaskan Way Viaduct and seawall replacement programs, will play a key role in establishing new connections between the city and the waterfront.

The city has engaged the Port of Seattle, along with numerous community, business and labor leaders in this design process that covers 26 city blocks from King Street to Broad Street. The core project includes:

- Removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct
- New public spaces along the waterfront and in Belltown
- A new Alaskan Way surface street between King and Pine Street serving all travel modes
- A city street connection between the waterfront and Belltown connecting Alaskan Way to Elliott and Western Avenues

Additional Waterfront Seattle projects, to be identified and developed through a Framework Plan, include:

- Waterfront public spaces, including redesign of Pier 62/63 (the "concert pier") and Waterfront Park
- Improved connections to the waterfront, including east-west pedestrian connections (green streets, hillclimb assists, pedestrian bridges)
- Redesign of additional street segments such as the north portion of Alaskan Way between Pine and Broad Street and Railroad Way

The nationally recognized design firm of *james corner field operations* is leading the design effort for the public space. The firm presented its first design concepts at a public meeting May 19, 2011. The framework plan and conceptual design efforts will be underway through 2012. Construction of public spaces, street and utilities could commence in 2016 following completion of the proposed bored tunnel. Work to identify sources of financing for the waterfront improvements is underway.

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As a major property owner and engine for economic activity, the Port has a significant interest in this planning process. The Port owns the Pier 66 cruise terminal, Bell Harbor International Conference Center, the short-stay marina as well as an uplands office building. Pier 69 is the Port's administrative headquarters and the home of Victoria Clipper providing daily connections to Victoria and other destinations.

Demolition of the Viaduct and construction of the deep-bore tunnel will create exciting new opportunities for connections between the city and the waterfront. At the same time, surface Alaskan Way will continue to be an important corridor for access to the Port's cruise and fishing businesses and connectivity between north and south industrial areas. The Commission has stated that planning for the waterfront's public spaces should reflect the corridor's economic and transportation importance to the city and the region.

### **OTHER DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BRIEFING:**

- Waterfront Seattle PowerPoint presentation