



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 6b

ACTION ITEM

Date of Meeting January 24, 2017

DATE: December 27, 2016

TO: Ted Fick, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Pearse Edwards, Government Relations Director
Ryan McFarland, Federal Government Relations Manager
Eric Schinfeld, Sr. Manager, Federal & International Government Relations

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission approval of the 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we look ahead to the 115th United States Congress and the inauguration of a new administration, Port of Seattle government relations staff has worked with Commissioners, executive team members, and internal subject-matter experts to develop an agenda to guide advocacy efforts on the Port's maritime, aviation, and international trade priorities. In implementing this agenda, we will leverage the Port's role as a strategic gateway to Asia and Alaska to maximize our political influence and achieve the Port's legislative priorities

DRAFT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Priority Agenda Items

Aviation

- **Sufficient Federal Funding:** Advocate for a long-term FAA Reauthorization bill that strengthens our region's airport system by allowing us to invest in today's needs and the future; specifically, support robust Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding necessary to enable Sea-Tac to provide service in a cost competitive manner.
- **Federal Funding Flexibility:** Provide leadership on the effort to modernize the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) user fee – raising the federal cap from \$4.50 and giving the Port of Seattle Commission the ability to both set their own levels based on locally determined needs and expand the uses of those dollars.
- **Efficient and Safe Airport Operations:** Work closely with the federal government and key members of Congress to alleviate passenger wait times by:
 - Supporting TSA efforts to authorize additional canine teams for both passenger and freight issues, and hire and train new Transportation Security Officers (TSOs), as well as working with them to implement innovative solutions to address surge capacity.

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- Supporting implementation of TSA efforts to expand PreCheck, as well as to identify additional solutions that maximize security and efficiency.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Increase FAA notification to the Port and the community related to flight path changes; ensure the federal government and key members of Congress are properly engaged related to flight corridor safety and the appropriate use of aviation funds for both airport and community noise mitigation investments.

Maritime

- **Harbor Maintenance Tax Reform:** Continue efforts to reform the HMT to ensure United States tax policy does not disadvantage United States ports and maritime cargo and to provide greater equity for HMT donor ports through expanded use of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues.
- **Donor Port and Rebate Funding:** Support a \$50 million appropriation in FY17 and FY18 spending bills for the “donor port” and rebate program authorized under Section 2106 of the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act to compensate for the current structure and impacts of the Harbor Maintenance Tax.
- **Fishing Fleet Modernization:** Advocate for reforms to NOAA’s Fisheries Finance Program that would remove prohibitions on loans and loan guarantees for the construction and reconstruction of fishing vessels and that would include safeguards that prevent overfishing, including limitations on the use of replaced vessels in international fisheries; support other policies and programs that improve access to financing in order to facilitate modernization of the North Pacific fleet.
- **Seattle Harbor Deepening:** Support an appropriation of \$500,000 for the final year of the feasibility study on deepening the federal channels serving T-18, T-30 and T-5; on completion of the study and Chief’s Report, advocate for authorization and funding for design and construction.
- **National Freight Policy and Funding:** Continue to engage with key partners at the national level to implement and fund a national multimodal freight strategy and related grant programs that recognize the significance of U.S. West Coast ports; support continued authorization and funding for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program; work with members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation and others to secure additional federal funding for key Port freight mobility priorities, including for Terminal 5 modernization.
- **Safe and Efficient Cargo Screening:** Work with the federal government and key members of Congress for expedited deployment by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) of radiation portal monitors capable of scanning containers in a more efficient manner for marine container terminals utilizing straddle carriers; secure adequate CBP staffing levels to ensure efficient movement of cargo through the Puget Sound gateway.
- **Puget Sound Restoration:** Support increased federal resources for Puget Sound restoration, including appropriations for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.

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Additional Priority Issues the Port of Seattle is Supporting, Engaging on or Monitoring:

Support or Engage

- **REAL ID:** Coordinate with federal agencies on advocacy efforts that support action to bring Washington state into compliance with new rules and regulations; align with Port efforts at the state level to ensure success of necessary action in Olympia.
- **Environmental and Clean Technology Funding and Regulation:** Find opportunities to partner with the federal government & key members of Congress on efforts to improve the environmental impact of the Port's maritime and aviation activities, including but not limited to funding for the port's emissions reduction efforts and water quality programs as well as expansion of the Port's aviation biofuels program.
- **Capital Projects Funding & Regulatory Approval:** Ensure that the federal government and key members of Congress are supportive of all aspects of in-progress (NorthStar, IAF, Baggage Optimization, South Satellite) and future (SAMP) capital projects to facilitate continued economic development in the Puget Sound region. Identify opportunities for continuous engagement at key decision points, as well as strong support for additional federal funding opportunities.
- **Trade Liberalization and Expansion Policy Advancement:** Engage with local, state and national partners to advocate for trade policies that open new markets and level playing fields for Washington employers and others who use the Port as their international gateway, while creating verifiable, measureable and enforceable standards to protect workers and the environment.
- **Diesel Emissions Reductions and DERA:** Support authorization and full funding for the EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program, which provides funding for emissions reduction programs.
- **Comprehensive Tax Reform:** Participate in relevant discussions with key members of Congress regarding overarching changes to current US tax code as it relates to solutions that would create revenue to fund infrastructure programs, reduce Port costs and address the competitive imbalances caused by the Harbor Maintenance Tax.
- **Economic & Workforce Development:** Work with the federal government and key members of Congress to identify and secure additional federal funding for key priorities within the Port's economic development, tourism development and workforce development programs; support steps to increase and facilitation tourism into the United States such as expansion of preclearance and Global Entry as well as strengthening the Visa Waiver Program.
- **Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Funding:** Support funding for continued federal operation and maintenance of the locks, as well as additional funding for priority repairs like the Stoney Gates valve replacement.

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Monitor

- **Goods Movement User Fees:** Support the concept of establishing a sustainable source for freight infrastructure and monitor individual user fee proposals to ensure that 1) fees should not hurt the competitiveness of the Northwest trade corridor relative to others in North America; 2) fees should be mode neutral; and 3) funds should spent on improvements that benefit users who pay the fees and not diverted to other uses.
- **FAA Air Traffic Control System Governance:** Monitor ongoing conversations related to the management and staffing of the U.S. air traffic control system to ensure increased predictability and efficiency.
- **Visa Reform:** Follow efforts to enable targeted professionals and individuals to visit and work in Washington state by reforming laws in a way that the needs of our economy and public safety.
- **Community Engagement:** Respond to federal and local stakeholders where appropriate to address issues of concern related to noise impacts, environmental impacts and workforce enforcement issues for the Port and its customers, vendors and contractors.
- **Local Government Partnerships:** Play a supportive role on key federal priorities of our local partners that have a Port nexus, such as increasing federal funding for homelessness & housing affordability, securing federal transportation investments, and policies that improve the environment and quality of life for our region’s residents.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST -

(1) None

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

January 10, 2017 – The Commission was briefed on the 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda.

January 10, 2017 – The Commission authorized staff to pursue the 2017 local and regional policy priorities.

December 13, 2016 – The Commission was briefed on 2017 local and regional policy priorities.

November 8, 2016 – The Commission authorized staff to pursue legislative priorities during the 2017 state legislative session.

October 25, 2016 – The Commission was briefed on 2017 state legislative priorities.