

AVIATION 2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac) is one of the nation's busiest and fastest-growing airports. As a key contributor to regional and statewide travel, commerce and job creation, we are focused on developing more modern, high-tech facilities that will speed travelers on their way; better connecting the Puget Sound region to the world; maximizing the environmental sustainability of our operations; and ensuring that our local communities and residents thrive. The federal government can help us achieve this vision by:

I. INVESTING IN OUR AIRPORT

As one of the fastest growing airports in the country, Sea-Tac is investing billions in airport renovations and new infrastructure. In particular, we seek to:

- Increase Self-Funding Flexibility:** We will be a national leader on the effort to modernize the Passenger Facility Charge user fee – raising the federal cap from \$4.50 while maintaining the Port Commission's ability to determine whether or not to change the user fee based on locally determined needs and competitive dynamics.
- Increase Federal Funding:** We support passage of an infrastructure investment package that includes funding for our nation's airport system.
- Build Federal Support:** We will work closely with federal agencies and members of Congress to ensure their support for in-progress and future capital projects, including the Sustainable Airport Master Plan near-term projects currently under environmental review.

SEA-TAC AT A GLANCE

By the Numbers

- The eighth busiest airport in North America
- 49.8 million annual passengers
- Over 1,200 takeoffs and landings on average per day
- Thirty-four airlines serve 91 non-stop domestic and 28 international destinations
- More than 432,000 metric tons of air cargo

Economic Impact

- Sea-Tac Airport is a world-class facility with a regional economic impact of more than \$16.3 billion
- Generates about 172,000 jobs
- More than \$2.8 billion in direct earnings
- Over \$565 million in state and local taxes

II. ACCOMMODATING PASSENGER GROWTH

With growing passenger demand at Sea-Tac, keeping our airport's security screening checkpoints as efficient as possible is essential to accommodating travelers in a safe and customer service-oriented manner. In particular, we seek to:

- Increase Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Screening Capacity:** We support TSA efforts to authorize additional passenger screening canine teams and hire new officers, as well as implement innovative solutions – like expansion of PreCheck and use of new technologies. In addition, we will fight to preserve TSA funding for Law Enforcement Officer reimbursement grants, while working with TSA to implement airport procurement and training of canines for local TSA use. Finally, we will support research on the impact of increased TSA officer compensation on retention and overall net costs.
- Increase Customs and Border Protection (CPB) Screening Capacity:** We support increased funding for CBP officers, specifically for airport positions. We will also coordinate with CBP leadership to ensure seamless operational readiness and activation planning for our new International Arrivals Facility (IAF) – including use of new technologies for international arrivals screening and maximizing the number of CBP officers available and trained for the IAF opening on August 1, 2020.
- Increase the Security of our Airport:** We will continue to engage with federal regulators and policy-makers on improved approaches to perimeter security and insider threat issues based on learnings from the August 10, 2018 unauthorized flight incident. We will also work to ensure that our nation's Air Traffic Control system continues to support a fully functioning statewide airport ecosystem, while encouraging the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide structure and systemic context to safety management.

III. CONNECTING US TO THE WORLD

Sea-Tac is truly an international gateway, and the success of our airport depends being able to present a welcoming face to the international visitors, immigrants and refugees who travel through or work at our facility. To continue in this capacity, we seek to:

- a. **Welcome International Travelers and Residents:** We will be a leading voice on comprehensive immigration policies that ensure the Port, its partner and its customers have the workforce to succeed in the global economy, and that immigrants and refugees are fully welcomed into the opportunities that our region's economy provides – including permanent legal protections for immigrant children currently eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and partnerships with key local stakeholders to implement programs that showcase the Port as a welcoming gateway for immigrants and refugees.
- b. **Lower Trade Barriers:** We support policies that level playing fields for international commerce while protecting workers and the environment. In addition, we believe that tariffs should be a measure of last resort and – when necessary – carefully and narrowly targeted to minimize impacts on American producers and consumers. We believe tariff collection revenues should be prioritized toward trade promotion and freight infrastructure, as well as programs that lessen retaliatory tariff losses by U.S. exporters.
- c. **Facilitate International Travel:** We support steps to increase and facilitate tourism into the United States, including funding for tourism promotion and additional preclearance agreements. In addition, we will continue to coordinate with federal agencies on implementation of REAL ID by the 2020 deadline.

IV. ADDRESSING COMMUNITY IMPACT

As our airport grows, we are focused on how that growth impacts our surrounding communities. Federal legislation and regulation can help us:

- a. **Implement Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF):** We will engage federal partners to help us take next steps toward widespread use of SAF at our airport. In particular, we will seek authority for airports to use airport revenue and federal grant funding to support the air quality and carbon reduction benefits of fuel switching, and to leverage the U.S. Department of Defense as a key partner in SAF research and implementation. We also support new and expanded federal funding for research on SAF, as well as for feedstock processing and fuel production facilities.
- b. **Address Airplane Noise and Air Quality:** We will engage appropriately in the federally funded study of the impact of overflight noise on human health that includes Seattle as one of the regions to be examined. We will advocate for a federal study on the relationship between aviation activity and ultrafine particulate emissions, as well as changes to FAA policies that restrict noise insulation investments to once per home so that broken or antiquated infrastructure can be replaced. In addition, we will also track any proposed changes or alternatives to the current 65 DNL standard for noise mitigation, as well as any other proposals or funding to help us reduce carbon emissions from Port operations, promote energy efficient operation of transportation infrastructure, improve water quality and allow innovative strategies to offset local air quality impacts.
- c. **Engage Communities on Flight Paths, Noise and Emissions:** We will pursue expedited hiring of the regional community engagement and noise ombudsman staff approved by Congress in the past year that will increase FAA direct engagement with local communities on flight path changes, noise issues and airplane environmental impacts.
- d. **Protect Passenger and Airport Worker Safety:** We will partner with federal agencies to improve human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts. In addition, we will engage with FAA leadership to speed the transition to non-fluorinated airfield fire-fighting foams. Finally, we will engage appropriately in the formation and work of the National In-Flight Sexual Misconduct Task Force.
- e. **Increase Economic & Workforce Development:** We will engage actively in supporting policies and programs that boost economic, workforce and tourism development, and augment existing Port efforts to support small and minority-owned businesses and local residents' quality of life.

For more information on the Port of Seattle's federal legislative agenda, contact:

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