



**COMMISSION  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 9a

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** February 11, 2020

**DATE:** January 23, 2020

**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

**FROM:** Dave Kaplan, Local Government Relations Manager, External Relations  
Nate Caminos, Government Relations Director, External Relations  
Keri Pravitz, East King County Community & Government Relations Manager

**SUBJECT:** Briefing on 2020 Local and Regional Policy Priorities

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Port of Seattle government relations staff worked with Commissioners, executive team members, internal subject matter experts, and external stakeholders to develop local and regional policy priorities to guide Port advocacy efforts.

Throughout 2019, staff worked to execute the 2019 regional and local policy priorities. While progress was made on many of the priorities, work will continue on many of the issues for the next several years. Some significant additional policy priorities have been added for 2020.

**2020 LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Port-wide/Regional Issues**

- **Climate and Energy:** Support legislative or regulatory policies by King County cities and King County that align with the Port's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, promote energy-efficient operation of transportation infrastructure, and encourage renewable energy generation. Facilitate collaboration with those jurisdictions on climate resiliency, including Seattle City Light, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).
- **Clean Fuels Standard and Sustainability:** Participate in local and regional partnerships to support policy at the regional, State and Federal level that relates to the Port's sustainability goals, including the Clean Fuels Standard, the use of Renewal Natural Gas (RNG), and scaling sustainable aviation fuels.
- **Industrial Lands:** Support local policies and plans that: are durable and resistant to piecemeal zoning and development changes; stimulate new compatible investment in industrial lands; continue to make public investments that support Manufacturing Industrial Centers; and that strengthen zoning to ensure that noncompatible land uses and activities are not located next to industrial lands. Advocate on the Seattle Industrial Lands Commission and with Rally the Valley for such policies and plans. Continue to advocate on land use issues facing essential public

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facilities, as defined by the Growth Management Act, with a specific focus on zoning issues that may affect efficient functioning of those facilities. This may include: Proposals that reflect the “Guiding Principles: Stewardship, Enhancement, and Protection of Maritime and Manufacturing Lands” document that was adopted by the Northwest Seaport Alliance on November 1, 2016; Proposals that reflect the Port of Seattle's commitment to environmental sustainability, including promoting Puget Sound ecosystem health and resource stewardship, and acknowledge the fact that manufacturing and industrial centers designated under the Growth Management Act are resource lands of statewide economic significance that are irreplaceable; Proposals that recognize the role industrial resource lands play in global port competitiveness and in supporting job retention in diverse economic sectors that provide ladders of opportunity to underserved groups; Any land use changes or comprehensive plan amendments that reduce the acreage within Manufacturing Industrial Centers, or lead to siting of incompatible uses adjacent to Manufacturing Industrial Centers; and any land use changes that contravene the Container Ports Element of the Growth Management Act, or diminish the ability of port districts to operate facilities consistent with the protections in the Growth Management Act.

- **Regional Mobility:** Actively partner with relevant public transportation agencies on critical infrastructure projects and policies throughout the Puget Sound region and state, with focus on access to port facilities, key freight corridors, regional mobility and funding strategies. Engage regional transit agencies on Sea-Tac Airport transit access, Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link extensions to protect industrial lands and freight mobility as well as growing regional capacity. Work with regional partners, stakeholders, and other public agencies to improve sustainable transportation options and mobility, while considering opportunities for mode shifts. Focus on the timely and on-budget delivery of priority projects including SR 509, improved transit and/or multimodal access to the airport, City of Kent S 228<sup>th</sup> St Overpass, “WaterfrontSeattle”/Alaskan Way, the Safe and Swift Corridor, and the Interbay corridor. Adjust and account for implications of passage of I-976 impacting critical regional and state transportation projects and transportation services.
- **Workforce Development:** Support regional workforce development and career connected learning initiatives that create a talent pipeline for key Port industries (aviation, maritime and construction). Use priority hire, apprenticeship utilization and related Port programs and policies to ensure that disadvantaged communities benefit when the Port is constructing or modernizing facilities. Broadly advance equity within Port workforce programs and regional workforce development initiatives.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Support legislative or regulatory policies by King County cities and King County that leverage the Port's efforts to promote economic diversity and healthy, livable communities.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Facilitate collaboration with King County cities and King County to promote an inclusive economy where opportunity and prosperity are widely shared regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status, support work with the Duwamish Valley

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community, support work with the South King County Fund, and invest in the Port's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion's Strategic Plan, which includes: 1) Transforming the Port of Seattle agency-wide by infusing equity principles and practices into all aspects of organizational structure, programs, policies, and processes; 2) Guiding the Port in achieving its mission to create jobs, and provide equitable and tangible benefits to impacted communities of color, and immigrant and refugee communities; and 3) Building a robust Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to lead and manage work across the Port that will result in success across King County. Bring together other local government partners to promote immigration policies that ensure the Port, our partners and our customers have the workforce to succeed, and that new residents and visitors feel fully welcomed. Support federal, state, and local efforts to ensure an accurate 2020 Census.

### **Maritime/Seattle**

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Project Implementation:** Continue to engage local jurisdictions and other partners in securing and expanding support for the Maritime and Economic Development projects contained in the Port's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Continue to educate and engage local elected officials and public agencies on the economic benefits of the new cruise berth and other waterfront capital projects. Work closely with the City of Seattle to ensure all necessary permitting, including environmental mitigation, and other administrative approvals for these projects.
- **Terminal 5 Modernization Project:** Continue work to secure the necessary City of Seattle permits for this project. Continue to educate and engage elected officials, public agencies and all relevant stakeholders on the environmental highlights and economic benefits of the project – including, but not limited to the Air Quality Management Program and T-5 Rail Quiet Zone. Explore opportunities to reduce cost drivers through leveraging support from other local jurisdictions and public agencies.
- **T46/Cruise Terminal:** Continue work with all partners to maintain and enhance a working, sustainable waterfront at T46 that provides for a fourth cruise berth to meet current and future demand.
- **Maritime Blue:** Support the region's maritime-based blue economy through increased collaboration between its diverse sectors to promote innovation and sustainable practices that support a competitive gateway with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.
- **Seattle Waterfront Clean Energy Strategic Plan:** Secure partnerships with other jurisdictions towards modernizing the electrical power distribution grid to provide clean energy to Seattle's working waterfront to increase regional competitiveness, create jobs, improve community health, and confront climate change, focusing initially on providing cold ironing capabilities to Pier 66.

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- **Duwamish Valley:** Begin implementation of Resolution 3767, the Duwamish Valley Benefits Commitment by launching the Port's Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program with community partners. The program achieves three shared goals: Community and Port Capacity Building for Ongoing Collaboration; Healthy Environment and Communities; and Economic Prosperity in Place. In 2020 the program will work with City of Seattle and King County to form an inter-governmental team to align and leverage efforts in the Duwamish Valley.
- **Natural Gas and Port Facilities:** Monitor and evaluate potential actions at King County and in King County cities that would impact diversified or transitional fuel source usage at Port facilities.
- **Sound Transit 3 West Seattle and Ballard Extensions:** Advocate for alignments that have minimal impacts on manufacturing and industrial center operations and Port/NWSA properties and operations. Develop a unified coalition of maritime and manufacturing/industrial stakeholders to promote the Port's preferred ST3 alternatives.
- **Magnolia Bridge/Interbay:** Continue to work with the City of Seattle on its effort to find transportation solutions related to the Ballard Bridge, the Magnolia Bridge and the Interbay Regional Transportation corridor. Continue to advocate for freight mobility through the corridor and transportation solutions to minimize or mitigate impacts to Port property and operations, including impacts to Terminal 91 and Fishermen's Terminal.
- **Safe and Swift:** Continue to coordinate with the City of Seattle to support the Safe and Swift Corridors MOU, which includes the Lander St Bridge, Heavy Haul network, and improvements to the corridors around the Key Arena redevelopment, a body of work that potentially includes up to \$15 million in additional Port investments beyond prior commitments. Encourage strong collaboration around Port/City transportation priorities, specifically protection of freight lands and corridors, completion of relevant projects, and enhancement of Port property (or mitigation where applicable).

#### Aviation/Airport Communities

- **Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects:** Continue to educate and engage elected officials, public agencies and other stakeholders on the environmental review and proposed execution of the SAMP Near-Term Projects to address regional demand. Promote the SAMP Near-Term Projects, together with other Port-wide initiatives, as key to supporting future growth and economic opportunity to the communities near the airport and across the region.
- **Highline Forum, Soundside Alliance, and Sea-Tac Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART):** Demonstrate Port leadership in South King County community issues through engagement with elected officials at the Highline Forum and in the Soundside Alliance. Help foster respectful, meaningful and collaborative opportunities for jurisdictional collaboration through the Sea-Tac Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART) to address airport community concerns in coordination with the FAA and the air carriers.

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- **South King County Fund:** Established by the Port Commission in 2018, the South King County Fund designates \$10M for near-airport communities to address airport noise, environmental health and sustainability. Informed by multicultural engagement and development of an equity index, the funding structure, criteria, and strategies for equitable access will be opened up for additional public input early in 2020, with an application launch date in June 2020 for the first round of funding, and a potential second round of funding in the fall 2020. The Port hopes to distribute up to \$2 million in funding in 2020.
- **Airport Community Ecology (ACE) Fund:** Authorized by the Port Commission in 2017, the \$1 million fund supports environmental projects and programs in the cities of SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines. The fund is bifurcated into a Small Matching Grants Program (providing grants of up to \$10K to community groups for environmental projects) and a contract with Forterra to establish Green City Partnerships in the three cities. For 2020, the goal is to expand the program to include all six Highline Forum cities, and to bolster it with additional dollars. Additionally, staff will work with the newly established OEDI to conduct an equity audit with the goal of removing barriers to access and increasing equitable distribution of funds. Finally, a Port policy priority is to change the required match within the ACE statute from 3:1 to 1:1.
- **Equitable Economic Development:** Encourage airport-area cities to implement workforce development, small business development, and diversity in contracting initiatives that support disadvantaged workers and Women Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE).
- **Natural Resources Stewardship:** Keep elected officials updated and informed regarding the Port's commitment to environmental stewardship, including the Airport Communities Ecology Fund, Flight Corridor Safety Program implementation, Salmon Safe certification, the land stewardship plan, water quality programs, and wildlife management programs such as honeybee boxes and raptor relocation.
- **City of SeaTac Interlocal Agreement:** Continue working collaboratively with the City of SeaTac, daily and through the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), to implement the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) concerning issues such as planning, land use and zoning, transportation, surface water management, critical environmental areas, issues related to North SeaTac Park, and public safety.

#### **Engagement and Partnership Priorities**

- **38 Cities:** Present to as many of the 38 cities outside of Seattle, sharing updated information regarding maritime and aviation investments and projects, as well as the Port's role as an economic engine for the region.
- **Mayors and Councilmember Tours:** Offer frequent opportunities for the Mayors and new Councilmembers in the 38 cities to connect with Commissioners, as well as tour and be update on aviation projects currently underway.

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- **Airport Communities:** Work in coordination with our environmental staff to keep the Airport Communities apprised of all updated information concerning the Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) to meet current and near-term demand for aviation services.
- **Eastside Communities:** Partner with Eastside Cities to address the region’s aviation and maritime needs.
- **Pioneer Square:** Continue to educate and work with the Pioneer Square neighborhood regarding the progress of T46/Cruise Terminal redevelopment, and their concerns.
- **Duwamish Valley:** Address long-standing issues related to equity for the Duwamish Valley community.
- **Beacon Hill:** Continue to partner with the Beacon Hill Community equitably, in an effort to address their concerns regarding aviation and maritime impacts.
- **Vashon Island:** Advance the installation of a portable noise monitor on Vashon Island.
- **Tribal Relations:** Build a robust relationship with area tribes, in an effort support Port growth and environmental goals related to maritime, aviation, and economic development.

#### Additional Priorities

- **State and Federal Legislative Agendas:** Work in coordination and enhance activities related to implementing the Port’s 2020 State and Federal legislative agendas, including: industrial lands preservation and enhancement; transportation projects and funding requests; coordination around seeking equity among transportation network providers; efforts to study future regional air capacity and air cargo; noise insulation grant funding for airport-area public schools; partnerships on use of sustainable aviation fuels; ongoing support for studying the relationship between aviation activity, ultrafine particulate emissions, and air quality generally; and coordination on anti-human trafficking efforts. Support changes to federal policies, regulations and programs to better align with local community priorities as identified by the Sea-Tac Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART).
- **Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC):** Advocate for regional ports’ perspectives and priorities with respect to preparing for the 2020 grant cycle, the implementation of the Amazing Place Regional Economic Strategy, the approval of VISION 2050 and support for Manufacturing & Industrial Centers, the development of the Regional Transportation Plan Update, and other key PSRC efforts in 2020. Monitor and provide support, as needed, to the Regional Aviation Baseline Study. Monitor the agencies engagement around regional efforts to expand passenger ferry service.
- **Maritime and Manufacturing Stewardship:** Support local land use and transportation policies, as well as mechanisms that maintain or enhance maritime and manufacturing lands, and the

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critical road and rail infrastructure required for freight mobility. Advocate strongly for legislative and regulatory decisions that preserve industrial lands, enhance freight mobility, allow for the anticipated development of marine cargo facilities and support the growth of related living wage jobs.

- **East King County:** Enhance community and government engagement in East King County to develop partnerships and collaborative strategies on regional policy issues and support for Port-wide initiatives.
- **Economic Development Grant Programs:** Work with the Economic Development Division to promote statewide economic development through partnerships with cities, ports and nonprofit agencies, including the Port’s Economic Development Partnership Grant and the Tourism Grant programs.
- **City of Seattle Beacon Hill:** Enhance engagement with the Beacon Hill Community on issues of concern regarding the effects of Port operations.
- **Orca Recovery:** In collaboration with the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), identify priority areas for the Port and the NWSA that support Orca recovery, such as efforts to reduce noise impacts on Southern Resident Orcas.
- **Seattle Central Waterfront Oversight Committee:** Staff will serve on the City’s Local Improvement District oversight committee. The committee will advise on central waterfront operations, maintenance, safety, cultural and recreational programming. It will also identify performance stands in coordination with Friends of the Waterfront and the City, as well as provide an annual report to the Mayor and Council.
- **Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness:** Recognizing the Port’s unique, critical infrastructure, continue to strengthen the Port’s partnerships with local and regional agencies for mutual aid, planning, coordination, exercises, and communication.
- **Taxes and Bonds:** Monitor proposed local measures which may increase taxes and fees to users of Port-owned facilities.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

- (1) Presentation slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

- January 22, 2019 – The Commission approved 2019 Local and Regional Policy Priorities.
- January 8, 2019 – The Commission was briefed on 2019 Local and Regional Policy Priorities.
- February 27, 2018 – The Commission approved 2018 Local and Regional Policy Priorities.
- February 13, 2018 – The Commission was briefed on 2018 Local and Regional Policy Priorities