



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11a

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** January 12, 2021

**DATE:** November 18, 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  
Lindsay Wolpa, Senior Manager, Waterfront Redevelopment Programs, External Relations

**SUBJECT: Briefing on 2021 Local, Regional and Community Engagement Policy Priorities and Partnerships**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

Throughout 2020, staff worked to execute the 2020 regional and local policy priorities. While progress was made on many of the priorities, COVID-19 response and impacts on current and future priorities will require pursuit of many of the issues for the next several years.

**2021 LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Top Priorities**

- COVID-19 Recovery
- Economic Recovery
- Equity and Inclusion
- Restart of Cruise Operations
- Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects
- Climate, Energy, and Sustainability
- Regional Mobility
- 38 Cities Outreach and Engagement

**Port-wide/Regional Issues**

- **COVID-19 Recovery:** Partner with local and regional agencies on initiatives that acknowledge the challenging budget realities facing all levels of government, while ensuring that economic recovery is prioritized and is undertaken in a manner that is equitable and inclusive.

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- **Economic Recovery:** Support legislative or regulatory policies by King County cities and King County that leverage the Port's efforts to promote economic recovery and healthy, livable communities. Continue to integrate values of equity and inclusion in economic recovery efforts. Investing in relief is critical to the Port being able to provide essential services and maintain our region's supply chain. Recovery efforts include initiatives to support local and small businesses, implement tourism or city specific promotion campaigns, stimulate local economic activity, advance real estate development and business attraction initiatives in addition to the Port's capital projects investments.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Collaborate with King County cities and King County to rebuild an inclusive economy where opportunity and prosperity are widely shared regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status. Advance the Duwamish Valley community partnership, support equitable economic development through the South King County Community Fund, and invest in the Port's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion's Strategic Plan. 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. Communicate process, findings and recommendations from the Port's Task Force on Policing and Civil Rights as part of the Port's effort to reinvent our industries and to recognize and address systemic racism.
- **Climate, Energy 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 Low Carbon Fuel Standard, the use of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and scaling sustainable aviation fuels. 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. 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.
- **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. Ensure the city of Seattle incorporates maritime and industrial needs in the West Seattle Bridge repair/replacement project appropriately. Engage regional transit agencies on SEA Airport transit access and extending Sound Transit West Seattle / Ballard Link while protecting industrial lands and freight mobility, as well as growing regional capacity. Work with regional partners, stakeholders, and other public agencies to improve funding for sustainable transportation options and mobility, while considering opportunities for mode shifts, improved biking and walking facilities, and last/first mile connections. Collaborate with foot ferry/water taxi operators to identify opportunities for synergies with Port assets. Focus on the timely and on-budget delivery of priority projects including Puget Sound Gateway/SR 509, improved transit and/or multimodal access to the airport, Kent S 228<sup>th</sup> St Overpass, "WaterfrontSeattle"/Alaskan

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Way, the Safe & Swift Corridors, and the Interbay corridor. Build support for findings from the SR518 corridor study (2019-20). Adjust and account for implications to transportation projects and services of revenue stream disruption from COVID impacts to commercial parking tax, gas tax, sales tax and street use, as well as last year's passage of I-976.

- **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 and Industrial Centers; and that strengthen zoning to ensure that noncompatible land uses and activities are not located next to industrial lands. Support local land use and transportation policies, as well as mechanisms that maintain or enhance maritime and manufacturing lands, and the 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.

- **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. In addition, facilitate collaboration with local jurisdictions on *climate* resiliency, including Seattle City Light, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

- **Tribal Relations:** Continue efforts to strengthen relationships with regional treaty tribes, to support shared environmental and economic development goals as well as Port growth. Seek opportunities to expand partnerships and chances for new collaborative efforts. Establish improved regularity with government-to-government meetings with regional treaty tribes and engagement.

- **Workforce Development:** Support regional workforce development and industry-connected experience that prepares students for a full range of entry points into the workforce, providing a talent pipeline for key Port-related industries (aviation, maritime, construction trades, and green jobs). 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, such as the Maritime Youth Collaborative. Work with partners to support airport employees and employers, continue work of the Opportunity Youth Initiative and invest in Duwamish River Green Jobs.

### Maritime/Seattle

- **Cruise 21:** Support the operations team in launching the 2021 cruise season with all new COVID-19 related protocols. Continue close coordination with public health agencies and other cruise ports to ensure best practices for safe and efficient operations. Work with all partners to educate on approach to health and safety measures. Encourage strong collaboration and

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partnership with cruise lines, terminal operators, labor, regulatory agencies, tourism leaders and elected officials to support the safe return of cruise operations to the Port's cruise terminals, and to aid in the economic recovery.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Project Implementation:** engage local jurisdictions and other partners in securing and expanding support for the Maritime and Economic Development projects and initiatives contained in the Port's five-year Capital Improvement Plan, as well as Terminal 46 (T46) in partnership with The Northwest Seaport Alliance and Pier 46 (the north end of T46). Continue to educate and engage local elected officials, public agencies and near-port communities on the economic benefits of waterfront capital projects while respecting community development values. 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 implement the necessary City of Seattle permits requirement and plans for arrival of the new cranes and opening of the north berth. Continue to educate and engage elected officials, public agencies and all relevant stakeholders on the environmental highlights and economic benefits of the project.
- **West Seattle High Bridge Safety Program:** Continue to work with the City of Seattle to find transportation solutions related to the closure of the West Seattle High Bridge, and its repair and any related activity around the Spokane Street swing bridge. Continue to advocate for the maritime and industrial sector working under and around the bridge and support transportation solutions to minimize or mitigate impacts to marine cargo terminals and other operations.
- **Safe & Swift:** Continue coordination with the City of Seattle supporting Safe & Swift Corridors; continuing Heavy Haul Network improvements, especially on East Marginal Way; and investing \$5 million in improvements around the Climate Pledge Arena redevelopment. Encourage strong collaboration for Port/City transportation priorities, specifically protection of freight lands and corridors, completion of relevant projects, and enhancement or mitigation of Port property (as applicable).
- **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, through comment on the Draft EIS and other opportunities. Participate with other partners in station area planning. Engage relevant City of Seattle departments throughout all stages of project development and implementation. Continue to work with unified coalition of maritime and manufacturing/industrial stakeholders to promote the Port's preferred ST3 alternatives.

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### Aviation/Airport Communities

- **Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects:** Inform and engage elected officials, public agencies and other stakeholders on the 2021 release of the draft federal and state environmental review documents for the proposed SAMP Near-Term Projects to address passenger and cargo demand, FAA standards, airfield efficiency, and the need for additional fuel storage. Promote the SAMP Near-Term Projects, together with other Port-wide initiatives, as key to meeting current needs and supporting future regional growth and economic opportunities to neighboring airport communities and across the region.
- **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). Advance partnership with Highline College's Small Business Development Center and Startzone to support small business recovery and resiliency.
- **Highline Forum, Soundside Alliance, and SEA 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 Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART) to address airport community concerns in coordination with the FAA and the air carriers.
- **Natural Resources Stewardship:** Keep elected officials updated and informed regarding the Port's commitment to environmental stewardship, including the South King County Fund Environment and Sustainability Grant Program, 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.
- **South King County Community Fund:** Established by the Port Commission in 2018, the South King County Community 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 supports three funding approaches: support for Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE); the Economic Recovery and Workforce Development Grant Program; and the Environment and Sustainability Grant Program. The Port hopes to distribute up to \$2.0 million in funding in 2021. Additionally, a Port policy priority is to change the required environmental grant match within the state statute from 3:1 to 2:1.

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### Engagement and Partnership Priorities

- **38 Cities:** Engage the “38 cities” in King County, sharing updated information regarding Port investments and projects, as well as the Port’s economic engine role for the region. Offer opportunities for the Mayors and new Councilmembers in the 38 cities to connect with Commissioners, as well as tour and update on aviation projects currently underway, among other areas of mutual interest. Focus areas include:

**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) Near-Term Projects environmental review to meet passenger and cargo demand, continued adherence to FAA standards, improve airfield efficiency, and fuel storage that will support the Port’s Sustainable Aviation Fuel Initiative. Continue noise program community engagement to facilitate implementation of residential and school sound insulation.

**Eastside Communities:** Partner with Eastside Cities to address the region’s aviation and maritime needs. 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.

**Vashon Island:** Advance the installation of a temporary portable noise monitor on Vashon Island.

- **Seattle:** Continue to work with the City of Seattle and key community stakeholders on issues impacting Port properties and operations including, but not limited to the following:

**Beacon Hill:** Continue to partner and engage with the Beacon Hill community equitably, to address issues of concern regarding the effects of Port operations.

**Duwamish Valley:** Address long-standing issues related to equity by maintaining the Port’s Duwamish Valley Benefits Commitment to the Port’s Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program with community partners. Continue to work with inter-governmental team to align and leverage efforts in the Duwamish Valley.

**Magnolia/Interbay/Ballard:** Continue to work with the City of Seattle on its effort to find transportation solutions related to the Ballard/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.

**Pioneer Square and International District:** Continue to educate and work with the Pioneer Square and International District neighborhoods regarding Port waterfront projects and activities.

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### Ongoing Local and Regional Priorities

The following items are issue areas of focus for the local team on an annual basis. While details within each of these topics may shift year to year, they consistently remain an important component of our annual workplan.

- **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. Support implementation of Tourism Recovery initiative in partnership with the Washington Tourism Alliance.
- **Orca Recovery:** In collaboration with The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), identify priority areas for the Port and NWSA that support Orca recovery, such as efforts to reduce noise impacts on Southern Resident Orcas.
- **Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC):** Advocate for regional ports' perspectives and priorities with respect to preparing for update of the Regional Transportation Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy, enhancing the Manufacturing and Industrial Centers, and other key PSRC efforts in 2021. Continue to monitor and provide support, as needed, to the Regional Aviation Baseline Study. Advocate for Port interests in the agency's regional passenger ferry service study.
- **Seattle Waterfront Clean Energy Strategic Plan:** In coordination with Maritime Environmental, 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 shore power capital improvement at Pier 66.
- **State and Federal Legislative Agendas:** Work in coordination and enhance activities related to implementing the Port's 2021 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, and federal policy change for insulating previously insulated properties; 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).

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- **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**

February 25, 2020 – The Commission approved the 2020 Local and Regional Policy Priorities

February 11, 2020 – The Commission was briefed on 2020 Local and Regional Priorities.

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 Priorities