



**COMMISSION  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11a

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** May 25, 2021

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

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

**FROM:** David McFadden, Managing Director – Economic Development Division

**SUBJECT: Equitable Recovery Panel Briefing**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Staff is organizing a panel presentation with leaders from the Washington Department of Commerce, King County, and the City of Seattle to highlight the resources they are investing to support equitable economic recovery. The panel will include:

- Pamela Banks, City of Seattle Director of Recovery and Equitable Investment and Interim Director of Office of Economic Development
- Chris Green, Assistant Director, WA Department of Commerce
- Ashton Allison, Director of Economic Development and Recovery, King County Executive's Office
- Kate Becker, Creative Economy Director, King County Executive's Office

Each panelist will highlight the resources their jurisdiction is dedicating to equitable recovery. The panel will complement the Port Commission's listening sessions and an earlier study session in February featuring Greater Seattle Partners (GSP), the Workforce Development Council, and the Washington Tourism Alliance.

As part of the briefing staff will provide updates on our listening sessions and progress made by GSP, the Tourism Alliance and the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County since our March study session

**BACKGROUND**

Since passage of the CARES and American Rescue Plan Acts, Washington State and local government jurisdictions have played a key role distributing and fortifying resources to support equitable recovery in King County. This briefing will highlight the recovery initiatives that the City of Seattle, King County and Washington State are advancing.

These jurisdictions received significant federal resources to support public health and economic recovery. The American Rescue Plan distributes \$7.1 billion to Washington state, including

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\$437 million for King County. The City of Seattle will receive \$239 million. These resources are on top of the CARES funding allocated in 2020.

Panelists will highlight how they are using federal, state, and local resources to support equitable recovery. Presentations will provide Port Commissioners with details surrounding workforce, economic, and community investments these partner jurisdictions are making across King County and in Seattle. The briefing comes at an opportune time when Port Commissioners are evaluating their own potential recovery investments and partnerships. There is an opportunity to leverage Port recovery investments strategically with these partners.

The briefing will include updates on other regional recovery plans and initiatives (Greater Seattle Partners, Workforce Development Council, and WA Tourism Alliance). Staff will strive to highlight common needs/strategies from our earlier briefing in February and our recent listening sessions to set the stage for this briefing with our government partners.

At this point the Port Commission office has also hosted eight listening sessions with key stakeholders. Four more sessions are planned (Elected officials, aviation, art, & workforce/trades). Staff will briefly update the Commission on the status of these listening session. Themes from these sessions so far include:

- Equitable Sustainable recovery needed
  - Low wage predominantly BIPOC communities impacted
  - Job losses, childcare disruption, mental health issues, etc. are acute
- Concerns about complexities surrounding Port contracting and grant processes
- Small business impacted (esp. BIPOC) – need funding and technical support to rebound
- Keep spending and investing. Capital programs, operations, and community investments matter
  - Strong support for tourism, economic and workforce development investments
- Port needs to be part of team addressing Seattle’s public safety issues
- Port is an excellent convener and advocate
  - Make sure to be inclusive and that all communities have spot and voice at Port tables

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

- (1) Presentation slides
- (2) Seattle Recovery slides
- (3) Department of Commerce recovery deck
- (4) King County recovery slides
- (5) Tourism Recovery initiatives update

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**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS** [\*\[For information and examples, follow this link.\]\*](#)

February 23, 2021 – Economic Recovery briefing with Greater Seattle Partners, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County and WA Tourism Alliance