

# AVIATION 2021 FEDERAL AGENDA

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is committed to creating a safe and healthy travel experience and to serving as a key contributor to regional and statewide economic recovery. In addition to our FlyHealthy@SEA efforts, 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

SEA is continuing to invest in our facilities – both to provide a safe, healthy travel experience as well as to prepare for the return of passengers as the pandemic ends. This year alone, SEA is investing billions in airport renovations and new infrastructure. In particular, we seek to:

- a. 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.
- b. Increase Federal Funding:** We support passage of additional federal relief for airports, airport concessionaires and other aviation stakeholders, as well as an infrastructure investment package that includes environmental sustainability enhancements.
- c. 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.

## II. ACCOMMODATING THE RETURN TO TRAVEL

As the pandemic subsides, SEA is working to accommodate the return of passengers in the most efficient and safe manner possible. In particular, we seek to:

- a. Institute New Travel Protocols:** We support comprehensive national protocols that protect the health of passengers and employees while simultaneously restoring traveler confidence in a return to air travel. In addition, we will look to play a supportive role in vaccine distribution.
- b. Partner with Federal Agencies:** We will work with U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) leadership on the safe and healthy return of air travel passenger levels, through proper staffing, necessary federal funding to supplement lost user fees, appropriate health protocols and the deployment of touchless technology solutions. In addition, we will fight to preserve TSA funding for Law Enforcement Officer reimbursement grants and reimbursements for checkpoint-area janitorial services.
- c. Increase the Efficiency and Safety of our Airport and Airspace:** We support airport industry recommendations to improve the integration, detection, identification, and mitigation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in and around airports. Similarly, we encourage a consistent and predictable federal approach to urban air mobility (UAM) deployment. Finally, we encourage expedited deployment of the FAA's Terminal Flight Data Manager (TFDM) airfield congestion management program at SEA in order to improve flow and efficiency on the airfield.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS AT SEA AIRPORT

COVID-19 Impacted had a major impact on travel through SEA Airport 2020 vs 2019 Traffic

### Total Passengers (-61%)

- 2020: 20,061,507
- 2019: 51,829,239

### Domestic Passengers (-60%)

- 2020: 18,690,119
- 2019: 46,101,340

### Int'l Passengers (-76%)

- 2020: 1,371,388
- 2019: 5,727,899

### Total Air Cargo (+.2%)

- 2020: 454,584
- 2019: 453,549



### III. CONNECTING US TO THE WORLD

SEA is an international gateway, and the success of our airport depends being able to reopen international travel in a safe, healthy manner while presenting a welcoming face to the international visitors, immigrants and refugees who travel through or work at our facility. To achieve these goals, 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.
- 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.
- c. Facilitate International Air Travel:** We support global agreements that set clear health and safety standards and protocols to facilitate the recovery of international travel and trade. In addition, we will coordinate with CBP leadership to ensure operational readiness and staffing for the opening of our new International Arrivals Facility.

### IV. ADDRESSING COMMUNITY IMPACT

As air travel rebounds, we are focused on how increased sustainability and addressing impacts on our surrounding communities. Federal legislation and regulation can help us:

- a. Fight Climate Change:** We support comprehensive proposals for sector-specific and economy-wide solutions to address the climate crisis with legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful toxic pollutants while providing flexibility to respond to changing market conditions and technological advances.
- b. 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 additional federal funding for SAF research and implementation, tax credits for blending of these fuels, and to leverage the U.S. Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Energy and Transportation as key partners.
- c. Address Airplane Noise and Air Quality:** We will advocate for the shared federal agenda developed by the airport and its six surrounding cities – including changes to federal funding, policies, regulations and programs such as studying aviation-related ultrafine particulates and allowing for secondary noise mitigation investments in certain previously insulated homes. We will work to better understand potential indoor air quality investment benefits near airports as well.
- d. Protect Passenger, Employee and Community 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.
- e. Increase Economic and 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. We support realigning federal funding, programs and policies to support rebuilding the U.S. small business sector, reviving entrepreneurship, and closing the racial wealth gap.
- f. Address Racial Equity:** We will advocate for comprehensive federal policing reforms that further the goals of the Port Commission's Task Force on Policing and Civil Rights. In addition, we support federal legislation on biometric technology that ensures protections for privacy, equity and civil liberties.

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

**Eric Schinfeld, Port of Seattle**  
Senior Manager Federal & Int'l Gov't Relations  
(206) 787-5031 | [Schinfeld.E@portseattle.org](mailto:Schinfeld.E@portseattle.org)

