



COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Item No. 11c

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting March 22, 2022

DATE: March 11, 2022

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Managing Director Maritime
Marie Ellingson, Cruise Operations & Business Development Manager

SUBJECT: Cruise Update 2022 Seattle Season

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Briefing to Commission on projected 2022 Cruise Season. We will be covering four main areas:

- Economic Outlook, Jobs, and Economic Equity
- Communications and Engagement
- Sustainability
- Safe Return

Status of 2022 Cruise Season

After an abbreviated but highly successful 2021 cruise season, cruise ships will be returning to our harbor in April of 2022 under an updated CDC COVID-19 Program for Cruise Ships. Our first revenue cruise is scheduled for April 11 at Pier 66 and we expect our last call on October 23. This season, we have 7 Cruise lines and 14 different homeport vessels leaving Seattle on an Alaska itinerary. Under the new voluntary CDC Program, these vessels will be sailing with at least 95 % of both passengers and crew fully vaccinated. This vaccinated population will be required to show proof of a negative COVID test upon arrival to the terminal. The small number of unvaccinated passengers will be tested at the terminal prior to boarding. All passengers will be tested again before arriving to Canada per Transport Canada's public health plan for cruise ships. The ships typically arrive to Victoria, B.C. the day before disembarking in Seattle.

Throughout the Covid Pandemic, the Port of Seattle has prioritized public health. Port agreements required under the CDC program reflect the high local standards and are consistent with local efforts. These agreements, which are signed by the port, cruise lines, and local health officials, provide clear protocols for responding if there are cases of Covid on a cruise vessel.

Cruise vessels have sailed safely for some time not only out of Seattle in 2021 but throughout the world. More than 30 countries have reopened to cruise tourism.

Engagement with Community and Stakeholders

Engagement with community, attractions, retailers, and the many maritime businesses that serve the cruise sector is particularly essential.

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As in 2021, we have developed a robust public communications plan, which includes a webinar, job fairs, and online resources to ensure that community, passengers, and crew know what to expect during the 2022 cruise season. Highlights of that work include:

- Updated the [webpage](#) for Business, Tourism and Community Partners; tentative ship schedules are posted here.
- Hosting a webinar with speakers from the cruise lines.
- Regular updates in Pier to Pier, a waterfront-focused email newsletter

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Presentation slides

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

June 22, 2021 – Cruise Season Update