



Port of Seattle Tax Levy

The Port of Seattle uses tax levy dollars to invest in projects that create economic, environmental and community vitality for the Puget Sound region. By leveraging the tax dollars entrusted to us, we create jobs and facilities that will benefit the citizens of Washington for years to come.

Seaport Development. The Port invests tax dollars into facilities and other infrastructure that promote economic growth across the state and foster the creation and retention of family wage jobs.

- Since 1994, the Port has invested approximately \$450 million in container terminal development. These facilities are directly responsible for 5,000 jobs. Port of Seattle's role as an international gateway is ultimately responsible for the creation of nearly 200,000 jobs on our state.
- We've invested \$35 million in cruise terminal improvements, creating a successful Seattle homeport for the Alaska cruise industry and spurring the creation of 2,000 jobs. Each cruise ship call generates \$1.4 million in business revenue – and 211 of those calls are scheduled to happen in 2008.
- \$75 million has gone into dock improvements that make the Port more competitive for grain and other cargo and keep the commercial fishing industry thriving in our region.
- Over the past decade, the Port invested \$25 million in tax funds to replace aging wooden docks at Fishermen's Terminal, the homeport of the North Pacific fishing fleet. We built modern concrete docks and upgraded utilities for the commercial fishermen who call FT home. Fishermen's Terminal and our other fishing facilities are directly responsible for nearly 6,000 jobs in Seattle.

Transportation. The Port invests tax dollars into freight mobility projects that move goods and people more efficiently throughout the region.

- Since 2000, we've invested approximately \$20 million in FAST Corridor projects, removing bottlenecks at railroad and highway crossings and other improvements in Seattle and south King County – improvements that relieve congestion on our roadways and increase the region's ability to move goods from port to consumer quickly.
- Levy dollars invested in freight mobility benefit the entire state – apples, onions, hay, wood and other goods from Eastern Washington need an efficient transportation system to make their way to markets abroad. Washington exports have driven economic growth in our state even as other states struggle with lagging economies.

A Cleaner Environment. The Port invests tax dollars in environmental projects, cleaning up contamination from generations past and restoring waterways and land for generations to come.

- Between 1991 and 2005, the Port has invested \$13 million in tax levy funds for environmental clean-up activities in Elliott Bay and the Duwamish River, including the Duwamish and Harbor Island Superfund sites and removal of a tank farm at Terminal 91. Since 1997 the Port has removed 450,000 tons of contaminated sediments from the East Waterway.
- Over the past decade, the Port has created 11 fish and wildlife habitat areas funded through the tax levy in Elliott Bay, the Central Waterfront, Harbor Island and the Duwamish River. As a part of environmental mitigation, the Port has developed 20 shoreline parks in the Seattle harbor area.
- Recently, the Port Commission instructed staff to research sending dredge sediment upland rather than disposing of it in the waters of Puget Sound. Costs of that disposal would be paid for with tax levy dollars.

Increased Community Vitality. The Port invests tax dollars into projects and programs that positively affect the quality of life in the Puget Sound region.

- The Port of Seattle supports nearly 200,000 jobs in the region and generates more than \$626 million in state and local taxes.
- The Port has committed \$22 million in tax levy funds for noise insulation improvements in 15 Highline School District schools close to Sea-Tac Airport, plus another \$15 million in tax levy funds for the district's Aviation High School.
- The Port invested \$120 million to revitalize the dormant central waterfront in Seattle, including development of a marina, international conference center, cruise terminal, a trade center, housing and a hotel.
- We've put \$1.5 million into the Port Jobs since 1994. This partnership of the Port, labor, the business community and education supports programs to increase access to living wage jobs. Since 2000, Airport Jobs has placed 8,500 workers in airport-related positions and each year places 120 trainees in apprenticeship programs.

For more information about how the Port of Seattle uses tax levy dollars, please call Henry Yates at (206) 669-2084 or visit the Port of Seattle website at www.portseattle.org/about/organization/2008budget.shtml.