HOW WE WORK

King County voters elect five Commissioners for four-year terms. The Commission sets Port policies through resolutions and directives. Port Commission meetings are open to the public and normally held at 12:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at either Pier 69 or Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Check the Port website for meeting locations.

The Commission appoints the Executive Director to oversee daily operations. Executive Director Stephen Metruck leads 1,900 employees who deliver safe, efficient, and high-quality services to the region while improving local economic opportunities and safeguarding our environment.

PORT OF SEATTLE

Founded in 1911 by a vote of the people as a special purpose government, the Port of Seattle's mission is to promote economic opportunities and quality of life in the region by advancing trade, travel, commerce, and job creation in an equitable, accountable, and environmentally responsible manner.

The Port owns and operates Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Fishermen’s Terminal — home of the North Pacific fishing fleet — and public marinas. The Port also owns two cruise ship terminals, a grain terminal, real estate assets, and marine cargo terminals through its partnership in the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

Port operations help support nearly 200,000 jobs and $7 billion in wages throughout the region. Over the next 17 years, the port’s Century Agenda seeks to create an additional 100,000 jobs through economic growth while becoming the nation's leading equitable, green, and energy-efficient port.

PORT 101: WHAT IS THE PORT OF SEATTLE?

As a gateway to over 130 global destinations, the Port is a leader in moving people and cargo across the country and around the world. We maximize the public assets in our portfolio with an eye toward the best return for the region and environmental sustainability. We invest in programs and upgrades that improve the operational efficiency and customer experience at our facilities.

The Port of Seattle is one of the Pacific Northwest’s leading economic engines, generating over 216,000 jobs and $894 million in state and local taxes. More than 19,000 employees from 360 different companies work at SEA Airport, making it among the largest job sites in King County.

PORT FUNDING

The Port of Seattle is primarily funded by fees, bond proceeds, and operating revenue. Funds from King County’s property tax levy makes up just 4.8 percent of Port funds. The airport is primarily self-funded and not supported by taxpayer dollars.

Capital projects make up the largest share of the Port’s expenditures. As a financially responsible institution, the Port was able to invest $561.2 million on capital development projects in 2019. Those investments are funded by bond proceeds, cash on hand, and other sources of revenue.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the second quarter of 2020, the Port actively managed 98 construction or information technology projects: 61 under construction or in implementation and 37 in design or planning.
- Just 1.2 percent of the $5.6 billion that King County collected in property taxes went to the Port in 2019.
- In 2020, the owner of a median-valued home paid $5,961 in total property tax with $72 going to the Port.

For more information, www.portseattle.org/2021Budget

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In 2020 the Port experienced declines in activity across all our lines of business due to COVID-19. The Port pivoted to a COVID-19 response and recovery strategy, which emphasized maintaining essential operations, helping stabilize businesses with relief, increasing our investments in community programs aimed towards those hardest hit by the pandemic, and continuing our significant investments in capital projects. In 2021 these investments will help lead the region’s recovery.
The Port partners with cities and organizations on economic development projects, environmental programs, career exploration programs, and support for tourism marketing and environmental programs. And we seek to expand equitable opportunities for all. Highlights include:

- Local tourism marketing support and economic development grant programs promote tourism across Washington, bringing revenue and jobs to all corners of the state. This year the Port pivoted efforts to support economic recovery in communities hit hard by the pandemic.
- Airport Communities Ecology Grants have provided almost $360,000 in matching grants to 42 local projects and an urban forestry project with cities closest to the airport
- South King County Fund develops equity-based partnerships and resources and support to historically underserved communities near SEA Airport
- Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program supports community-led engagement and offers paid environmental job training and promotes environmental equity by training more than 90 local youth and adults
- Sound insulation installed in 9,400 single family homes and six condominium complexes for our neighbors located closest to the airport since 1985. Highline Public Schools has received $60 million (out of a committed $100 million agreement) for sound insulation in noise-impacted school buildings. Highline Community College has received $8 million to insulate campus buildings for sound
- Sound insulation in noise-impacted schools.
- Urban Forest Enhancement Plans, kicked off in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed gardens near the airfield
- Providing $450,000 to non-profit Forterra to improve urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed
- Planting 6,000 native trees and shrubs since 2015 and enhancing two miles of salmon habitat
- Managing 177 acres of wetlands and buffers and three acres of protected habitat and pollinator gardens near the airfield
- Providing $450,000 to non-profit Forterra to improve urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed Urban Forest Enhancement Plans, kicked off community events to remove invasive species, and trained volunteers to serve as stewards of the parks.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE

This joint marine cargo operating partnership between the Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle has proved to be an economic and operational success with:

- 20 international container carriers with regular weekly service to key markets in Asia, Europe, Central and South America, and Oceania through The Northwest Seaport Alliance
- 18 liner services connecting with 63 international ports of call
- Four domestic cargo carriers providing regular sailings to Alaska and Hawaii

SUSTAINABILITY

The Port of Seattle has set a goal to be the greenest and most energy-efficient port in North America by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, meeting or exceeding stormwater requirements, and reducing air pollutants. Highlights include:

- Reducing emissions from oceangoing vessels, including cruise ships entering Puget Sound by more than 67 percent over the last 10 years through the use of shore power, exhaust scrubber technology, or low sulfur fuel
- Setting a goal to offer every flight at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport a fuel blend of at least 10 percent sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2028
- Installing clean energy solar panels at two Port facilities, replacing old equipment with electric and energy efficient options, and funding innovative projects to improve water quality and marine habitat in Elliott Bay
- Planting 6,000 native trees and shrubs since 2015 and enhancing two miles of salmon habitat
- Managing 177 acres of wetlands and buffers and three acres of protected habitat and pollinator gardens near the airfield
- Providing $450,000 to non-profit Forterra to improve urban forests, parks, and open spaces in SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines. The program has developed Urban Forest Enhancement Plans, kicked off community events to remove invasive species, and trained volunteers to serve as stewards of the parks.

WEB SITE: www.portseattle.org