

RISING

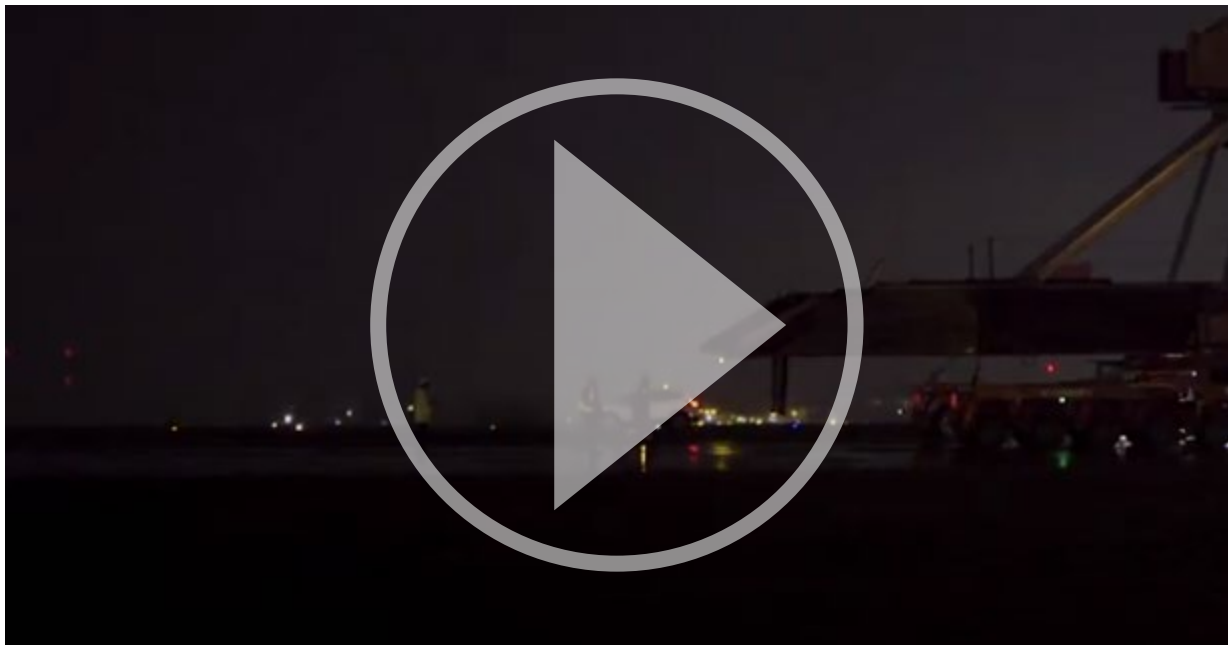
TOGETHER

Port 
of Seattle®

STATE OF THE PORT 2020



We're better together, even when we're apart.
Working together.
Solving together.
Rising together.



[Rising Together | State of the Port 2020 Video](#) ►

This year brought extraordinary challenges, with the global pandemic forcing massive shifts in our lives. We now expect different behavior from each other and new protocols from businesses to protect our health. We're living in a new normal.

And this community rose with an extraordinary response. The Port of Seattle and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) teams pivoted quickly to meet these challenges, reflected the creativity and compassion in our community, and are setting our sights on a brighter 2021.

We're leading an equitable recovery. Putting safety first, every time. Supporting our region's economy by keeping people working. Maintaining essential services at our gateways. Caring for our most vulnerable communities and businesses. And confronting systemic racism and inequity.



*Port of Seattle Commissioners (Left to Right):
Ryan Calkins, Peter Steinbrueck, Stephanie Bowman, Sam Cho, and Fred Felleman*



MISSION

The mission of the Port of Seattle 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. In a year that has brought devastating socioeconomic impacts to the most vulnerable in our region, this core mission is even more relevant than ever.

Equity

We all rise together when we care for our most vulnerable neighbors first. The Port's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is leading efforts to achieve equity and social justice in our region. And working hard to ensure that historically oppressed communities, particularly communities of color, have access to the resources they need to thrive. In 2020, the Port increased our economic development and environmental grant investment in South King County, directing resources where communities and industries have been hard hit by COVID-19.

Sustainability

Sustainability projects that restore habitat and reduce carbon were key investments in 2020, as they generate both jobs and economic activity, as well as long-lasting community benefits. Projects that deliver on this mission include restoring 14 acres of habitat and creating priority habitat for Chinook salmon at the Duwamish River People's Park and heating the SEA Airport terminal with Renewable Natural Gas.

Innovation

Maritime is one of Washington's biggest and oldest industries, and it's also becoming one of the most innovative due to the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator.

It's an intensive four-month program providing access to a global network of mentors and advisors alongside Washington's maritime industry and ocean economy leaders. In 2020, the program graduated 11 companies in the first cohort and launched the second cohort to help maritime businesses develop, grow, and secure funding in a sector where capital is often scarce.

RESOURCES



The Port Adopts Juneteenth as a Paid Holiday ►



Maritime Blue, Port Launch Second Wave of Maritime Innovation Accelerator ►



PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

SEA Airport

As COVID-19 entered the United States, the Port took immediate action to keep travelers and employees safe and help prevent the spread of the virus.

The Port and Airport administration pivoted quickly to prioritize remote working for all employees where possible. And implemented safety measures like completing a health questionnaire and temperature checks to protect the team members who needed to be onsite. We also created robust health and safety protocols, a process to report exposure, and new avenues for communicating frequent status updates and increased safety dialogue among the workforce.

The FlyHealthy@SEA program delivers on our promise that the safety, health, and well-being of travelers and employees are always first priority. The airport now looks different with face coverings required, escalated cleaning and disinfection protocols, guidance on physical distancing, and new touchless technologies like pre-booked parking. A MaskUp Cart and customer service team traveled through the terminal, providing masks and care kits to travelers. Other health and safety measures included two pilot programs for temperature checks for traveling passengers, and testing for COVID-19 testing onsite at SEA Airport.

Cruise Seattle

As a result of the public health emergency, no cruise ships set sail from Seattle in 2020.

The cruise industry supports 5,500 jobs and provides nearly \$900 million in economic benefit to the hospitality industry and local businesses. Before the pandemic, the Port forecast a record year for 2020 with 233 cruise vessels scheduled to sail from Seattle with an expected 1.3 million passengers. Safely resuming all working waterfront operations is key to our equitable recovery strategy. We are working with cruise lines and public health partners to prepare for the safe return of cruise.



[FlyHealthy@SEA COVID-19 Response Video ▶](#)

Commissioner Ryan Calkins helping SEA passengers mask up

SEA Airport Brand

As a top 10 North American airport, it's not enough to improve just airport facilities. In 2020, SEA Airport launched a brand identity to improve the customer experience by putting travelers at the center of our work.

At SEA, we promise to create through a passionate service culture, an elevated travel experience that's inspired by the original nature of the Pacific Northwest

This customer service milestone included new customer-centric materials, a dedicated customer care team, a traveler-facing newsletter, and better communication tools.



[SEA Airport Brand Launch Video ▶](#)



Recreational Moorage

As the pandemic prompted a “new normal,” the Port cared for the well-being of maritime customers by installing COVID-19 safety signage, amplifying customer communications, and providing safe customer service.

Commercial Fishing and Moorage

The Port of Seattle helped the commercial fishing industry continue providing seafood to the world by keeping facilities like Fishermen’s Terminal and Terminal 91 open. Fishers were able to pursue their livelihood and embark on their spring and summer commercial fishing seasons.



[Port of Seattle COVID-19 Response Video ▶](#)

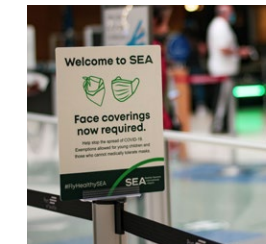
Container Traffic and Freight Mobility

At the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), the economic fallout from COVID-19 disrupted supply chains across the country and around the world. Between 2019 and 2020, total overall container volumes to NWSA decreased 16.8 percent.

Preparing for the future, the Lander Street bridge opened to improve freight mobility through the gateway and make the region more competitive in the global economy. And the launch of new intermodal rail service from Minot, North Dakota will bring more cargo to the gateway and support customers shipping U.S. agricultural exports. A \$10.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation supports on-terminal rail infrastructure improvements at Terminal 5 and the expansion of refrigerated container plug capacity.

As the West Seattle Bridge repair project proceeds, we appreciate that the City will continue to prioritize freight access to Terminal 5 via the lower swing bridge to support successful operations, while also mitigating traffic impacts through the West Marginal Way freight corridor.

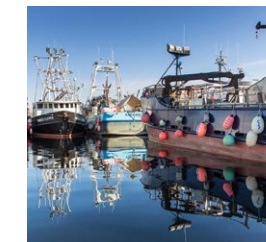
RESOURCES



[FlyHealthy@SEA ▶](#)



[Planning Is Essential to Safely Reopen Maritime ▶](#)



[Commercial Fishing Feeds the World during COVID-19 ▶](#)



[Updates on the Port's COVID-19 Response ▶](#)



WEATHERING THE STORM

As strategies to contain the virus were executed at the seaport and the airport, the economic impact on our community has been dramatic. At the height of the global pandemic, 66 percent of airport dining and retail tenants at SEA temporarily closed due to the decline in air travel. The Port and SEA Airport prioritized changes to soften the economic blow on partners, particularly small businesses, to keep them operating.

Historical Declines in Passenger Traffic

SEA Airport continued operations to meet the essential trade, travel, and economic needs of the Puget Sound region while experiencing the ramifications of the global pandemic. Passenger traffic dropped dramatically by almost 94 percent year over year, recording the lowest April passenger volumes for 53 years since 1967.

However, the decrease in passenger demand spurred innovation and agility in meeting an increased cargo demand. Essential workers pivoted to load scheduled passenger flights with cargo to keep international commerce moving and bring essential pandemic supplies into the country.

Tenant Relief

The Port of Seattle provided rent relief for qualifying business tenants and customers throughout its airport, maritime, and landside properties.

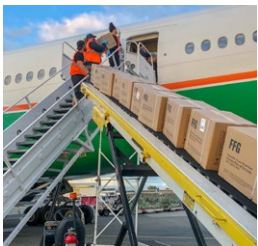
Maritime relief came in the form of deferred rent for businesses and deferred moorage fees.

Airport relief included deferring rent for tenants, deferring trip collection fees for ground transportation operators, extending leases for airport dining and retail tenants up to three years, suspending the Minimum Annual Guarantee through the end of 2020, and barring evictions of Port tenants.

Small Business Relief

The Port also took extra steps to help its small business partners understand and access resources distributed as part of the Federal CARES Act. The \$350 million in federal grants available for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are specifically tailored to help companies through these challenging times. The Port collaborated with Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) on webinars to educate local businesses on how to access loans that helped them survive and recover from this crisis.

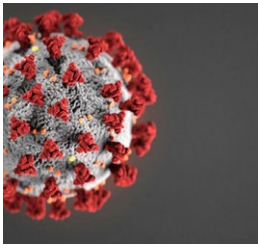
RESOURCES



Commercial Passenger Flights Carrying Cargo Keep the Economy Flying ►



State of SEA by the Numbers ►



COVID-19 Relief for Port Partners ►



Port Takes Steps to Ensure Small Business Partners Get Relief ►



MAINTAINING CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects, the infrastructure that supports the region’s economy, make up the largest share of the Port’s budget. After the pandemic hit, the Port re-committed to continuing investments in regional infrastructure to grow our transportation gateways, create jobs, and stimulate economic development. We’re keeping workers on the jobsite and investing in a better future to come.

The Port’s approved 2021 budget calls for sustained, and in some cases increased, investment in aviation, maritime industries, and critical trade and travel services to lead the recovery and prepare for the return of future growth. Plans include a slight increase in the Port’s five-year capital investment plan from \$3.3 billion to \$3.7 billion over 2021-2025.

SEA Airport projects

To prepare for the return of travel and the future needs of the region, we continue to modernize outdated terminal and lobby facilities.

International Arrivals Facility

The new facility will significantly enhance the international passenger experience and offer a modern welcome to our region. It includes a 450,000-square-foot grand hall for baggage claim and customs processing, an 85-foot-high aerial walkway, a new sterile corridor, and improvements that allow eight existing domestic gates to also serve international passengers during peak periods.

North Satellite Modernization

The modernization project has added eight new gates and a flagship Alaska Airlines lounge, expanded the footprint by 255,000 square feet, and will double dining and retail. The modernized building includes an upper-level mezzanine, natural light, and a new full-service dining venue with dramatic airfield views.

Central Terminal

Renovation continues, featuring a modern design that adds 10,000 square feet of seating and dining with extraordinary airfield views. Other improvements include family-friendly seating throughout, more charging stations, improved live performance space, and greater accessibility.

Baggage Handling System Optimization

This project will replace six individual baggage screening systems with a centralized system that integrates energy-saving technologies and speeds up baggage screening.

Meditation and Sensory Rooms

An expanded meditation room and new sensory room in the south Main Terminal will provide a quiet space for passengers to pray and meditate and accommodate travelers who need a peaceful environment because of sensory challenges.

C1 Building

This expansion will add four floors and redevelop the existing concourse level between Concourses C and D. That means more space for shops and restaurants, new airline lounges, and private spaces such as an Interfaith Prayer room.

South Satellite Renovation

Major renovations have addressed building systems, seismic upgrades, and structural needs. Other improvements include reconfiguring the Satellite Transit System; Mezzanine, Concourse, and Club levels for enhanced service; and updated dining and retail space for international passengers.

Terminal Improvements

Other terminal projects include: improvements to the ticketing, bag check, and security checkpoint areas in the main terminal; and new airline and airport-operated lounges.

Sound Insulation Program

The airport works closely with the FAA, airlines, and local communities to reduce the impact of aircraft noise. This program was accelerated in 2020 and provides sound insulation improvements in eligible condominium complexes and homes located within the Noise Remedy Boundary for SEA.



Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck visits the International Arrivals Facility construction site.



Maritime projects

To bring this vision to life, the Port almost tripled maritime capital project spending from \$49 million to \$139 million between 2019 and 2020.

COVID-19 Safety Measures at Cruise Terminals

The CDC-mandated COVID-19 protocols to the cruise terminal may include a passenger health screening system, a retrofit of check in counters and security podiums, ventilation upgrades, a system to guide passenger and vehicle flow and control points, plastic barricades, and canopies.

Clean Electric Shore Power at Pier 66

Shore power for the cruise ship berth at Pier 66 will reduce emissions in the harbor. Power will be brought to the terminal via an underwater cable from Terminal 46. Cruise partners have retrofitted some of their vessels with shore power capabilities to improve air quality by eliminating the need to run diesel generators while at berth.

Terminal 91 Berth Improvements

To help meet fishing fleet and commercial vessel demand, this project will redevelop berths 6 and 8 along the northeast side of Pier 90 at Terminal 91. Work includes demolition of the existing timber apron and seawall and removal and relocation of existing gangway, floats and boathouses, and small office structures.

Maritime Innovation Center

Promoting knowledge transfer, business incubation, and workforce development are the biggest needs to address in the maritime industry. Restoration of a historic building at Fishermen's Terminal will support the Port's maritime small business incubator program. This environmentally sustainable, 15,000 square-foot, industrial building will target the Living Building Challenge standard.

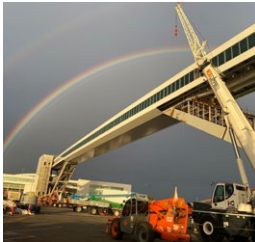
Habitat Restoration

Work on the Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat (formerly named Terminal 117) is the most significant habitat restoration project on the Duwamish River in the last decade. Improvements include restoring 14 acres of habitat and shoreline access and creating habitat for Chinook salmon and other species along 2,000 feet of the Duwamish River shoreline.

Terminal 91 Uplands, Phase 1

Developing 100,000 square feet of light industrial space and associated site infrastructure improvement could include paving, water, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, lighting, electrical power, natural gas, communications, and landscaping.

RESOURCES



SEA Capital Projects ►



International Arrivals Facility ►



Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat ►



Maritime Innovation Center ►



LEADING AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY

The COVID-19 global pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to the entire region, but the communities the farthest from opportunity experienced the most harm. In 2020, the Port focused investments to those underserved communities who have been most impacted by COVID-19.

Economic Development Grants

The pandemic has profoundly impacted small business and created funding gaps in smaller communities — policymakers and business leaders could pursue smaller economic development initiatives to accelerate job and revenue growth, but larger projects required investment beyond their budgets. To close that gap, the Port’s Economic Development Partnership Program successfully combined Port grant funds with city matching funds or in-kind contributions to award around \$3.3 million in annual grants to 31 participating cities in King County.

Employment

Port initiatives included funding a \$1.5 million Opportunity Youth Initiative to support nearly 200 summer jobs for underserved youth through four local non-profit organizations. The new South King County Fund will invest \$10 million dollars in funding in South King County, where residents have less access to parks and green space than in the rest of the County. Another tactic to continue \$1.5 billion in construction projects supports 1,300 full and part-time workers every month.

Rebuilding Tourism

COVID-19 has acutely damaged employment in Washington State’s travel sector, a vital segment of the region and the state’s economy and essential to SEA Airport as a primary gateway for visitors. To rebuild state tourism and generate consumer confidence around travel, the Port and its partners kicked off a tourism marketing program to rebuild travel volume to improve economic impact, build tax revenue, and support industry jobs.



Commissioner Stephanie Bowman addressing habitat restoration on the Duwamish River.

RESOURCES



Opportunity Youth Initiative Delivers Results in Underserved Communities ►



Tourism Development ►



Port Partners with King County Cities to Advance Economic Recovery ►



Port Announces New South King County Fund Environmental Grants Program ►

CONFRONTING SYSTEMIC RACISM AND INEQUITY

Disasters and crises expose, deepen, and exacerbate existing structural failures and social inequities. Time and time again, the same communities suffer the most — communities of color, women, immigrants, and people living on low incomes — and the pandemic is no different. People of color are experiencing the brunt of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic recession.

Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The Port of Seattle is the first port authority in the country to establish a dedicated Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Port’s vision is to become an organization that mirrors — throughout its breadth of operations and services and within its leadership hierarchy — the diversity of the community, instills principles of equity in its culture, and ensures a fair and intentional distribution of opportunities to expand economic development and quality of life for all. We’re committed to dismantling structural barriers so that historically oppressed communities, particularly communities of color, have access to the resources they need to thrive.

This drive to equity includes introspection and examination of how to catalyze organization-wide, systemic change in both external and internal operations.

Looking out

During the economic downturn, the Port kept its commitment to providing livable wage jobs and opportunities to King County residents. First, by passing a proclamation denouncing racism against the API community in association with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the launch of the county-wide Environmental Equity Map, the Port employs a data-driven approach to recognizing environmental inequities and considering those disparities as a factor in making decisions.

The Port also worked with Tabor 100 to establish the Economic Development Hub that gives small, minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses collaborative workspaces and resources to empower, strengthen, and support these businesses and their employees.

Looking in

In 2020, the Port has been looking inward at all Port operations and how we can create an equitable workplace that reflects the contributions of all employees. It’s why the Port made Juneteenth (June 19), known as Black Independence Day, a paid holiday for non-represented employees.

People of color are disproportionately impacted by police violence. The Port Commission established a Task Force on Port Policing and Civil Rights to assess the Port Police Department’s policies, protocols, and procedures with intentional emphasis on issues of racial equity and civil rights. We’re embracing a thorough review of Port Police practices, protocols and internal processes, and will act swiftly in identifying and acting upon areas for improvement.



Commissioner Sam Cho at the One America citizenship event at SEA Airport.

RESOURCES



Environmental Health Data Transforms Equity ►



Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion ►



Task Force on Port Policing and Civil Rights ►



Tabor 100 Resource Hub Opens Up Opportunity for Small Business ►



PRESERVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat

The Port broke ground on a new park that will include restored fish and wildlife habitat and public access to the Duwamish River in the South Park community. The former industrial property reflects the most significant habitat restoration on the Duwamish River in over 10 years.

Incredible park names reflect cultural history

Six parks were renamed by the community through a robust public engagement process and partnership with the Seattle Parks Foundation to ensure community involvement and transparency. The new park names reflect the cultural, historical, and environmental significance of each site.

Restoring salmon habitat

The Port of Seattle Commission approved an interlocal agreement and funding to restore a failing culvert and create additional salmon spawning habitat on Miller Creek in Des Moines. The project removes a large fish barrier on Miller Creek, will restore the Miller Creek watershed, and contribute to regional efforts to recover resident orcas.

Launching clean fuels at SEA

In 2020, SEA Airport became the first airport in the country to utilize RNG for heating and thereby hit its goal to reduce port-wide carbon emissions by 50 percent almost a decade early. This major milestone — targeted for 2030 — was achieved through a 10-year supply contract for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), a low-carbon natural gas alternative produced most often from landfill waste. RNG produces no new carbon emissions because it replaces fossil fuels and recycles existing carbon in the atmosphere. The agreement secures the purchase of enough fuel to heat 55 percent of the SEA terminal and to power 100 percent of the bus fleet.

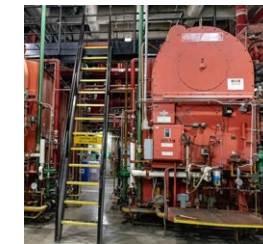
Quieting the sound

The Port partnered with the Port of Tacoma, the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), and other agencies, tribes, and organizations to develop a blueprint for a program to reduce noise impacts to orcas from large commercial vessels. The Quiet Sound Program is a collaborative initiative that will improve the reporting of whale sightings and get that information to the pilots of large vessels so they can take action to slow down or move away from orcas.

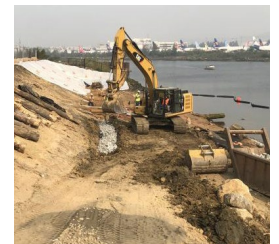


Commissioner Fred Felleman teaching at the Duwamish River Festival.

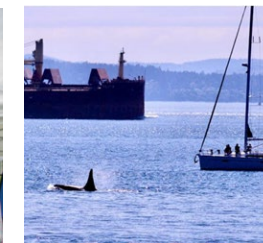
RESOURCES



Port to Halve Carbon Emissions with Renewable Fuel Contract ►



Terminal 117 Habitat Restoration and Shoreline Access Project ►



Espresso in the Morning, Orcas in the Evening ►



Port Finalizes \$800,000 in Funding for Miller Creek Restoration ►

Photo credit: © Fred Felleman



PREPARING FOR BETTER TIMES AHEAD

While the Port is rising to meet the challenges of the pandemic, we are also preparing for better days ahead to ensure that our region will remain competitive in the future.



[International Arrivals Facility Pedestrian Walkway Move and Lift Highlight Video ►](#)

SEA International Arrivals Facility

In 2020, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and partners reached a major milestone for the International Arrivals Facility (IAF). The existing 1970s-era facilities cannot accommodate Seattle's growing demand for international travel.

During the pandemic, construction safety continued on the most complex capital development program in the history of the 71-year-old airport. This facility will enhance the international passenger experience, advance the Puget Sound region as a leading tourism and business gateway, and serve the traveling public well into the future.



SEA Baggage System Optimization

In collaboration with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Port of Seattle is optimizing the outbound baggage handling system (BHS) at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. SEA is a top-ten U.S. airport serving 51.8 million passengers in 2019. International traffic was up 5.5 percent in 2019. The existing baggage system has reached capacity; the new system will replace the aging conveyor system now in place and allow the airport to meet current and future growth.

SEA Biometrics

The Port Commission adopted guiding principles for the public-facing use of biometric technology at Port facilities. And formed an External Advisory Group to provide guidance, feedback, and technical expertise to Port staff throughout their policymaking process.

Maritime Blue Accelerator

Maritime is one of Washington's biggest and oldest industries, and it's becoming one of the most innovative with the completion of the first cohort of the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator. The intensive, four-month program provides access to a global network of mentors and advisors to help maritime businesses develop, grow, and secure funding in a sector where capital is often scarce. The program is advancing key elements of the state's Strategy for a Blue Economy to chart a course to becoming a thriving, world-class, sustainable maritime industry by 2050.

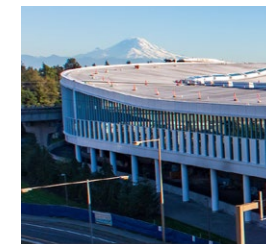
NWSA Terminal 5

In 2021, the Northwest Seaport Alliance will open the first phase of its modernized Terminal 5 in West Seattle. The new big-ship ready terminal will stand out as one of the premier international maritime shipping container terminals on the West Coast, anchoring maritime jobs and global shipping in our community for decades to come.



Executive Director Stephen P. Metruck speaking at the IAF topping off celebration.

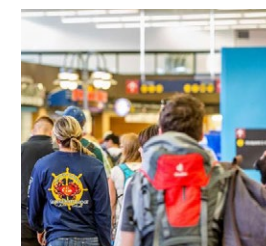
RESOURCES



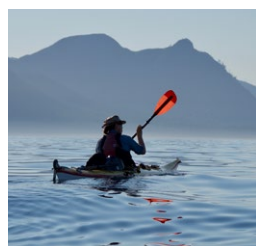
International Arrivals Facility ►



Baggage Handling System Optimization ►



Biometrics External Advisory Group ►



Second Wave of Maritime Innovation Accelerator ►



NAVIGATING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

This tumultuous year has tested our mettle and proven our agility and resilience. The Port and SEA Airport teams continues to work hard, move forward, and do essential work that fuels the region's economic engines.

We're committed to:

**Cooperating
with partners**

**Caring about
the welfare of
those furthest
from economic
opportunity**

**Coordinating
mission-critical
services to serve
commerce and
transportation**

**Collaborating with
governmental
and commercial
partners to serve
our constituents**

**Confronting and
remedying inequity
to create a better
community for all**



Port of Seattle Employees work hard to do the essential work to move the region forward

RISING UP TOGETHER

Thanks for your partnership, support, and hard work in 2020.



Port of Seattle
Commission

Stephanie Bowman
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