Commission Approves 2021 $3.7 Billion Capital Improvement Plan

Port of Seattle Commissioners have approved the 2021 budget and five-year, $3.7 billion capital improvement plan to support an equitable, rapid, and lasting recovery as we prepare for a transformative 2021.

With plans to spend $3.3 billion over five years on airport improvements, the 2021-2025 capital improvement plan invests in projects to preserve assets, improve customer service, expand economic activity, generate additional Port revenue, and reduce environmental impact. Major projects include the new IAF; the second phase of the North Satellite Modernization Project, Central Terminal Renovation, Main Terminal improvements in ticketing, bag check, and security checkpoint areas; a multi-story expansion with amenities and tenant space on the C concourse; and accelerated installation of noise insulation for residential neighbors.
INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS FACILITY

Grand Hall to Streamline Baggage and Customs Processing

When the International Arrivals Facility is complete in 2021, passengers from around the world will be welcomed to the Pacific Northwest with shorter waits at customs and baggage claims, more gates for international aircraft, and faster connections between flights. At the center of it all is the 450,000-square-foot Grand Hall, which quadruples the space of the current 1970s era Customs facility. Here passengers will retrieve their bags before going through Customs, the first U.S. airport to use the Bags First process. More baggage carousels and enhanced technology will safely speed travelers through processing, reduce connection times from 90 to 75 minutes, or get them to ground transportation quickly. For an insider update, read Fast Facts on the Grand Hall.

The roof design, tilted to replicate the wings of an aircraft as it comes in for a landing, provides uninterrupted lines of sight and allows maximum passenger flow. Public art from internationally-renowned artists Marela Zacarías and Ned Khan reflect our region’s natural surroundings. Zacarias’ five painted sculptures, located above the bag claims, were inspired by waterways and sunsets in the San Juan Islands. Khan’s work, along the transition from the mezzanine to the floor, represents the dynamic and ever-changing Pacific Northwest weather.

Looking Ahead: The multiweek installation of Zacarias’ first public art piece, Chalchiutlicue, is currently in progress with crews installing at night and preparing during the day.

NORTH SATELLITE

Bringing Warmth and Light Inside the North Satellite
The second phase of construction is well underway in the North Satellite, renovating and modernizing the interior of the existing 1970s structure to bring in light and warmth, especially during the shorter days of winter. The use of natural wood and open space, an iconic building design evoking movement of a meandering river, and public art celebrating Pacific Northwest ecology will brighten the space and passengers’ travel experience.

The first three passenger loading bridges (PLBs), used to connect passengers from gate to aircraft, were delivered at the end of November, with delivery of the remaining PLBs staggered over the next two months. Once installed, all 20 North Satellite gates will have new, state of the art PLBs that include enhanced safety features, durable finishes, and improved docking controls.

**Looking Ahead:** The full volume of the North Satellite’s central core will be revealed in Q1 2021. When completed and opened to passengers this summer, this 80-foot-tall dramatic open space will feature natural light, a flagship restaurant, nature-inspired art installations, and the airport’s first fully-integrated pet relief area.

**ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION**

**Cell Phone Lot Improvements Coming in 2021**
The South 170th Street Cell Phone Waiting Lot is a convenient waiting area for friends and families picking up loved ones at SEA Airport. Over the years, increased airport traffic has led to congestion in the 200-parking space lot and traffic jams on the nearby roadways. To improve the situation, critical roadway construction and traffic safety improvements will begin in 2021. Improvements include a new one-way entrance route from the North Airport Expressway on an old spur bridge over South 170th Street into the south end of the lot. This will reduce congestion at the South 170th intersection, allowing two new traffic signals including a free left turn outbound to Air Cargo Road. In addition, the cell phone lot layout will be reconfigured to support the new access routes, with new sidewalks and bus stops added to each roadway. Project completion is expected by Q3 2021.

CENTRAL TERMINAL

Infrastructure Upgrades Nearly Complete

Construction crews are nearing the finish line for infrastructure upgrades for the Central Terminal Infrastructure Upgrade Project, currently at 99 percent complete. Airport teams have completed HVAC commissioning, the process used to verify installation of all equipment and to test, adjust, and balance the system for passenger comfort and equipment performance. The two new glass elevators have been certified “ready for use” by Washington Department of Labor and Industries to give travelers access to the future mezzanine level buildouts consisting of Sally’s at the SEA and Brewtop Social. Once the infrastructure is complete, the

BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM

Phase 2 of Construction Now Underway

Sometimes you have to clear the way before you can move forward. With Phase 2 for the Baggage Optimization System underway, the team removed eight baggage screening machines (that scan every checked bag before it goes on an aircraft) from under Concourse C, invisible to passengers. Each device was divided into three pieces with the heaviest at about 9,000 lbs. Then they were hoisted individually through a hatch to the ramp level where they were hauled away by a semitruck on the airfield. With future technology improvements, passengers will be able to check in their bags
tenant construction will begin to build out the interior space which is expected to open later in 2021.

FLY HEALTHY

Healthy for the Holidays

With the projected increase in travel during the holiday season, SEA Airport is prepared to keep passengers and employees safe and healthy. We are increasing our public information campaign, cleaning frequently and thoroughly with medical-grade cleaning products, and requiring all airport users to comply with healthy travel measures. Expect to wear face coverings, follow physical distancing protocols, and stand behind plastic protective barriers and signage. SEA meets the measures outlined in Governor Jay Inslee’s restrictions to respond to the rapid spread of COVID-19.

PORTGEN WORKSHOP

PortGen Workshop Series

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation Northwest Small Business Transportation Resource Center, the Port held a multiweek workshop training program providing small, minority, and woman-owned architecture and engineering consultants and construction contractors with essential project and professional skills for effective management. Topics included business operations, estimating, bidding, human resources, safety, and marketing, and how to grow their business. Virtual trainings have become the norm, so stay tuned for future workshops and recordings of past workshops.

Thank You to Our Employees and Partners
Contractors, workers, laborers, and Port employees faced extraordinary challenges together this year. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and focus on caring for each other.

As we look to a brighter 2021, thank you for continuing to put safety first, supporting our region’s economy, maintaining essential services at our gateways, and ensuring that our region will remain competitive in the future.

**Bid Opportunities**

Find Port procurement and contract information at VendorConnect.

[Go to VendorConnect](#)

**Learn About Upcoming Projects**

[PortGen Workshops](#) give small, women- and minority-owned, and disadvantaged businesses interested in doing work at the airport an opportunity to hear from Port staff, learn about new projects, and network. Check out what’s coming up and what presentation you may have missed.

- **January 25, 2020, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** — [Small Works, Port Construction and Job Order Contract Virtual Meet and Greet](#)

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**Did you know?**

The new passenger loading bridge at Gate N7 in the North Satellite will be the first fixed glass sections ever installed at the airport. Passengers will have amazing views when arriving and departing.

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**CONTACT US**

Have a question or a suggestion?
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