

POLICY WORKING GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 5, 2026; 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

Meeting Objectives:

- Federal policy update and initial DC Fly-in planning
- StART Day on the Hill planning
- Understand final edits to the State Legislative Agenda

Meeting Summary:

- I. Welcome: Andrés Mantilla (Uncommon Bridges) opened the meeting. He acknowledged that this was a **special, out-of-cycle meeting** of the Policy Working Group, scheduled early in January due to time-sensitive legislative planning needs. Attendance was lighter than usual due to the holiday period. Ground rules and facilitation expectations were reviewed. Andrés also shared a staffing update from Uncommon Bridges, noting Cheryl Swab's transition to Deputy Chief of Staff for King County Executive Girmay Zahilay and that new team members may join future meetings.
- II. **State Day on the Hill – Olympia (February 3, 2026)**
 - Date & Time

Monday, February 3
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Participants

All **StART members** (city staff and community representatives)
Elected officials from StART cities are also encouraged to attend
 - Agenda & Structure

Morning arrival (7:30 a.m.) with coffee, light breakfast, and a brief lobbying orientation
Scheduled legislative meetings throughout the morning
Lunch convening with invited speakers (potentially including WSDOT Aviation leadership and the Governor's Office)
Optional attendance at committee hearings during unscheduled time
Meetings expected to conclude by 2:00 p.m.
 - Logistics
 - RSVP request forthcoming to confirm attendance and enable planning
 - Transportation will be provided (van or bus, depending on attendance)
 - Breakfast and lunch are covered
 - Lodging (the night before or after) is not covered and would be at the individual's expense.
 - Legislative Outreach
 - Meeting requests already submitted to legislators in airport-area districts (11th, 33rd, 34th, 37th)
 - Outreach was also initiated to the chairs of the Transportation and Environment committees.

- Legislative offices will receive the final attendee lists closer to the event to minimize the scheduling friction experienced last year.

III. Review Proposed State Policy Priorities, John Flanagan, Senior State Government Relations Manager, POS

- John reviewed proposed **format changes** to the State Legislative Agenda that clarify:
 - Items with **unanimous support** from StART members
 - Items where **consensus does not exist**, explicitly noting disagreement rather than excluding the issue entirely.
 - This approach responds to prior questions regarding StART's 100% consensus requirement and how to handle significant but divisive legislation.
- HB 5652 (Sen. Orwall)
 - **Agenda Format Clarification**
 - The updated language clarifies that, although the agenda reflects broad agreement, there is **no unanimous consensus** on all items.
 - Specifically, **SB 5652 (Sen. Orwall)** is noted as an area of disagreement.
 - This approach allows the agenda to move forward transparently despite differing views.
- **SB 5652 (Airport-Related Bill)**
 - The bill from the last session is still alive and is expected to be reheard in the Senate Environment Committee.
 - A significantly revised version is anticipated
 - Likely changes include:
 - Removal of SEPA restructuring elements
 - New focus on funding mechanisms tied to aviation-related tax revenue
 - Greater emphasis on noise mitigation and community impacts
 - Final bill language not yet available; group will review once released
- **Concerns Raised**
 - Some members expressed frustration that the current state agenda does not deliver **short-term relief** for impacted communities.
 - Noise insulation repair/replacement remains tied to federal standards and funding thresholds.
 - These concerns were acknowledged, and it was noted that cities could also use the day to advocate separately from the full StART group.

- **Proviso / Study Proposal Discussion**
 - Anthony Hemstad introduced draft proviso language proposing funding for a **city-led study** examining economic, health, and community impacts related to airport operations, similar in concept to the historic HOX study.
 - Estimated cost benchmark discussed (~\$1.5M), though acknowledged as likely aspirational.
 - Emphasis on city leadership, with consultation from UW and other experts.
 - John suggested simplifying the proviso structure, potentially routing funding through the Department of Commerce with broad scoping language and defined consultation partners.
 - Consensus that a detailed scope would ultimately be developed post-appropriation through agency processes.

“\$1.5 million to the Department of Commerce to oversee a study on the socioeconomic and health impacts on the communities adjacent to Sea-Tac Airport from ongoing airport expansion. The Department of Commerce can outsource this study to appropriate experts. If UW does not pursue this contract, information that UW has gathered should be used in some of the analysis as appropriate. The cities adjacent to Sea-Tac airport will put together the parameters of this study and work with Commerce in overseeing the study.”

- **Next Steps (State Agenda)**
 - Uncommon Bridges will circulate revised language to the Policy Working Group for **email-based feedback and approval**.
 - Edits will incorporate clarified consensus language and proviso refinements.

IV. Federal Update, Eric Schinfeld, POS

- FY26 began October 1, 2025; Congress operating under continuing resolutions
- Deadline for long-term funding agreement: **January 30**
- Expected outcomes:
 - FAA and DOT funding likely finalized
 - TSA and CBP likely remain at prior-year funding levels
 - No anticipated government shutdown
- **Key Federal Policy Win**
 - **Secondary Noise Insulation Repair & Replacement legislation was passed and signed into law.**
 - Allows the FAA to pilot funding at up to two airports
 - Legislative criteria effectively limit eligibility to **SEA**
 - Next step: FAA implementation (expected focus of April DC Fly-In advocacy)
- **Broader Federal Context**
 - Difficult fiscal environment; limited prospects for new revenue
 - Federal earmarks remain a priority for local projects
 - Election-year dynamics and pending Supreme Court tariff rulings may shape the broader policy landscape

V. Next Steps & Action Items

- Distribute the **RSVP invitation** for the February 3 Day on the Hill
- Circulate **draft proviso language** for Policy Working Group feedback
- Continue monitoring revised SB 5652 language upon release
- Prepare messaging and priorities for **April DC Fly-In**, particularly FAA implementation of secondary noise insulation authority

MEMBER	INTEREST REPRESENTED	PRESENT
ADOLFO BAILON	BURIEN	-
AMY ARRINGTON	NORMANDY PARK	✓
ANTHONY HEMSTAD	DES MOINES	✓
ARIF GHOUSE	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
BARTON DELACY	DES MOINES	✓
BILL VADINO	FEDERAL WAY	✓
BRANDON MILES	TUKWILA	-
JEFF HARBAUGH	BURIEN	✓
JOE DUSENBURY	DES MOINES	✓
KATHLEEN WILSON	TUKWILA	-
MIKE BRUGATO	FEDERAL WAY	✓
MOIRA BRADSHAW	NORMANDY PART	✓
REBECCA DEMING	DES MOINES	-
SKY LARON	FAA	✓
ROGER KADEG	SEATAC	-
NON-MEMBER		
LAURA SCHLADEZKY	OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ADAM SMITH	-
JOSIE MCKINLEY	OFFICE OF SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL	-
MARIELLE TRUMBAUER	OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN JAYAPAL	-
MEGAN UTEMEI	OFFICE OF SEN. PATTY MURRAY	-
RESOURCES		
	TITLE	
CLARE GALLAGHER	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
DAVE KAPLAN	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
ERIC SCHINFELD	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
JOHN FLANNAGAN	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
MARCO MILANESE	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
NATE CAMINOS	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
PARIS EDWARDS	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
TOM FAGERSTROM	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
SARAH COX	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
CONSULTANT		
ANDRES MANTILLA	UNCOMMON BRIDGES	✓

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