

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 8C

Meeting: 12/15/22

DATE: November 29, 2022

TO: Port Commission

FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Government Affairs Director
Project Manager: Sean Eagan, Government Affairs Director

SUBJECT: Briefing: 2023 State Government Affairs Agenda

A. BRIEFING:

This is intended to brief the Commission on potential items the Government Affairs Department proposes to proactively work on in the upcoming 2023 state legislative session.

B. BACKGROUND

The 2023 state legislative session is scheduled to begin January 9. This will be a 105 day legislative session, with lawmakers expected to adopt a biennial budget. The proposed government affairs agenda, which staff shared previously in draft form with the Commission as part of the August, September and October Government Affairs Updates, should be considered a starting point for our legislative activities. The Port will undoubtedly need to be prepared to respond to emerging opportunities and threats that may come its way. It is also worth noting that the agenda does not include NWSA priorities, which were shared with the Managing Members as their December 6 meeting.

C. SCOPE OF WORK [NOTE: The Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan Goal for which each item supports is listed in parentheses]

1. Capital budget funding

- The Port is seeking \$7 million in remedial action grant funding to fund two remediation projects under agreed orders initiated by the state. (EL-1)
- The Port is seeking \$2 million in capital budget funding to support the redevelopment of the Earley Business Center. (EV-3)
- The Port supports the Tacoma School District's capital budget request to build a new facility for a competency-based Maritime Skills Center in Tacoma. (EV-4)

2. Transportation funding

The Port encourages the state to “finish what we started” by completing critical freight projects included in the Connecting Washington and Move Ahead WA transportation packages. Specifically:

- The on-time completion State Route 167; and (TA-1)
- The appropriation in the 2023/25 biennium of the \$35 million in state funding included in Move Ahead WA for the City of Fife's Interstate 5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange project. (TA-1)

The Port also supports the City of Tacoma in their efforts to complete the replacement of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge. (TA-2)

3. Operating budget funding

- The Port supports continued funding of the Quiet Sound program managed by Maritime Blue to reduce the noise impacts of vessels on Southern Resident Orcas. (EL-4)
- The Port supports Investments to facilitate workforce development and business growth in Pierce County, including K-12 Skills Center funding and technical college workforce funding. (EV-4)

4. Small works roster

The Port supports aligning the small works roster limit for ports with all other governments In Washington. (OS-1)

D. NEXT STEPS

As always, staff will look for opportunities to include commissioners in testimony, meeting with lawmakers and other events during session. With that said, some items that staff are already aware of include:

- December 12 Tacoma Pierce County Chamber Elected Officials Holiday Reception
- January 9 First day of legislative session
- Week of January 9 Opportunity to testify on Governor's proposed budget before fiscal committees
- February 2 Ports Day in Olympia
- February 7 Chamber Day in Olympia