

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 12/20/2018

DATE: December 5, 2018

TO: Port Commission

FROM: John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer
Sponsor: Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager
Presenter: Peter Stackpole, Pierce Transit

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER-ONLY FERRY SERVICE

A. BRIEFING

The purpose of this briefing by Pierce Transit staff is to share the results of a feasibility study for high-speed passenger-only ferry service connecting Pierce Transit's benefit area with the Seattle Central Business District. The Port of Tacoma partnered on the \$103,500 study in June 2018 for \$30,000. No action is requested for this agenda item.

B. BACKGROUND

Pierce Transit partnered with the City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma to study the feasibility of a high-speed passenger-only ferry service connecting Pierce Transit's benefit area with the Seattle Central Business District. The goal of the study was to determine whether high speed ferry service would result in a substantive and practical enhancement to the existing and planned modes of transportation for this market.

A hired consultant reviewed the current state of marine passenger transportation technology, identified the infrastructure requirements to support ferry operations, conducted a benefit-cost analysis based on existing and future conditions, performed ridership forecasting, and evaluated potential revenue/expenditure streams.

Pierce Transit applied for funds through the Port's 2018 Local Economic Development Investment Fund application process.