



November 18, 2022

Sent via email

Joshua Garcia
Superintendent
Tacoma Public Schools
601 South 8th Street
Tacoma, WA 98045

Re: Maritime & Logistics Skills Center Partnership

Dear Superintendent Garcia:

Thank you for our recent conversations regarding Tacoma Public Schools' interest in partnering with the Port of Tacoma to build a skilled workforce center focused on existing and emerging maritime & logistics industry needs. The Port appreciates your offer to invest substantial capital for construction of a Maritime & Logistics Skills Center. We recognize your expertise in career and technical education and commitment to running and staffing programs designed to meet priority maritime / logistics workforce needs within Pierce County and potentially other adjacent counties.

The maritime and logistics supply chain is the backbone of global trade and the global economy. The jobs and livelihoods of billions of people worldwide depend on ships and shipping, much of it through our region. The need to prepare a future maritime workforce and sustain our state's competitive edge, requires an integrated approach of high school and college-level curriculum that results in the attainment of relevant industry-recognized credentials, certifications and training. With that in mind, the Port's understanding of the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center's mission is to offer opportunities for students throughout our region beyond the City of Tacoma limits to receive skills and training that will prepare them for priority industry employment needs, as identified by the Port and industry partners.

Based on our conversations, below is my understanding of the Port and Tacoma Public Schools anticipated roles and responsibilities for development of the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center:

PORT OF TACOMA

As an in-kind contribution to the project, the Port will identify real estate ~~(approximately 1 to 3 acres)~~, within its current or future portfolio, for the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center to be located. If an adequate site is identified, the port is prepared to consider the opportunity to ~~and~~ negotiate a long-term lease with Tacoma Public Schools for its operation. This site may be in coordination with a Port construction project or a separate site. However, our hope is to further maximize synergy between our two organizations by locating the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center at the new Port Maritime Center (currently in the early project planning stage).

TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Whether built in coordination with future Port construction or as a separate project, Tacoma Public Schools will dedicate a minimum of \$10 million to the construction of the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center and also provide construction management services for the project.

AS PARTNERS

The Port and Tacoma Public Schools will work together to coordinate state and federal legislative asks, using the quest to build a workforce pipeline to advocate for a wide range of interests including commerce, transportation, K-12, etc. We will also work together to coordinate philanthropic asks for the project.

The commitments above, together with the terms and conditions of any real property lease, are expected to be memorialized in a future Interlocal Agreement ("ILA") under RCW 39.34 between the Port and Tacoma Public Schools, which will be subject to approval by the Port Commission and the Board of Directors for Tacoma Public Schools.

Preparing future generations with the skills and training needed to fill the numerous and diverse jobs that exist within the port and maritime industry is a key priority in the Port's Strategic Plan and our recently adopted Workforce Development Strategic Plan. The Port is committed to working with Tacoma Public Schools to make the Maritime & Logistics Skills Center project a reality.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Port of Tacoma

ACCEPTED this _____ day of _____ 2022

BY: _____
Joshua J. Garcia, Superintendent
Tacoma Public Schools