

Resolution 2019-15-PT



A Resolution of the Port of Tacoma Commission

WHEREAS, a healthy transportation system is a critical foundation of our state and local economies and our quality of life, as well as our global position as the nation's most trade-dependent state; and

WHEREAS, critical Washington state economic corridors like State Route 167 remain incomplete; and

WHEREAS, a completed State Route 167 would provide a direct link to the Kent and Puyallup River valleys— home to the second largest distribution center complex on the West Coast and the destination or origination of 44 percent of truck trips by Port of Tacoma customers; and

WHEREAS, travel time between Puyallup and Tacoma would improve by an estimated 15 percent, saving an estimated 13,915 person-hours of travel time per year, with the completion of State Route 167; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of saved travel time are estimated to be \$93 million per year; and

WHEREAS, a completed State Route 167 would provide the “last mile” connection for agriculture products grown in eastern Washington to get to the docks at the Port of Tacoma for export; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) estimates a completed State Route 167 could fuel job growth to the tune of \$10.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, the current gap in State Route 167 consists of surface streets with multiple turns, intersections and driveways and that these features result in accident ratios that are 20 to 70 percent higher than statewide averages for similar highways; and

WHEREAS, a completed State Route 167 will improve air quality by reducing congestion, improve truck mobility, and smooth traffic flow levels, and

WHEREAS, the proposed project mitigation for State Route 167 links multiple fragmented habitats together, providing over 1,000 acres of contiguous habitat and resulting in a cumulative 70 percent increase in ecological services in the area, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the state legislature approved the *Connecting Washington* statewide transportation packaged, which authorized \$1.875 billion in funding for the Puget Sound Gateway project, which includes the completion of State Route 167 in Pierce County and State Route 509 in King County; and

WHEREAS, *Connecting Washington* assumed local contributions of \$130 million; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2018, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WSDOT and other local government project stakeholders, summarizing the timing of their planned, future commitments to contribute to the State Route 167 project, including a potential \$30 million contribution from the Port of Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2018, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved an interlocal agreement with WSDOT committing to \$3 million in funding for Phase 1A of the State Route 167 project;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved:

THAT the Port of Tacoma commits to providing an additional investment of \$27 million to the State Route 167 completion project; and

THAT this investment may take the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions; and

THAT the specific details on the manner of contribution, the timing and conditions associated with the commitment be spelled out in subsequent interlocal agreements between WSDOT and the Port of Tacoma; and

THAT these future interlocal agreements will be subject to Port of Tacoma Commission approval.

ADOPTED by a majority of the members of the Port of Tacoma Commission at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of December, 2019, a majority of the members being present and voting on this resolution and signed by its President and attested by its Secretary under the official seal of said Commission in authentication of its passage this 19th day of December, 2019.

Clare Petrich, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

ATTEST:

John A. McCarthy, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission