



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager  
**FROM:** Ricardo Noguera, Director, Community and Economic Development Department  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Northwest Seaport Alliance and Port of Tacoma Update  
**DATE:** June 27, 2017

**SUMMARY:**

John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and Port of Tacoma, will provide an informational briefing to the committee about the Alliance and its impact to the region. The NWSA brought together the Puget Sound's neighboring ports to coordinate their import and export functions and provide a foundation for the nation's foreign ocean-borne trade. The NWSA was the first of its kind in North America, when it formed in 2015 and is the fourth-largest trade gateway in America, behind the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and the Port of New York/New Jersey.

**BACKGROUND:**

The NWSA is a port development authority governed by the ports as equal members, with each port acting through its elected commissioners. The boundaries of the Alliance include King and Pierce counties. The NWSA offers shorter U.S. - to Asia transit, as well as deep-water connection to Alaska. The NWSA continues to be an economic driver for our region with an estimated 48,000 jobs supported by cargo transports and \$4.3 billion in statewide business revenue generated.

Since our last report, the NWSA has made some significant improvements and seen unprecedented growth. In 2016, the NWSA launched a mobile apps to speed up cargo flow, reducing idling-related air emission and saving fuel. In addition, they received the Washington Public Ports Association Port of the Year award, welcomed the largest single-deck log ship. In 2017, the NWSA handled the single-largest auto discharge in the Port of Tacoma history, with more than 4,800 vehicles in comparison to the average of 1,825 from the previous year.

**ISSUE:**

Key questions that will be addressed in the presentation are:

- What is the current financial status of shipping industry
- What is the impact of larger shipping vessels
- What are the biggest threats to U.S. Ports
- What are the economic impacts of marine cargo at the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle
- What are the planned development projects in the Tideflats

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.