PSRC Freight Work Program

Freight Advisory Committee
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How does an average person recognize freight?
However, freight is much MORE and integral to our daily lives..
Why does the Freight Transportation System Matter?

• A complex, multimodal freight system is critical to the region’s economy and quality of life

• Allows for reliable, efficient, and timely movement of goods and connects the products to consumers

• Increasing goods movement and changing distribution patterns
  • Growing population, robust economy
  • Growing e-commerce and changes in consumer preferences
  • Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area is now the 4th largest good exporter among U.S. metro areas (69% increase since 2010)
PSRC Freight Work Program

• Inventory of freight assets

• Data collection/improved forecasting to better understand:
  • Growth in freight and goods movement
  • Freight travel and distribution patterns
  • Changes in technology

• Assessment and advancement of relevant issues/needs (e.g. congestion, delay, mobility, etc.) in support of freight planning
Inventory of Freight Assets: Purpose

• Provide a high-level overview of freight assets and their unique characteristics

• Highlight critical aspects and inter-dependencies of the multimodal freight transportation system in the region

• Expand understanding of the importance of freight to the economy and the transportation system
Freight Assets

Networks

• Highway, railway, marine corridors

Other physical assets

• Deepwater ports/marine terminals
• Major airports/Air cargo facilities
• Rail intermodal terminals
• Military installations
• Warehouses and distribution centers
• Truck Parking

Designated areas

• Manufacturing/Industrial center (MIC), Industrial lands
Networks: Railway

- Over 3,300 miles of track in Washington’s rail system providing mobility for both passengers and freight
  - 122 million tons (28%)* of Washington’s freight handled by rail in 2016
- Provides critical intermodal connection to other freight modes (e.g. ports) to move products to major markets within the US and international
- Typical products handled include cereal grains, agricultural products, and automobiles

*Draft estimates
Marine: NW Seaport Alliance (Port of Seattle/Tacoma)

- Fourth largest container gateway in North America; ranks among the top ten busiest ports in the US
- Supports over 58,000 jobs and over $77 billion in international trade
- NWSA brings Washington products to international markets in Asia and elsewhere.
  - Top exports - agricultural products (e.g. oil seeds, grain, seed, fruits, plants), industrial machinery, and computers
Marine: Local business connection

• Port of Seattle Cruise Terminals
  • Ranks among the top ten busiest cruise ports
  • Approx. 1.2 million cruise visitors in 2019, a 30% increase since 2010
  • Redevelopment of Terminal 46 as a cruise terminal underway, target completion 2023
• Generates more than 5,500 jobs and $894 million for the local economy every season
• Sustaining local farmer and small businesses - seafood and produce companies, florists, farmers, vineyards from across the state supply to cruise lines

One ship carrying 3,080 passengers would need the following fresh provisions (and more) to feed passengers on a one-week cruise:
• 11,460 pounds of seafood
• 91,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables
• 69,000 local eggs
Marine: Port of Everett

- Specializes in high value, over dimensional cargo such as airplane and aerospace parts (e.g. parts for 747, 767, 777)
- Fifth largest port on the west coast in terms of value of goods exported
- Supports over 35,000 jobs and $373 million in state and local tax revenue
- Identified as a recovery port to provide resiliency within the region in the event of a man-made or natural disaster
Airports/Air Cargo

- Airports in the state handled $47 billion in freight, moving high-value, time-sensitive, perishable products
- Approx. 85% share of the total Washington state air cargo market held by Sea-Tac and Boeing Field
Airports/Air Cargo

**Sea-Tac**

- Primary gateway for international air cargo, especially to East Asia
- Typically products: high-value agriculture (e.g. cherries, blueberries), fresh seafood, products supporting just-in-time manufacturing, medical devices

**Paine Field**

- Primarily handles specialized aviation/airplane parts
- Part of Boeing Company’s 787 manufacturing and assembly program

**Boeing Field**

- Center for business aviation
- Important regional gateway for air cargo companies (e.g. UPS, FedEx)
Designated Areas: Industrial Lands

- 13 subareas in the region with concentrations of industrial lands, including 10 MICs, supporting a variety of uses

- Accounts for more than 345,000 jobs in industries such as aerospace manufacturing, wholesaling, distribution and logistics, ship and boat building and others

- Gross business income of these industries amounted to $917 billion in 2018, 57% of the state’s total
Industrial Lands: Other connections

- Support a range of industries and the broader community
  - Sumner Pacific MIC is home to food production companies that supply to nearly 600 McDonald’s locations in six Western states
  - Kent MIC is home to emerging space sector (e.g. Blue Origin HQ and R&D facility)
- Products/resources to school, medical facilities
Transportation System Impacts

• Preliminary assessment of heavy truck movement:
  • Using ATRI (2014) data
  • Initial takeaways
    o Over a third of heavy truck trips in the region’s industrial lands are in the Kent Valley
    o Of all truck trips in the region, the second highest percentage is in the Kent Valley
  • Additional analyses planned to better understand overall impacts to the transportation system
Ongoing/Next Steps

• Exploring options for visualizing the data and enhancing overall usefulness for stakeholders

• Continuing to pursue updated data as available to improve understanding of freight movement in the region

• Look into performance metrics to better evaluate the regional freight system

• Integrate with other system performance data to inform the next Regional Transportation Plan update
Thank You.

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