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Comments from the Tomorrow @ Sea-Tac Coalition

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The Tomorrow @ Sea-Tac Coalition is a diverse group of business, labor and environmental groups which have come together to help ensure that Sea-Tac Airport can meet customer demand and provide an efficient, reliable and comfortable passenger experience for the next 20 years and beyond. The coalition's mission is to provide independent, third-party review and input on capital improvement planning at the airport, and to support the development and implementation of a Sustainable Airport Master Plan.

After reviewing the aviation section of the regional transportation plan, our Coalition offers the following input:

1. Regional planning must recognize the critical role that air connections play in the economic health of the region and the state. As the nation's most trade-reliant state and a growing hub of global technology and innovation, it is imperative that people, parts, and products all can move efficiently into and out of our airport facilities.

2. Regional planning must enable all airport facilities and services in the region to be scaled to meet projected passenger volume and demand over the entire planning / forecast period. While costs must be closely scrutinized, we believe that planning should be managed so that it will meet or exceed generally accepted airport service level standards at the end of the planning horizon. Recognizing the constrained foot-print of Sea-Tac and the long planning horizons required for the development of major public facilities like additional air service capacity, we encourage the planning process to begin as soon as possible. In the meantime, Sea-Tac must maintain an aggressive capital improvement plan to continue meeting the needs of a growing region and state. We encourage frequent and careful assessments of passenger counts and forecasts and adjustments made to reflect the updated information. Finally, we believe that planning efforts can only go so far, and market supply and demand realities will play a major role in determining how air service in the region evolves over the next 20+ years. Regional plans must be flexible enough to recognize and respond to these changing market dynamics.

3. Regional planning must balance competing airport needs. One of the most important questions that must be resolved in planning regional air capacity is to strike an appropriate balance among competing needs for the limited real estate at Sea-Tac and at other regional airport facilities. This balance not only entails meeting the future needs of competing carriers – both existing and new – but also striking a balance between various types of air traffic such as passenger service and cargo service. The costs and benefits of cargo operations must be fully analyzed and understood along with projected passenger growth forecasts.

4. Regional planning must integrate airport operations and ground transportation options. Passenger perceptions of their airport experience begin long before they step foot into the terminal. Accordingly, we encourage regional planning to bring together the appropriate transportation departments and transit services to plan for effective multimodal transportation services to and from the region's airport facilities and to recognize that support of the region's airports is a part of their core mission. It is also worth noting that an important element of sustainability is to find ways to get people out of their cars. This will require making public transit

systems the most cost- and time-efficient means of getting to and from the airport. We support strategies to ensure ground transportation options are appropriately sized to provide convenient access for projected increases in passenger volumes and we encourage designs that can be flexible enough to adapt to future changes in transportation systems, technology and modes.

5. Regional planning should recognize the unique assets and attributes of the Pacific Northwest. While much of this objective will be carried out in the context of airport-specific plans, we believe that regional planning should emphasize sustainability, highlight the region's cutting-edge technological innovations, and showcase the rich history, culture and diversity of the region.

6. Finally, regional planning must include a robust public information and engagement strategy. The breadth of our coalition membership demonstrates the importance of safe, efficient and effective air service to the economy and the people of our region and our state. Given this broad impact, diverse stakeholders should have an opportunity and be encouraged to provide input into the planning process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these general comments.

Tomorrow@Sea-Tac Coalition

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