

#### **Concessions Principles & Practices**

Aviation Concessions Business December 13, 2011

## 2004 - 2005 Redevelopment

- All 84 units constructed or reconstructed since 2004.
- Transition from master concessionaire to hybrid
  - 64% of units operated by prime concessionaires
  - 13% by ACDBE subtenants of primes
  - 18% by direct lessees
  - 5% by ACDBE direct lessees
- Dramatic results of change
  - Sales up 75.5%; revenues to Port up 82% since 2003
  - Employment up by more than 100% (732 to 1508)
  - Enplanements up 10%
- Industry-wide recognition for excellence
  - ACI: Griesbach Award for Overall Excellence
  - ARN: Best Concessions Program

### **Current Operators**

- Three Food & Beverage Prime Concessionaires:
  - HMSHost
  - Seattle Restaurant Associates (operated by HMSHost)
  - Concessions International
- One News/Gift & Retail Prime Concessionaire:
  - Hudson News Group
- Duty Free (short-term agreement; RFP to be released in 2012):
  - HG Retail LLC
- ACDBE Subtenant Concessionaires:
  - Six firms, eleven units
- Direct Lease Operators (including ACDBEs)
  - 19 operators/locations

# **Locally Owned and Operated**

- Butter London
- Dilettante Chocolates & Mocha Bar
- Diva Espresso
- ExOfficio
- Fireworks
- Ivar's Seafood Bar
- Massage Bar
- Pallino Pastaria
- Tully's Coffee
- Quizno's Subs
- Waji's

# Benefit of New Concessions Strategy Development

1970 – 2004 Master Concession Agreement

#### 2004 – 2005 Redevelopment

• Local Flavor

- Street Pricing
- Competition
- Direct Leases
- Small Businesses

#### Outcomes of Development

- Higher Sales
- Higher Revenues
- More Jobs
- Better Customer Service
- National Recognition

## **Prospective Changes/Challenges**

- Up to 10 new units to be leased over next 3 years
  - Leasing agent / consultant on board in January, 2012
- 90% of leases expire in 2015-2017
- Dramatically different perspectives of various stakeholders on key issues

# Connection with Century Agenda Preliminary Goals

- 100,000 New Jobs
- Increase Small Business Opportunities
- Clean, Energy-Efficient Facility

#### **Concessions Stakeholder Process**

- Airlines
- Current Independent Operators
- Labor Representatives
- Prime Concessionaires (large concessions companies)
- Prospective Local Operators
- Small/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises
- Traveling Public

#### **Principles & Practices for Discussion**



#### **Process Components**

- Staff workshops to develop draft principles and practices
- Research of concessions industry best practices
- Six meetings with individual stakeholder groups
- Business and leisure traveler focus groups
- Compilation and integration of the input from the initial meetings
- Two meetings with all stakeholder groups
- Summary of prevalent and divergent views on the issues

## **Areas of Agreement**

- There should be a mix of offerings at Sea-Tac Airport
- Important to encourage a strong sense of place
- "Green" practices and sustainability
- The selection process should be efficient and fair and limit barriers to entry
- The cost of doing business at the Airport is high and policies should reflect this reality

### **Areas of Disagreement**

Issue 1: How should the Port balance the mix of multi-unit operators ("prime concessionaires") and direct leases?

- Direct leasing has improved overall program performance
- All operators want opportunities structured for open competition
- Labor seeks two-three prime operators with 90% of employees
- Many local businesses believe local ownership should dominate

### Issue 2: How should the Port maintain (or increase) participation by small and/or ACDBE businesses?

- Current goal 20% of gross sales modest in comparison to some airports
- Prime subtenants prefer direct lease, better opportunities/locations
- Direct lease ACDBEs generate 29% of total ACDBE sales

## **Areas of Disagreement**

#### Issue 3: How can the Port reduce high costs of investment, and other barriers?

- 2004-05 development costs were quite high above other airports
- Operators cite inefficient, lengthy Port approvals process as primary reason
- Request for Proposals process presents a barrier to small businesses

#### **Issue 4: Should the Port continue to require 'street pricing'?**

- Some operators advocate higher than street pricing to offset high development and/or operating costs
- Local Seattle operators "must" price the same as their street-side locations
- Labor advocates for premium pricing (up to 'street plus 15%') if devoted to better worker wages/benefits
- Street pricing important to customers
- Ongoing industry dispute over impact on sales and revenue

## **Areas of Disagreement**

Issue 5: Should the Port place requirements on the labor practices of concessionaires?

- Labor representatives advocate Port Commission adoption of a resolution for worker retention and labor harmony
- Small number of airports have such policies; varied application and impacts
- Significant legal risk, including prospect of concessionaire litigation
- Prevalent view of stakeholders is that the Port should not place mandates regarding hiring and firing practices
- Continuity of employment for concessions workers has never been an issue at Sea-Tac

### **Worker Retention Issue**

- Legal Analysis / Risk
  - Previous Litigation / Federal Injunction
  - Prospects of Litigation
  - Successorship Doctrine
- Negative Impacts on Concessions Recruitment
- Stakeholder Views
- 2004-05 Transition
- Employment Mobility / Security
- Other Airports' Experience

#### **Recommendation Summary**

These recommendations are intended be consistent with future Century Agenda goals promoting job creation and business opportunity

- 1. Manage program via a hybrid structure with a 50/50 mix of multi-unit contracts (six or more units) with small packages (three units or less)
- 2. Meet or exceed current 20% gross sales goal for ACDBE through direct leases, and seek additional small business participation
- 3. Revise the tenant build-out review process to reduce capital costs. Port should provide all infrastructure to the lease line
- 4. Study the overall cost picture for concessionaires prior to finalizing street pricing policy for 2015-17 RFPs and recruitment
- 5. Encourage new employers to hire current workers but do not adopt worker retention or labor harmony requirement