



COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Item No. 7c

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting February 26, 2019

DATE: February 7, 2019

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Arlyn Purcell, Director, Aviation Environment and Sustainability
Steve Rybolt, Environmental Program Manager, Aviation Environment Sustainability

SUBJECT: Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects (NTP) Environmental Review Briefing – Scoping Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This briefing will provide an overview of the Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects scoping report, common themes identified, and next steps in the environmental review process.

SUSTAINABLE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN NEAR-TERM PROJECTS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Port of Seattle prepared a Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) to establish a blueprint for changes at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac Airport) to meet future demand. The SAMP planning process was completed in 2018 and identified a Long-Term Vision, as well as a set of Near-Term Projects that are planned for construction by 2027. The SAMP Long-Term Vision for Sea-Tac Airport includes projects that are not ripe for environmental review at this time, as they require further study and are not reasonably foreseeable. Before any of the Long-Term Vision projects are implemented, the appropriate environmental review will be conducted.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initiated a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Port of Seattle (Port) initiated a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects of the Near-Term Projects.

Scoping, required under a SEPA EIS and not a requirement of a NEPA EA, is one of the first steps in a multi-step environmental review. It is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues that will be addressed in the environmental review document, soliciting input regarding the Near-Term Projects and reasonable alternatives, and identifying concerns regarding the potential environmental effects of the Near-Term Projects. Comments received during scoping were reviewed and will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the environmental analyses.

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SCOPING AND REPORT OVERVIEW

There is no requirement under NEPA or SEPA to produce a scoping report. It was compiled at the request of the FAA to provide an update to the agencies and public on the results of scoping and because the Port determined it would be useful to the Commission and the public.

The scoping report includes:

- Overview of the scoping process
- Information about the meetings and the online open house participation
- All of the comments received

The scoping period for the SAMP Near-Term Projects environmental review was July 30, 2018 through September 28, 2018.

The Port held one Agency Scoping Meeting and four Public Scoping Meetings during the 60-day scoping period. Over 300 people and seven agencies attended the scoping meetings.

The Port also hosted an online open house where individuals could obtain information on the SAMP Near-Term Projects environmental review and could submit comments online. The online open house was available in five languages (English, Arabic, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese) and was visited over 3,500 times.

Several thousand comments were received from about 10 agencies and 750 people. The Port reviewed the comments and categorized and grouped them into major topics and common themes. A matrix within the scoping report shows how these comments were categorized. Once the comments were categorized, the Port and FAA reviewed the topics and common themes in detail and prepared the scoping report.

The comments received were categorized into 13 common themes:

1. Master Plan/Purpose & Need/Proposed Action
2. Alternatives
3. Air Quality/Climate
4. Noise
5. Human Health
6. Transportation
7. Water Resources
8. Socioeconomic
9. Biological and Natural Resources
10. Public Properties and Resources
11. NEPA/SEPA Process
12. General Scoping Comments

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13. Other General Comments

This scoping report is not intended to provide responses to each individual comment. Rather, it is intended to identify those topics and themes that could inform the environmental review process.

The scoping report will be made available via the internet to the public and available on the Port's webpage and the project's website following the Commission briefing.

NEXT STEPS

The scoping comments will be considered throughout the environmental review. Although it was originally envisioned that a joint NEPA/SEPA document would be prepared, the current plan is to prepare two separate documents. The Port of Seattle's consultant will proceed with the preparation of the NEPA EA document to comply with federal requirements. At the same time, the Port of Seattle will begin the preparation of a separate SEPA EIS to comply with state requirements. It is anticipated that the FAA will issue their decision on the NEPA EA prior to the publication of the draft SEPA EIS. We anticipate FAA release of the Draft EA for public review and comment by the end of 2019.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Scoping Briefing Report: SAMP Near-Term Projects Environmental Review PowerPoint

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

- May 8, 2018 – Commission Briefing: “Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Planning and Environmental Update”
- February 13, 2018 - Commission Briefing: "Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Planning Update"
- November 10, 2015 – Commission Action: “Environmental Review (National Environmental Policy Act and State Environmental Policy Act) Personal Services Agreement for the Sustainable Airport Master Plan”