



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 9a

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting February 26, 2019

DATE: February 19, 2019

TO: Port Commissioners and Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Veronica Valdez, Commission Specialist

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac) All Gender Restroom Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this briefing is to present and review the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac) All Gender Restroom Plan. On May 22, 2018, the Port of Seattle Commission adopted Motion 2018-08 which directed Port staff to develop a Sea-Tac All Gender Restroom Plan to ensure that all existing and future single-occupant restrooms at Sea-Tac, beyond meeting the requirements set by the Washington State Building Code (WSBC), are designated for use by any person, regardless of sex or gender identity.¹

BACKGROUND

All gender restrooms are facilities that anyone can use regardless of gender. They can be single or multi-stall. All gender restrooms benefit a variety of people, including transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. All gender restrooms create a safe space for employees and community members to use the restrooms as it removes stigma or rationale for judgement as to which gendered facilities to use. All gender restrooms also accommodate use by caretakers and parents when assisting someone of the opposite gender.

In May, 2018 a working group, made up of representatives from across the Port of Seattle, was tasked to develop the All Gender Restroom Plan that includes a recommended design for restrooms and signage, timelines, costs, alternatives, and implications considered. The working group met bi-weekly over the course of the June 2018 to February 2019.

On July 31, 2018, the Port of Seattle working group conducted a focus group with key external stakeholders from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ)-focused organizations, specifically organizations that support the transgender community, to gather feedback on design and signage of all gender restrooms.

¹ Gender identity means a person's gender-related identity, appearance, or expression, whether or not traditionally associated with one's biological sex or one's sex at birth, and includes a person's attitudes, preferences, beliefs, and practices pertaining thereto.

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In addition, on December 4, 2018, the working group conducted a focus group with faith-based community stakeholders. The feedback from stakeholders helped inform the recommendations included in the plan.

In January 2019, the working group received a layout study from consultant Architectural Alliance International on Sea-Tac's restroom program and how all gender restrooms might be incorporated into the program. The study provided information on potential locations at Sea-Tac where all gender restrooms may be added within the current footprint. In addition, a cost estimate was also provided to the working group.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN:

Recommended Design for All Gender Restrooms in Existing Facilities

Compartment design: The compartment design features compartments that have a toilet and a sink (accessible and non-accessible versions) with full height partitions and doors.

Potential Locations for All Gender Restrooms

Single-User All Gender Restroom Design and Signage

1. GATE D Head – Add one (1) single-user All Gender Restroom using the recommended All Gender Restroom design and signage. This can be incorporated in the current restroom renovation project.

Single-User All Gender Restroom Design without Signage (Future-Proofing in current space)

1. GATE B3 – Convert one set of restrooms to single-user All Gender Restrooms using the recommended compartment-style design. The signage will be gendered (male or female) to accommodate the building code requirements. The gendered signage can be replaced in the future to the recommended All Gender signage once code is updated.
2. GATE C2 – Convert one set of restrooms to single-user All Gender Restrooms using the recommended compartment-style design. The signage will be gendered (male or female) to accommodate the current building code requirements. The gendered signage can be replaced in the future to the recommended All Gender signage once building code is updated.
3. GATE D3 – Convert one set of restrooms to single-user All Gender Restrooms using the recommended compartment-style design. The signage will be gendered (male or female) to accommodate the current building code requirements. The gendered signage can be replaced in the future to the recommended All Gender signage once building code is updated.

Recommended Signage for All Gender Restrooms

Plumbing fixture icon: The iconography of the western-style plumbing fixture of a restroom is gender-inclusive and universally recognizable. The icon of a toilet is recognizable to both international and domestic travelers. Focus group members were in favor of depicting what was behind the door as it is clear and does not designate who can and cannot use the restroom.

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Restroom: The working group agreed that this title described the purpose of the restroom to serve all users in a simple and straightforward manner.

All people may use this restroom: This description is favored by the working group. The focus group did not favor including “regardless of gender identity or expression” as it appears to call out a minority group who may not necessarily want to be singled out in public for using the single-user restroom. (Note: For family restrooms, the working group is considering “All people and families may use this restroom” as a description).

Further Considerations

Cost estimates and construction timelines are included in the All Gender Restroom Plan however will need further analysis as part of the planning and design phase of the larger Restroom Renovation Project. In addition, maintenance/janitorial concerns will need to be further explored as well as throughput and efficiencies with designs.

The Port complies with the Washington State Building Code requirements. The next cycle for the State of Washington Building Code Council to make changes to the building code will occur in January 2021 when they consider adopting the next edition of the International Building Code (occurs every 3 years). If changes include specifications and/or guidelines for all gender restrooms, the Port must comply with the new requirement.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Presentation slides
- (2) Seattle-Tacoma International Airport All Gender Restroom Plan
- (3) Motion 2018-08
- (4) Motion 2018-11

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

- May 22, 2018 – The Commission adopted Motion 2018-08
- September 25, 2018 – The Commission adopted Motion 2018-11
- October 23, 2018 – The Commission received a briefing update on the plan