



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 6c

ACTION ITEM

Date of Meeting November 12, 2019

DATE: October 10, 2019

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Brendalynn Taulelei, Senior Maintenance Manager, Asset Management & Logistics
Valarie Johnson, Planning and Small Works Manager, Aviation Maintenance

SUBJECT: Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Ramp Snow Removal Funds Request (Short Form)

Amount of this request: \$1,200,000

Total estimated project cost: \$2,800,000

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission authorization for the Executive Director to increase the contract value for two existing snow removal contracts by \$1,200,000 to a new contract value of \$2,800,000. These contracts provide snow removal services for the Aircraft Movement Area (AMA) at the Airport.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, Commission authorized \$1,600,000 for two new snow removal contracts, which were awarded December 2018. Due to the February 2019 historical snow fall events, \$1.23 million of the amount authorized was spent during the first year of the contract. In the previous 5 years (2014 – 2018), an average of \$310K per year was spent on snow removal. The ability to remove snow from the North and South ramp operation areas is crucial to the operation of the Airport; it is important that the Aviation division has adequate snow removal funds in place before the next snow season. We are one year into the new contracts, which were structured as one-year base agreements with four one-year options to be determined by the Port.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

Alternative 1 – Do not authorize \$1,200,000 for the two current snow removal contracts and increase Port FTE staff, hire seasonal staff, and purchase additional snow removal equipment to meet peak snow and ice conditions.

Cost Implications: \$7 million. The cost estimate includes the purchase of snow removal equipment, the hiring of one mechanic to maintain the equipment, and the hiring of 13 seasonal staff to operate the equipment over the course of five years.

Pros:

- (1) Hiring additional Port staff, seasonal staff, and purchasing new equipment increases the Port's available resource pool for extended shift rotations during lengthy snow events.

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- (2) The additional staff can be deployed to support other Airport operational areas in the event of extreme snow and ice conditions.

Cons:

- (1) The additional FTE adds to the Port's total staffing levels and will require compensation and benefits which will result in increased costs to the Port.
- (2) Purchasing new equipment to add to the Port's snow removal fleet is a costly investment.
- (3) The Port runs the risk of investing purchasing heavy equipment that does not get used due to lack of snow and ice.

This is not the recommended alternative.

Alternative 2 – Do not authorize additional \$1,200,000 for the two current snow removal contracts and request authorization to go back out to bid two new contracts.

Cost Implications: \$1,200,000 for two new snow removal contracts for the North and South sides of the Aircraft Movement Area (AMA).

Pros:

- (1) Contractors are responsible for hiring of operators and for securing the heavy construction equipment required for snow removal.
- (2) Purchasing new snow removal equipment is not necessary, therefore saving the Port an investment of \$3.9 million, and not having to add it to our existing fleet to be operated and maintained.

Cons:

- (1) New contracts are not necessary as the two current contractors have met the operational needs of the Airport.
- (2) There is not enough time before snow season to go back out to bid for new contracts and have contractors in place prior to December.

This is not the recommended alternative.

Alternative 3 – Authorization to approve a total of \$1,200,000 for two current contracts for snow removal services at the Airport.

Cost Implications: \$1,200,000 for two snow removal contracts for the North and South sides of the Aircraft Movement Area (AMA). Prior to the February 2019 snow events, the previous three years' ramp snow removal costs were \$937,147, averaging approximately \$310,000 per year.

Pros:

- (1) This is the current state and has met the operational needs of the Airport.
- (2) With contracted snow removal services in place, existing Port staff can focus on deicing and snow clearing efforts on the Airport Operations Area (AOA) during peak snow events to ensure continuity of operations.
- (3) Contractors are responsible for hiring of operators and for securing the heavy construction equipment required for snow removal.

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- (4) Purchasing new snow removal equipment is not necessary, therefore saving the Port an investment of \$3.97 million, and not having to add it to our existing fleet to be operated and maintained.

Cons:

- (1) Total estimated cost is \$1,200,000.

This is the recommended alternative.

There are no attachments to this memo.