

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Port to Publicly Review Transportation Plan Jan. 14**

*Most freight mobility improvements focus on removing transportation bottlenecks*

**Portland, Ore.** – On Wednesday, January 14, the Port of Portland Commission will hold a public hearing at approximately 9:30 a.m. to seek feedback on its 2015 Port Transportation Improvement Plan (PTIP). The plan, designed to catalogue transportation needs, outlines and prioritizes 5, 10 and 20-year marine, air, road, rail, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation improvement projects and establishes priorities for outside funding. The 2015 plan identifies 104 potential transportation-related improvements—totaling \$4.27 billion—the Port considers necessary to maintain efficient access to its seaport, airport and industrial park properties and supporting facilities.

According to Port Executive Director Bill Wyatt, the PTIP establishes a blueprint of transportation projects based on transportation studies from master plans, property development and region-wide mobility needs studies conducted by the Port and other local, regional, and state agencies. It also lays out a funding strategy for the most immediate needs. The public hearing offers metro-area residents, as well as Port customers and stakeholders, an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback prior to the Port of Portland Commission taking action on the proposed plan at its Feb. 11 meeting.

Wyatt stressed that the projects identified in the 2015 PTIP will improve freight mobility, stimulate industrial sector investments and create or retain jobs. “Efficient freight mobility, distribution and market access are strategic elements for this region’s industries. If the region’s employers are constrained by our transportation system, many may relocate, taking critical revenues, jobs and tax dollars with them,” he said.

Projects targeted as primary candidates for funding from federal, state and local transportation authorities include:

- Rivergate Boulevard grade separation
- 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Airport Way grade separation
- New equipment in support of dredging operations
- Expansion of auto import and export marine terminals

As a transportation agency reliant on elements of the transportation system developed and managed by others to support its mission, the Port carefully plans its support of projects that will enhance market access for Port customers and businesses in the region and state.

To meet state and federal public process requirements established with the federal transportation legislation, called the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act, the Port Commission must formally authorize submission of the PTIP to Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation for consideration. Doing so ensures Port funding requests can be considered through the state and metropolitan fund allocation process.

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