

NEWS RELEASE

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Port of Portland Presents Options to Port Commission for Terminal 6 Future

Today the Port of Portland Commission was presented with the [findings of a consultant study](#) and work from an industry leader committee to create a sustainable business model for container shipping at Terminal 6.

The Port is committed to achieving its mission by giving regional shippers a variety of options for moving their goods, including direct container service, air freight, barge and rail. This study focused on the container service aspect of shipping at T-6.

The consultant concluded the most viable T-6 business model is a multi-use terminal that dedicates revenues from other terminal activities to support container service. Given that container volumes are lower than most West Coast ports, a financially sustainable terminal will require revenue from a diverse mix of cargo uses to support the container business. The study acknowledges that Portland's geography as a river port and marine industry consolidation pose challenges to recovery of weekly transpacific container service. Key to the container facility's success, the study found, is attracting carriers providing service to Asia that serve the region's primary export and import markets, along with maintaining competitive terminal rates, keeping labor productivity levels at or above West Coast standards, reducing costs, and securing container volume support from the shipping community.

"This analysis reinforced that there is no silver bullet for container service," said Curtis Robinhold, Port executive director. "With the strong backing of shippers, labor and businesses, I'm hopeful that we can continue to offer container service options for shippers at T-6, while ensuring long-term financial stability. We heard strong support from our partners in the shipping community that they are willing do to what it takes to help support container service at the terminal."

As a part of the study, the Port convened an industry leader committee comprised of 23 members with diverse representation including exporters, importers, service providers, carriers, ports, labor (IBEW and ILWU), and legislators with strong shipper interests to provide industry knowledge and guidance to the Port on the T-6 container business study.

“Terminal 6 has tremendous economic benefit for all of Oregon,” said Del Allen, president of Allports Companies, an international freight forwarder, and member of the industry leader committee. “This was an excellent process that established a great spirit of cooperation among labor and business stakeholders with the Port. Future success will require strong shipper support to attract carriers and strong Port and labor alignment to ensure the operation is financially sustainable.”

The Port recently announced two new options for shippers:

- A rail shuttle from T-6 now offers a new way to move containers to and from Puget Sound ports for loading onto ocean bound vessels. The shuttle, in partnership with BNSF Railway, operates five days a week.
- Swire Shipping now calls on T-6 on a monthly basis, providing general cargo/container service to New Zealand/Australia and Asia.

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