

October 19, 2010

Seattle City Council  
Attention: The Honorable Tom Rasmussen  
PO Box 34025  
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Subject: Seattle Freight Advisory Board Creation

Dear Council Member Rasmussen and City Council Members:

As current members of SDOT's Freight Mobility Advisory Committee, we would like to thank you and express our great appreciation for your recent action instituting the Freight Advisory Board. We also valued the opportunity to work with Council and SDOT staff to provide input into the development of the charter for the new Board.

The creation of the Freight Advisory Board reflects the importance of freight to the economy of the city, the region and the state, and the high quality of life in our community. Seattle is the commercial and transportation hub of the state, and the movement of freight supports tens of thousands of jobs in our local community and the state. Industries that depend on freight movement include manufacturing, retail, fishing and agriculture, international and domestic maritime and air cargo, logistics and distribution -- as well as delivery, solid waste transport and many other businesses.

The Board will be called upon to advise the executive departments and the City Council on what it takes to foster a safe, functional and efficient freight system, and to counsel the City about the effects of City decisions on the movement of commerce. The Board also will participate in updates of City policy and planning efforts related to, or affecting the movement of freight, and it will comment on freight-mobility projects, as well as projects supporting other modes with an impact on freight.

Based on our experience serving on SDOT's Freight Mobility Advisory Committee, we would like to suggest that you consider tasking the new Board—with SDOT's support—with development of a Freight Master Plan to complement other master planning efforts. We believe that this would be a valuable and needed early work product for the new Board. (More than five years have passed since the City's last update of the Freight Mobility Strategic Action Plan in 2005. Master Plans for other modes were recently completed.)

Cliff Bates,  
V Van Dyke Trucking,  
Interim Co-Chair

Warren Aakervik,  
Ballard Oil

Greg Blaine  
Continental Van Lines

Terry Finn,  
BNSF Railway

Ed Shilley,  
NUCOR Steel

Kim Suelzle,  
City Ice

Christine Wolf,  
Port of Seattle

*The Seattle Freight  
Mobility Advisory  
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and other agencies on  
measures to improve  
freight mobility and  
safety in Seattle.*

# Seattle Freight Mobility Advisory Committee

In addition to the creation of a Board dedicated to improving the movement of freight in the City, we endorse the idea of bringing the freight, bicycle and pedestrian boards together on a regular basis to talk about common issues and solutions. We believe we can all agree that the city's transportation network should serve all its citizens, moving people and commerce safely and efficiently.

In closing, we would like to commend and thank SDOT staff, in particular Ron Borowski and Cristina VanValkenburgh, who very capably supported the Freight Mobility Advisory Committee over the last eight years. They have helped us elevate the importance of freight mobility in the minds of many other City staffers and made the creation of the new Board possible.

We look forward to working with you and the Mayor to develop a list of candidates to serve on the Board, and seeing the Board take up its new responsibilities early next year.

Thank you for your efforts in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Cliff Bates, Interim Co-Chair  
Seattle Freight Mobility Advisory Committee

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Cc:  
Mayor Mike McGinn  
Seattle City Councilmembers  
Seattle Freight Mobility Advisory Committee Members  
Peter Hahn, SDOT  
Charles Bookman, SDOT  
Cristina VanValkenburgh, SDOT  
Ron Borowski, SDOT