



# City of Seattle

Ed Murray, Mayor

---

*Seattle  
Freight  
Advisory  
Board*

Warren Aakervik, Chair

Linda Anderson

Bari Bookout

Katherine Casseday

Terry Finn

Timothy Hillis

David Mendoza

Mike Sheehan

Robert Smith

March 13, 2014

Hon. Ed Murray  
Mayor, City of Seattle  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle WA 98104

RE: Proposed Heavy Haul Corridor in Seattle

Dear Mayor Murray and City Council members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Heavy Haul corridor in Seattle's SODO area. The Seattle Freight Advisory Board believes that a Heavy Haul corridor would be of great benefit to the Port of Seattle and to businesses in the SODO area, increasing business through the Port.

Currently, Seattle is at a disadvantage over other ports like Los Angeles, Long Beach, Tacoma, ports in the South East and others that have Heavy Haul corridors. Containers for many export and some import commodities are often very heavy due to the nature of the cargo (agriculture, bulk grain, etc.). For cargo that originates in the Midwest destined for export from the West Coast, Seattle is often avoided because City weight restrictions require special chassis, or trailers, to move these heavy containers from the rail yard and transload facilities to adjacent terminals. Both the additional cost of the special equipment and lack of availability deter shipping lines and shippers from using Seattle as a gateway for this type of cargo. With a Heavy Haul corridor in place, Seattle has the opportunity to increase container volume and business activity at its terminals. That means the Port can continue to support and grow the jobs related to international trade here in Seattle.

The Seattle Freight Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City in development of a functional and efficient freight system and on all matters related to freight and the impact that actions by the City may have upon the freight environment.

City Council Resolution  
31243

The Seattle Freight Advisory Board would also like to point out that the proposed per-axle limits of 22K lbs. are still below per-axle maximums already enjoyed by Metro buses and garbage trucks operating on all streets within the City. The Seattle Freight Advisory Board supports The Port's request for a designated Heavy Haul corridor network on selected streets connecting its terminals to rail yards and transload facilities in Seattle's SODO area.

Thank you,

Warren Aakervik Jr  
Chair Seattle Freight Advisory Board

cc: Seattle City Council  
Goran Sparrman  
Andrew Glass-Hastings