



PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Murray to Visit Port of Olympia December 6

Patty Murray, Washington's Senior Senator, will make a brief visit at the Port of Olympia Tuesday, December 6 to meet with port officials and stakeholders. She will arrive at 1:00 pm. at the port's main office, 915 Washington Street NE in Olympia.

Senator Murray and Representative Brian Baird were recently instrumental in securing \$2 million in funding for intermodal freight improvements at the port's marine terminal in the federal FY 2006 Transportation Appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds will be used to continue the second phase of the port's Infrastructure Enhancement Project. The legislation passed the Senate and House November 18 and now awaits the President's signature.

"Senator Murray has provided outstanding leadership to secure federal resources in a tight budget year to support this critical project to improve the port's intermodal capacity," said Port Commissioner Steve Pottle. "This project will increase the port's ability to handle greater volumes by shifting cargo from truck to rail, bringing new business and more jobs to our community. It will also help reduce regional truck traffic and congestion on the I-5 corridor."

Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Adam Smith also supported the funding request.

Senator Murray is the ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, which was instrumental in drafting the legislation that includes the Port project.

The port's Intermodal Infrastructure Enhancement Project is a three-phase project that is designed to expand the port's capacity to handle greater volumes of cargo by shifting emphasis from trucks to rail. Completion of the project is expected to more than double the port's cargo-processing capacity and reduce its dependence on local roads

and the heavily congested I-5 corridor.

The new funding will provide for the construction of additional loading and storage track at the Marine Terminal, enabling the switching of railcars within port boundaries and minimizing impacts on traffic in downtown Olympia. It will follow construction of the first phase of the project, currently under way, which adds and extends dock-side track, allowing the direct discharge of cargo from ships to rail cars. The port will also examine a third phase, which will add track and barge loading facilities.

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