

2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
101	2	A	1

Budget Action Title: Heavy Haul Corridor Implementation

Councilmembers: Burgess; Clark; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Peter Lindsay

Date		Total	SB	BH	SC	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent requests that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) report to the City Council on the results and findings of the 2015 heavy haul economic impacts study by July 31, 2015. In particular, Council requests that SDOT analyze and evaluate the proposed heavy haul corridor within the City of Seattle as well as other approaches for transporting overweight containers such as the use of special chassis and rigging. The analysis of the heavy haul corridor should include potential on-going or systemic costs related to maintenance and enforcement of the proposed route, potential alternatives to developing a heavy haul corridor, and what role the heavy haul corridor plays in the SDOT's Freight Master Plan.

Green Sheet 101-1-A adds funding to the SDOT's 2015 budget in support of the study. It is the Council's intent to provide this funding in 2016, contingent upon the results of the study.

Background

Seattle's working waterfront is an essential component of Seattle's economy. Port operations generate nearly 200,000 jobs throughout our region and the goods that move through the Port of Seattle reach families and households throughout the United States. The City is committed to being a strong partner with the Port of Seattle to ensure that goods and services can move in and out of the city in efficient and cost effective ways.

SDOT is working with the Port of Seattle to implement upgrades for a heavy haul corridor to facilitate oversized container loads between the container terminal and the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail

yard facilities. The Port of Seattle maintains that Seattle port operations are at a competitive disadvantage because City of Seattle truck weight regulations create a burden on shippers. In order to remain a competitive point of entry for discretionary international cargo, the Port would like to increase truck weight limits along designated city streets. Allowing heavier vehicles along the route would lower logistical costs and provide a time savings; potential shippers would find the Port of Seattle a more attractive entry point for international cargo.

SDOT is also in the midst of developing the Freight Master Plan and has indicated a desire to identify the heavy haul corridor prior to any major capital project. Since the Mayor's 2016 budget proposes a financial investment in the corridor, the Council requests SDOT provide an economic basis for the City's participation in the project and explain any potential operating costs related to enforcement.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Transportation

Date Due to Council: 7/31/15