

SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table
Shared Policy Priorities - 2026 State Legislative Session

The growth of operations at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) has provided significant benefit to the region, however near-airport communities also face elevated levels of aircraft noise and emissions from transportation. Meanwhile, the airport is near its capacity, meaning that the region must immediately identify additional capacity to move people and goods, or else risk increased congestion and a chokepoint on economic growth. To help address these issues, the Port of Seattle and near-airport communities suggest passage and implementation of the following state-level policy and budget items. We hope to partner with the State Legislature and State Government to create these new tools, resources, and approaches that can make a tangible difference in our communities.

The numbered agenda priorities listed below have unanimous support from the Port of Seattle and the near-airport community representatives that make-up StART. However, the policy working group did not reach agreement on a shared and unanimous approach to advocacy regarding SB 5652.

1) Noise Insulation Repair and Replacement Program

- As necessary, enact legislation amending RCW 53.54 and the Port District Equity Fund / Grant, to ensure that State regulations and programming are complementary to Federal and Port programs and funding.
- Restore State funding for noise programming that was eliminated during the 2025 session.
- Ensure that all planning and strategy ensure continual progress on noise reduction with the goal of addressing the full scope of issues identified by ongoing surveys and assessments.

2) Identifying additional regional airport capacity

- Assign deadlines for the Commercial Aviation Working Group (CAWG) to identify and achieve clear, substantive, recommendations for action, and re-establish a specified leadership role for the Governor's Office on the CAWG.
- Direct the CAWG to:
 - Study and recommend policy measures to incentivize siting of new commercial air service facilities.
 - Produce a study detailing airports that currently operate a joint military & commercial facility.

3) Sustain programs to enhance Air Quality

- Support continued investment in existing air quality mitigation programs at the Dept. of Ecology for residences, recreational facilities, and education facilities not covered by other programs.
- Support continued investment in OSPI programs to improve air quality in schools.
- Engage regularly with state-level agencies that administer air quality-related programs (OSPI, Ecology, etc.) to educate those agencies on the circumstances and needs of overburdened communities in South King County with the goal of ensuring that rule-making and decision-making are sensitive to those communities' needs.
- Establish recurring engagement opportunities with implementing state agencies to ensure that residences, schools, and other public buildings within near-airport communities have adequate, ongoing access to existing air-quality programs.

4) Decarbonizing transportation, reducing emissions, clean energy & fuels

- Support proven strategies, policies, and investments intended to phase out the use of fossil fuels and to reduce overall emissions from ground transportation networks that serve the airport.
- Advocate for policy and funding that benefit low-carbon energy & fuels production.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Investments in EV charging infrastructure and clean trucking incentives;
 - Continued investments in multi-modal networks, active transportation facilities, and transit; and
 - Active engagement in state and federal efforts to create a regional high-speed rail network.