



## **STATE BUDGETS ADVANCE IMPORTANT SEATAC PROJECTS**

City SeaTac, Wash. (July 15, 2015) – The City of SeaTac will benefit from approximately \$1 billion in funds approved by the 2015 Washington State Legislature to extend SR 509 and develop an international marketplace.

“The City of SeaTac is very appreciative of our legislators and especially our local delegation for advancing the interests of our community,” said Deputy Mayor Tony Anderson. “We know that they all worked hard to hammer out a compromise that resulted in the funding of the SR 509 extension.”

SR 509 is funded as part of the Puget Sound Gateway Project that totals \$1.9 billion and includes extension of SR 167 and improvements to I-5. The Puget Sound Gateway Project will significantly benefit the entire state’s economy as it helps move goods in and out of the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. A coalition of business, labor, and local government advocates have worked for over three years to advance funding for this project. The Legislature also provided an appropriation in the transportation package that will construct a portion of SR 509 that runs underneath the new arterial on 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, avoiding future traffic disruptions and saving the State of Washington an estimated \$3 million. The International Marketplace Transit Oriented Community is appropriated \$1.25 million in the capital budget.

I want to recognize that Sen. Karen Keiser, the lead Senate Democrat negotiator for the capital budget,” said Councilmember Dave Bush. “I know she was instrumental in securing funding for the international marketplace with the support of Representatives Gregerson and Orwall.”

It is estimated that the completion of SR 509 and the opening of the 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South corridor connecting Des Moines and SeaTac between South 200<sup>th</sup> Street and South 208<sup>th</sup> Street will allow for development of more than 5 million square feet of office, retail and commercial space totaling nearly \$700 million in new construction and create hundreds of new

jobs. The corridor project will also provide an alternative route for vehicles currently traveling on International Boulevard and connect to the new Angle Lake light rail station opening in 2016.

The International Marketplace Transit Oriented Community at South 154<sup>th</sup> Street will provide housing, retail and open space in conjunction with a marketplace that will showcase and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the area through food, products and art, and be a focal point for local residents, employees and visitors.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed the transportation package bills that include funding of SR 509 on July 15 in Seattle. The Department of Commerce will issue grant award letters for the capital budget that includes International Marketplace Transit Oriented Community funding in the next few weeks.

“As a transportation-centric city, we are pleased that the Legislature has committed to completing the SR 509 extension including the bridge under 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South as well as appropriating funds that provide seed capital to the International Marketplace Transit Oriented Community,” said City Manager Todd Cutts. “All of these projects will add to our ability to create jobs and generate the tax revenue that allows us to continue to provide quality services to our community.”

**About the City of SeaTac:**

Incorporated in February 1990, the City of SeaTac is located approximately midway between the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. The City of SeaTac is 10 square miles in area and has a population of 28,251. The City is a vibrant community, economically strong, environmentally sensitive, and people-oriented. The City boundaries surround the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, (approximately 3 square miles in area) which is owned and operated by the Port of Seattle.

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