

## Executive Director's Budget Message

On behalf of the Port of Astoria management team, I am pleased to present for your consideration the proposed budget for the 2025 fiscal year. This budget represents our best estimate as to the available resources, operational and capital requirements for the upcoming year. It also represents the Port's continued efforts to uphold our mission statement: to generate economic growth and prosperity in a safe and environmentally responsible manner for its citizens through creation of family wage jobs and prudent management of its assets.

The Port's budget serves as a working document to provide guidance for our staff and commission to ensure resources are being deployed in a way that best serves the Port and the community we serve. Towards that aim, we work to maximize resources, minimize unnecessary spending, and continue leveraging our resources for capital investments and infrastructure.

Since the budget committee last met a year ago, there has been historic progress at the Port. In my message to the budget committee last year in reference to our highest priority project, the rebuild of Pier 2 West, I stated, "The Port is currently pursuing funding through multiple channels including applications submitted for the Federal Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program, the Federal Maritime Administration's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program, as well as legislative funding requests at the state and federal level." I am pleased to report that since that time the Port has secured nearly \$28 million in project funding, including a \$25.3 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant, \$1 million in Federal Community Project Funding and over \$1.2 million in support from the State of Oregon. We continue to make progress on the preconstruction phase of this project and are tentatively scheduled to start construction in November of 2025.

In August of 2023 the Port of Astoria and Coast Guard Air Station Astoria co-hosted an open house and fly-in event at the Astoria Regional Airport that attracted an estimated 3,000 attendees and was considered a huge success. Planning has already begun for our next fly-in event later this year. In January of this year, log export operations resumed on the central waterfront for the first time in 5 years, which generates and supports jobs in our area, provides revenue for the Port and supports the Port's mission. The Port is also in the final stages of the Master Planning process for both the Airport and Boatyard, both of which have significant potential for future growth.

After several years of contraction to Port business, largely fueled by impacts of Covid-19, the Port is now in a phase of expansion and economic growth. For fiscal year 2025 our proposed budget projects increases in operating revenues of over \$2 million over prior year. Successfully managing this growth and prosperity will require responsible decision making, careful planning, prudent management of funds and a conservative, strategic approach for how we staff this growth.

The Port continuing to engage with and foster positive relationships with the community, our business partners, federal, state and local agencies, as well as our elected officials remains a high priority.

I would like to thank the members of our budget for volunteering to be a part of this process. Your input and feedback are crucial as a check and balance mechanism to ensure the resources and assets the Port is tasked with managing for the public's interest are utilized in a fiscally



responsible manner. I'd also like to thank our Budget Officer, Melanie Howard, for her significant role in building and presenting the budget proposal you have in front of you today.

Lastly, I want to thank the Port Commission and Port staff for their continued dedication to the Port. The reputation and public perception of the Port are on an upward trajectory because of the quality people we have throughout the organization.

I am optimistic about the Port's future through enhancing and maintaining Port assets and properties, continuing to improve the business model of the Port, providing quality customer service to our users, and building upon the positive reputation the Port has built over the past few years.

Respectfully,

Will Isom  
Executive Director