

# 2015 MARINE CARGO FORECAST

## What Is It?

The Marine Cargo Forecast continues a series of similar five year studies conducted by the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) that dates back to the 1980s.

The study will forecast the volume of cargo by transportation mode (i.e., truck, trail, and waterways) that will move through the strategic freight transportation corridors in Washington State, and will include breakdown estimates by mode of volumes of cargo staying within the state and volumes of cargo passing through the state

## How Is It Funded?

The 2015 Washington State Legislature included \$250,000 in the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board budget to partner with the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA). WPPA is contributing \$135,000 to the study and additional staff resources.

## What's New?

The baseline Marine Cargo Forecast will be continued in order to maintain continuity with previous forecasts. However, the forecast will include additional work elements such as:

- An evaluation of landside transportation infrastructure issues, including a modal split analysis by strategic corridor.
- An emphasis will be on the adequacy of rail services serving Washington State ports. This will also include an assessment of competitive rail service of ports in British Columbia. This will also continue and enhance the 2011 Pacific Northwest Marine Cargo Forecast Rail Capacity Assessment
- Regional analysis (i.e. Puget Sound, Grays Harbor, etc.)

## Why Is This Important For Policy Makers?

The study will serve as input for individual port districts, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, WSDOT plans, local and regional planning organizations, and especially members of the Legislature.

## When Will It Be Completed?

A preliminary report is due to the Legislature in December 2015 and a final report is due the following year.

