

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, September 13, 2024.

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The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that the Port of Port Townsend Commissioners have unanimously approved the purchase of 3.4 additional acres for their future industrial park, located on 24 acres south of Jefferson County International Airport. The \$250,000 property, vacant land which sits between the airport and Four Corners Road, will be paid for with Industrial Development District funds.

Commissioners on Wednesday also unanimously approved a \$600,000 public infrastructure fund grant application and a \$400,000 match that would contribute toward the construction of about 500 feet of road on its new property purchased to connect the industrial park to Four Corners. Design of the industrial park is already underway, and access to Four Corners was critical to the port's plans for the site as an economic hub and job generator.

Executive Director Eron Berg said the port is partnering with Jefferson PUD on the road project. "It's about \$1.1 million in electrical infrastructure that puts redundant power to our property and also provides a new main feeder from the Four Corners substation through the port's property to Kala Point and the surrounding area. We will have adequate power and water for anybody that wants to locate there – a foundry, a cold storage facility – it would all be ready."

The PUD will invest about \$925,000 in the road project, Berg said. It is seeking a reimbursement of \$175,000 from the port, which Berg said the agency will pay with Public Infrastructure funds. The port's portion of the project will be funded with \$775,000 in Industrial Development District funding and \$425,000 in Public Infrastructure funding. It was a lot of money for the port, Berg said, but it will put them in a good position when competing for funding for the next phase of developing the property. "There are people in our community right now who need that space for their businesses to grow," Commissioner Pam Patranek said.

Commissioners also discussed leasing hangar pad site 6 at Jefferson County International Airport to Dave Ward, who wants to build on the site. There had been concern that developing the site would circumvent the port's plans to develop the pad site itself. But Ward's intention to begin building as soon as a lease is signed means the port could offer more much-needed hangar space; the lease itself would generate about \$15,000 in revenue for the airport next year. Commissioners said they want to see a plan to create vehicle access to the site because it currently can only be reached via the taxiway, and that creates safety risks for ground and air transportation. Commissioners agreed to have Berg draw up a lease for their approval at their next meeting on September 25.

During the Wednesday morning workshop, Matt Klontz, the director of capital projects, shared with commissioners a draft of the port's \$145 million five-year capital improvement plan and funding sources. Boat Haven Marina would see the most attention, with more than \$80 million in projects, including a \$5.23 million stormwater improvement project that is scheduled for next summer and the \$5.125 million west expansion of the boatyard. The biggest cost would be the \$66.6 million sea-level rise project that would protect Boat Haven from king tides like those that occurred in 2022.

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Listeners who commute to Seattle using the Kingston fast ferry will be happy to learn that Kitsap Transit has received \$13.5 million in federal funding to replace the 25-year-old MV *Finest*, the fast ferry that broke down

(<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/kingston-to-seattle-fast-ferry-service-canceled-until-further-notice/>) in late August due to a water jet malfunction, temporarily halting the Kingston-Seattle route.

Senator Cantwell, chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, applauded the grant, which will replace the MV Finest with a new eco-friendly vessel on the Kingston-Seattle route.

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And finally, Washdot reminds us that beginning at 7am next Monday, September 16, access to Shine Road from State Route 104 near Paradise Bay Road will be closed to all traffic for two weeks. It will reopen on Tuesday, October 1 for right turns only. Shine Road access near Teal Lake Road will remain open throughout the closure.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.