# South Intermodal Yard Facility Lease Agreement

**Public Utility Board Study Session** 

**June 25, 2025** 

# TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

# **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**



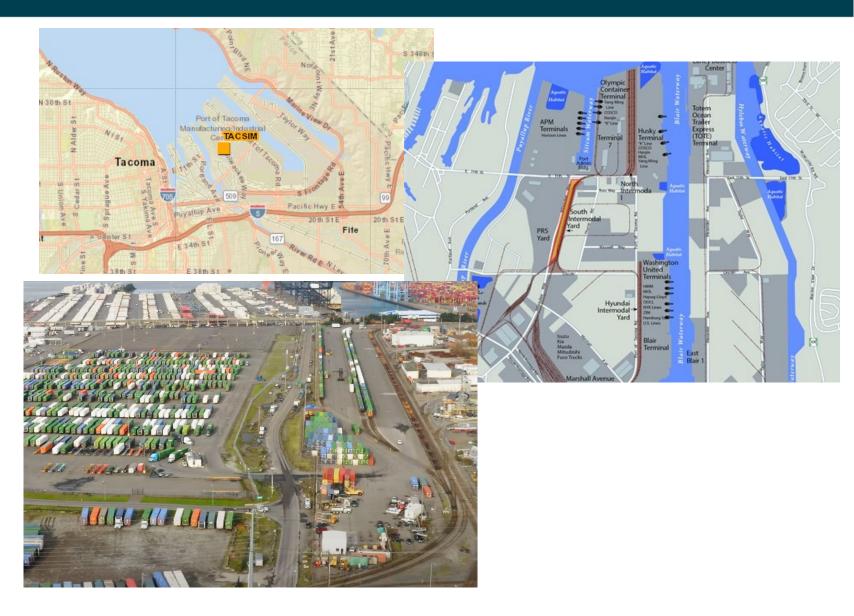
- 1981: Port of Tacoma helped pioneer a new era in trade and transportation history when it opened its North Intermodal Yard (NIM), the first On-Dock railyard on the West Coast.
- 1983: Sea-land Shipping Line signed a 30-year lease with the Port of Tacoma, and the South Intermodal Yard (SIM) Near-Dock facility was constructed, opening two years later.
- 1985: Between the NIM and SIM Tacoma became the fastest growing port in North America.
- 2009: Union Pacific Railroad, Port of Tacoma and Tacoma Rail came together to bring UP's Domestic Rail operation from Seattle to SIM.
- July 2022: BNSF and J.B. Hunt launched direct container-only service to Chicago from SIM.
- Domestic Intermodal business has grown exponentially in 15+ years of operation.



# SIM FACILITY OVERVIEW



- Owned by Tacoma Rail
- Leased to Port of Tacoma and operated by its vendor Pacific Rail Services
- Class 1 rail service provided by BNSF and Union Pacific
- 4 Loading Tracks, 8,645 ft. of total trackage
- Capable of more than 150,000 annual container lifts
- Off-site Port-owned support infrastructure
  - Leases with both Class 1 Railroads



## **PREVIOUS LEASE**

#### Lessee

Port of Tacoma

#### Term

- 31 years (1984-2015)
- Two Five-Year Extensions (2015-2025)

### Area

• 16.22 Acres

### Rent

- 1984-2020 Fair Market Value
  - Adjustments every five years
- 2020-2025 Reduced Lease payments for volume incentive program in exchange for 5-year extension of Operating Agreement.
- Operating Agreement duration extended annually for each year option exercised.





## **APPRAISAL PROCESS**



## R.L. Banks & Assoc. / Integra Realty Resources (Tacoma Rail) SH&H Valuation and Consulting (NWSA)

### Land Value

- Market Value w/o Improvements \$14.61M to \$19.93M (\$22 to \$30 per SF)
- 8% Average Annual Rent Rate \$1.17M to \$1.59M
- Monthly Rent Rate \$97K to \$133K

### Leasehold Improvement Value (owned by NWSA)

- Track Infrastructure Net Liquid Value \$304K
- Building Improvements Depreciated Replacement \$1.1M to \$1.62M

## **NEW LEASE**



**SD2** Financial Stability

\$

#### Lessee

• Port of Tacoma (NW Seaport Alliance)

Term

- 5 years (2025-2030)
- No Extension

### Area

• 15.249 Acres

### Rent

- 2025-2030 \$100,000 per month
  - Plus 8% cost recovery fee
  - Annual CPI Adjustments
  - No correlation to Operating Agreement



## **OPERATING AGREEMENT**



- The Port of Tacoma/City of Tacoma Department of Public Utilities entered into an Operating Agreement dated July 1, 2013, with a 20-year term.
- Deferred rent was to be used to incentivize rail cargo volume growth through the Tacoma Harbor or maintenance of rail and/or rail-related infrastructure improvements in the Tacoma Harbor.
- Funds administered and distributed by the Port of Tacoma.
- New lease is strictly a Real Estate transaction, no longer comingled.
- Working with the NWSA on alternative approaches to incentivize rail cargo volume.





- ✓ 6/25/25 Public Utility Board Study Session
- 7/1/25 Government Performance and Finance Committee
- 7/9/25 Public Utility Board Consideration
- 7/15/25 City Council to Set Public Hearing
- 7/22/25 City Council Hold Public Hearing (RCW 35.94.040)
- 7/29/25 City Council Final Consideration



TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES