



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Passenger Facility Charges Audit Report

Port of Bellingham

For the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Published July 28, 2025

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

July 28, 2025

Board of Commissioners
Port of Bellingham
Bellingham, Washington

Report on Passenger Facility Charges

Please find attached our report on the Port of Bellingham's compliance with requirements applicable to its passenger facility charge program.

In addition to this work, we look at other areas of our audit client's financial condition and operations for compliance with state laws and regulations. The results of those audits will be included in separately issued accountability and financial statement reports.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to the Passenger Facility Charge Program and on Internal Control over Compliance

Port of Bellingham January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Board of Commissioners
Port of Bellingham
Bellingham, Washington

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the Port of Bellingham, with the compliance requirements described in the *Passenger Facility Charge Audit Guide for Public Agencies* (Guide) issued by the Federal Aviation Administration for its passenger facility charge program for the year ended December 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the Port of Bellingham complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to its passenger facility charge program for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (professional auditing standards), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the Guide. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the schedule section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Port and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Schedule

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws and regulations applicable to its passenger facility charge program. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional auditing standards and the Guide will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the schedule. Professional auditing standards and the Guide require that we plan the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule is free from material misstatement.

Performing an audit in accordance with professional auditing standards and the Guide includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the schedule;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Port's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the schedule; and
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of the passenger facility charge program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of the passenger facility charge program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of the passenger facility charge program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Guide. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

SCHEDULE OF PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES

We have audited the financial statements of the Port of Bellingham, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Port's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 21, 2025, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Port's basic financial statements as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges Collected and Expended is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Guide and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other

records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 21, 2025 on our consideration of the Port's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Port's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

July 21, 2025

FINANCIAL SECTION

Port of Bellingham January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges Collected and Expended – 2024
Notes to the Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges – 2024

Port of Bellingham
Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges Collected, Held and Used

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Quarter Ending			
	March 2024	June 2024	Sept 2024	Dec 2024
Unexpended passenger facility charges and interest, beginning of period	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Add:				
Passenger Facility Charges Revenue	230,162	311,613	246,763	287,826
Interest earned	0	0	0	0
	230,162	311,613	246,763	287,826
Expenses/Expenditures	230,162	311,613	246,763	287,826
Unexpended passenger facility charges and interest, end of period	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Port of Bellingham
Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges Collected, Held and Used

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

This schedule is prepared generally on the same basis of accounting as the Port's financial statements. However, while the Port uses the full-accrual basis of accounting where revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred, the PFC revenues presented represent only those revenues actually received for the quarter reported. PFC revenues not received prior to the end of each quarter are not accrued and reported as revenues of the subsequent reporting period.

2. PROGRAM COSTS

The amounts shown as current year revenues and expenses represent only the Passenger Facilities Charges portion of the project costs. Entire project costs may be more than shown.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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