

## **Planning Work Group Report**

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**April 3, 2017**

The group held their first meeting on February 1, 2017. During the meeting there was discussion on the work group's definition, activities and priorities, which included some back-and-forth on whether or not to add "Research" to the work group's name.

First, the group agreed on the following general work group goals:

- To research, develop and share 'best practices' and case studies
- To network with other planners (both AAPA members and nonmembers)
- To increase awareness of the value of seaports
- To inform AAPA's Legislative Policy Council on legislation issues, policies and funding matters important to port strategic planning

Next, the group agreed to the following initial priorities (in no particular order):

- Develop training programs for port planning and development, grant writing, and port investment strategies.
- Investigate (and provide as a resource to the rest of the committee) alternative financing strategies for port projects.
- Provide educational resources for port planners so they can better articulate and provide evidence as to how and why ports are economic engines for their communities and regions.
- Help guide standardization in port planning methodology and statistics, particularly as it applies to incorporating a port's master plan into its specific (U.S.) state freight plan to better enable the port to compete for state and federal funding.

Listed below are several potential research topics that the Planning Work Group to considered to undertake. A survey was conducted to determine the top two and that will be the group's focus for 2017.

1. Develop an explicit methodology to prioritize research investment as it pertains to seaport security.
2. Develop a methodology for determining the types of projects that should be developed or constructed at ports when politics, community will and limited budgets come into play.
3. Review and analyze the research needs and parameters of the maritime industry and ports' economic roles as "major economic engines," and how existing port infrastructure funding arrangements are affected by policy initiatives and regulatory limitations.

4. Research the contributions of AAPA-member port authorities to community livability enhancements and compare them to ports elsewhere to determine what are the most beneficial attributes AAPA-member ports may want to adopt to improve relationships within their communities.
5. Research the roles of ports that have combined their resources (e.g., Northwest Seaport Alliance) vs. ports that fiercely compete in the same geographic area, and showcase the advantages/disadvantages of both.
6. Research variables of successful ports in the U.S. vs. Canada and determine how success is being measured.
7. Research prospective benefit-cost analyses of publicly-funded port expansion plans.
8. Research the differences between municipal, county and state-owned port authorities vs. privately-owned ports to identify strengths and weaknesses of each.
9. Research various types of port master plans as a tool for investments to identify "best practices."
10. Research the impacts of various federal policies on port operations and identify what works, what doesn't, and why.

A group Survey was conducted, in March 2017, to determine the top 2 potential topics. We received a 35% response rate. Based on the results, the group voted to focus on:

1. *Research the impacts of various federal policies on port operations and identify what works, what doesn't, and why.*
2. *Research various types of port master plans as a tool for investments to identify "best practices."*

The group was also asked to vote on if "Research" should be included in the name. Thirty-percent (30%) of the response voted to include "Research" in the name.

Based on the results of the survey, the AAPA Planning Working Group recommends renaming the group to the ***AAPA Planning and Research Working Group with a focus on Masterplanning tools and research impacts of various federal policies on port operations.***