

The 30,000-foot view

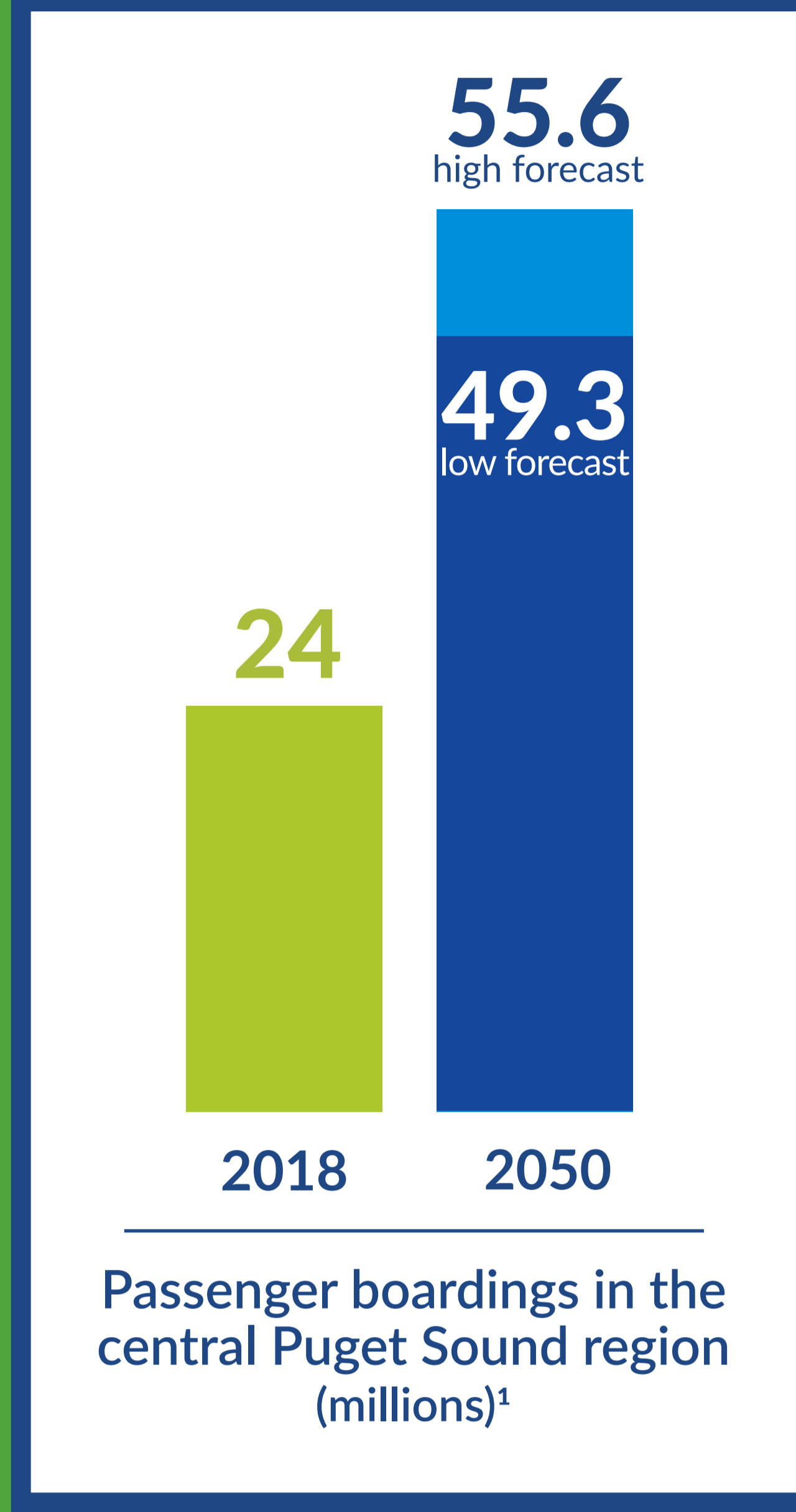
The future of Washington's aviation system

As the Puget Sound region grows, demand on our aviation system is growing with it. Commercial (passenger), air cargo, and general aviation make up the aviation system that supports Washington communities. This system impacts the day-to-day lives of all Washington residents.

The Washington Legislature created the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACC) to address concerns that **Washington's airports, including Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, will soon reach capacity.** The CACC's charge is to provide a recommendation by June 15, 2023, for a single preferred location to meet the forecast demand for commercial passenger service, air cargo, and general aviation.



Commercial > Scheduled passenger service

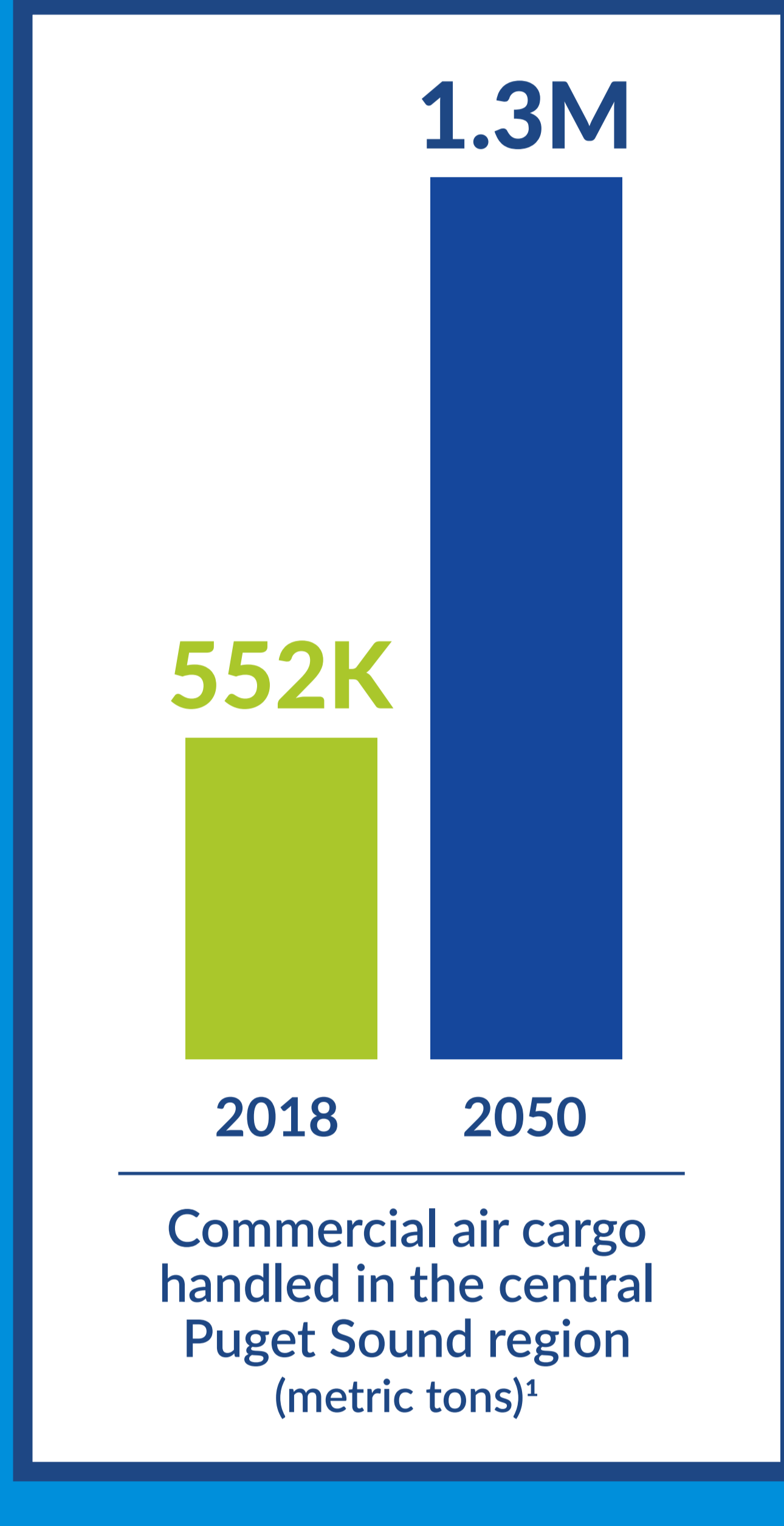


Forecasts suggest that, even with planned expansions at Sea-Tac Airport and Paine Field, by 2050 millions of passengers might not be accommodated due to lack of capacity. This could lead to rising prices for tickets, parking, and other amenities, as well as crowding and delays at the airports.



Air cargo > Freight and mail carried in the lower hold of passenger aircraft and on dedicated planes

Tied to airport capacity, we rely on air cargo to receive goods, and the facilities that receive and process air cargo are projected to run out of space. That could mean more expensive shipping costs and longer, less reliable shipping times.



General aviation > Business, flight instruction, medical, emergency, law enforcement, recreation, & tourism



Hangar space is in short supply not only for recreational flying but for essential and business services our communities rely on, like emergency transport and wildland firefighting.



Our commitment to environment

At the same time the CACC is studying how we can add capacity to our aviation system, the Commission is also working to identify innovative solutions and options to reduce the noise and environmental impact associated with increased aviation operations.

Environmental responsibility has been central to the CACC's research and education of its members. The Commission takes seriously the potential impacts to the environment from greenhouse gases, emissions, and noise. Early in the CACC's work, the Commission made two recommendations regarding environment:

- Advance the development and use of sustainable aviation fuel as a bridging strategy while more advanced aircraft capable of significant emissions and noise reductions are developed
- Support WSDOT's role in advancing aviation's technology including the work of the electric aircraft working group

There are parallel efforts taking place, not only within Washington state but across the country, to try to develop ways to address the environmental concerns associated with air traffic operations. The development or construction of an airport or expansion of an existing one will take years to begin (as many as 20 years or longer for a new airport). WSDOT is pursuing available and emerging aviation technology for airports such as the production and use of sustainable aviation fuel, electrification of ground support equipment, clean power generation at airports, and the use of electric, hybrid-electric, and hydrogen propelled aircraft as they become available. In the near-term, the aerospace industry is making continuous improvements to reduce noise and emissions.



Learn more

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¹ Source: WSP USA Analysis

² Sources: FAA ATADS, NFDC, FAA Aerospace Forecast, and WSP