



# PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **MTA OPENS PUBLIC PARKING AREA IN BELFAIR**

*Mason County, WA* – On July 1, 2016, Mason Transit Authority (MTA) will be opening a general public parking area in Belfair, located at 320 NE Roy Road, behind Safeway. The parking area will serve as a temporary location for local area residents and commuters to park until MTA completes construction of a permanent park and ride in Belfair.

Last year, MTA was awarded about \$10 million dollars in grant funding through the Regional Mobility Program from the Washington State Department of Transportation in order to enhance and enlarge the existing park and rides throughout Mason County, as well as build a new one in the Belfair area. According to Mike Oliver, MTA Development Manager, the park and ride in Belfair is their first priority. MTA recently hired a consultant in an effort to purchase property and it is estimated the permanent park and ride will be finished in late 2019 or early 2020. Until then, they are leasing the temporary parking property from Northridge Properties, LLC, for a period of three years and will have the option to continue the agreement on a month-to-month basis following the three year term.

Danette Brannin, MTA General Manager, stated, “The lack of public parking available in the Belfair area has long been a challenge for both the community and transit users. This interim project is great news for the community and will be a welcome benefit while we work to create a permanent park and ride. “

The temporary parking area features 85 stalls including four ADA accessible stalls, a bus waiting area, and bright LED lighting. It is free and open to the public as well as transit users. MTA’s commuter programs will be providing direct service starting immediately on July 1, but their regular routed service will not. For persons using regular routes in the local area, they will need to call their customer service office and request the route to deviate for direct service. MTA’s goal is to have direct route service to the parking area later this year in the fall.

MTA will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the parking area on Friday, July 1, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., located at 320 NE Roy Road, Belfair, WA 98528.

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For more information about MTA’s Park & Ride Project contact Mike Oliver, Development Manager, at 360-432-5710 or moliver@masontransit.org.