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Journal photo by Gordon Weeks

## City asks for relief in grant payback

The City of Shelton will ask the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to reduce the amount of money by \$98,213 that it needs to pay back for the uncompleted state Route 3 park-and-ride project.

In December, the city of Shelton agreed to pay back \$411,370 in federal grant money for two uncompleted projects: a state Route 3 park-and-ride facility at the town's northern entrance and a nearby "historic corridor" trail through the city's namesake's pear orchard.

At the commission's regular meeting on Tuesday, public works director Craig Gregory presented a Local Agency Project Prospectus to update the project with the completion of phase 1 of the state Route 3 park-and-ride project. Phase 1 included the demolition of the old wastewater treatment plant, installation of the gravel parking lot and a property transfer from the Simpson Timber Co.

In his report to the city, Gregory wrote that submitting the Local Agency Project Prospectus allows the city to move forward with closing out the project by requesting WSDOT Local Programs accept federal funds spent for phase 1. In the prospectus, the city will ask WSDOT to approve the completion of phase 1 and reduce the amount of federal funds to pay back by

\$98,213.

Mayor Gary Cronce said he disagrees with the assessment that the grant money was "wasted." He pointed out that even though the project is incomplete, the city demolished the old wastewater treatment building and received property from Simpson.

The park-and-ride project would have included completing the design and construction of a lot for about 15 to 20 stalls for vehicles, to serve commuters riding MTA buses to Belfair and Kitsap County. The lot also would have provided MTA a pull-off spot for buses connecting to the Transit-Community Center downtown and beyond.