

# County: Legislators should support intersection change

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The Board of County Commissioners made it official last week — it wants support in Olympia from state legislators concerning changes to an intersection near a new park-and-ride project on state Route 3 in Belfair.

During a brief county commission meeting Tuesday at Commission Chambers in downtown Shelton, the three-person board unanimously approved 11 items on the meeting's action agenda, including a letter of support from Mason County to state Reps. Drew MacEwen (R-Union), Dan Griffey (R-Allyn) and Tim Sheldon (D-Potlatch). The letter, which states the project would benefit from a roundabout, asks the elected officials for support to improve the intersection. The letter, signed by all three county commissioners and dated Jan. 17, also stated the goal of the MTA's proposed permanent facility is to make it easier for citizens to use public transit or the Worker-Driver Bus, carpool or vanpool in hopes of relieving traffic congestion on state Route 3.

"Your support for an intersection improvement on state Route 3 at the new MTA park-and-ride facility in Belfair will help advance the efforts of Mason County, MTA, WSDOT and other partners to improve travel choices and relieve traffic congestion in north Mason County and south Kitsap County," the letter read.

All of the 11 items on the meeting's action agenda were unanimously approved in one motion by commissioners Randy Neatherlin, Terri Jeffreys and commission chair Kevin Shuttly without request for any of the items to be removed from the action agenda and considered as a separate item, which led to the meeting's early conclusion.

The county commission also approved the collective-bargaining agreement between the county and the Ma-

son County Engineers Guild employees, which runs from January through December 2019. The agreement had previously been ratified by the guild and it was noted by county support services director Frank Pinter the parties had reached the agreement through a "very collaborative negotiations process."

Approval of the collective bargaining agreement drew praise from both Jeffreys and Neatherlin.

"I also would like to give a compliment to, not just our staff, but to the unions as well," Neatherlin said. "When we first came in, Commissioner (Jeffreys), you remember, it was a little adversarial. They ended up working with us very hard because we had no money. And here it is again, we're tight on funds, and staff and the union worked together to come up with something that is realistic, without beating each other to death. It's wonderful to have that arrangement, so we have to remember that when the time comes that we're doing well again, because they did come to our aid a little bit on this again."

Other items approved on the action agenda included:

- The authorization of the Public Works department to select and enter into an agreement for right-of-way services, as needed, for the 2017-18 calendar years from the County Municipal Research and Service Center consultant roster.

- The execution of an amendment for the agreement with MDG Wastewater & Water Treatment for an additional \$25,000 to continue water and wastewater management services.

- Adoption of the updated Mason County Comprehensive Plan for 2017.

- The nomination of Jacqueline Earley to the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development board of directors

- Reappointment of Susan Ickles to the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging, with a term ending in January 2019.



Journal photo by Michael Heinbach  
Mason County commissioners, from left, Randy Neatherlin, Kevin Shuttly and Terri Jeffreys listen to Public Works deputy director/county engineer Melissa McFadden (not pictured), who presented Public Works bid-award information to the commission.