

Transit designs new park and rides

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MASON COUNTY LIFE

Mason Transit Authority is moving ahead with several of its park and ride projects in Mason County, including a new park and ride in North Mason.

The transit authority is on track to purchase a site for a park and ride in Belfair by the end of the month, having already met with Overton & Associates, landowner of the top-ranked site at the southeast corner of Highway 3 and Log Yard Road. The site provides direct access to the highway, and the side road and is located near the future Belfair bypass connection.

"We continue negotiations and design coordination with the landowner ... per board direction, said Mike Oliver, development manager at Mason Transit Authority. "Research work on intersection improvement at Log Yard Road and Highway 3 continues."

The intersection needs to be improved so that drivers have better access to the proposed park and ride, Oliver added, and the transit authority will coordinate with Washington Department of Transportation on any of those improvements. Transit authority staff have also obtained traffic count data for the intersection, determined fire flow requirements, researched permitting requirements and appraised both the Overton site and a second-ranked



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Mason Transit Authority has finished conceptual design on a park and ride at the north end of Shelton on Highway 3. They plan to finish five park and ride projects by June 2019.

property, a parcel owned by Brad and Angela Schauer. The top two sites were determined by a workgroup made up of Mason Transit Authority board and advisory board members, Mason County officials and a participant in

the transit authority's worker-driver program. The transit authority will negotiate with the Schauers for their property if talks with Overton & Associates fall through. Elsewhere in the county, Mason Transit Authority has finished conceptual design with the city of Shelton on a park and ride at the Pear Orchard site at the north end of Shelton and is working with the city on a park and ride at the intersection of US Highway 101 and Railroad Avenue.

The Pear Orchard site is now designed to have 30 parking stalls, as opposed to 20, and the site at US Highway 101 may link to a sidewalk improvement and beautification project the city is planning for near the site.

"The city of Shelton's Gateway Project ... will link (to) the park and ride site, which sits just outside of the city limits," Oliver said. "These access improvements could greatly enhance the park and ride location making access by pedestrians and bicyclists a reality."

Park and ride sites at Cole Road and Pickering Road are also at 90 percent design completion. Funding for all of these projects comes from grants and \$754,000 in the transit authority's matching funds. All projects are expected to be complete by June 2019. For more information on Mason Transit Authority's park and ride projects, visit www.masontransit.org/parkandrideproject.