

# MTA moves ahead with park & ride

BY DANA KAMPA  
dana@masoncounty.com

For North Mason drivers battling traffic congestion every morning, some measure of potential relief is on the horizon.

Mason Transit Authority (MTA) is moving forward with long-standing plans to build a permanent park-and-ride facility in Belfair, according to MTA general manager Danette Brannin. With land just north of Belfair purchased, Brannin said the facility could be open by June 2019, if not earlier.

"We are moving full speed ahead," Brannin said in an interview with the *Herald*.

Park and rides allow individual commuters to leave their vehicles for the day and transfer to a bus, rail system or carpool.

This facility could include space for 100 cars, which could reduce the number of cars commuting from Belfair to Bremer-ton and beyond during peak hours.

North Mason residents first began seriously discussing the potential need for a park and ride in 2013, and in September 2014, MTA submitted a grant application to pay for six park-and-ride facilities to be built throughout the county.

"We were waiting for the actual contract before we proceeded with hiring a consultant to handle the project," Brannin said.

Brannin said besides going through the processes of hiring contractors and getting permits, finding the right location for the Belfair facility is what took



Brannin