BELLEVUE COLLEGE

3000 Landerholm Circle SE • Bellevue, WA 98007-6484 • www.bellevuecollege.edu

April 16, 2014

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Ave. NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue WA 98004

Dear Mayor Claudia Balducci and Honorable Councilmembers,

Bellevue College has been pleased to participate in the City of Bellevue Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project and the Transit Master Plan. Over the course of these two projects, we have participated at forums, field investigations, commission meetings, and met directly with City staff and consultants. From these two planning initiatives, the Bellevue College Connection project has emerged as a significant opportunity to improve vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian movement. This project will benefit campus, the surrounding corridors and neighborhoods, the Eastgate Transit Center, and the potential transit-oriented development site.

The College is greatly interested in the opportunity to enhance pedestrian safety and walkability, create a bicycle connection to the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and facilitate frequent local and regional transit with fewer areas of conflict. This project will support and expand our recent growth in transit commuting, which nearly one in three students cite as their primary mode of transportation. It will also support low impact choices like walking and biking. The benefits of reduced auto congestion combined with new trail and transit connections will support both the College and the surrounding community.

Bellevue College will be an active partner in advancing the Connection project. We anticipate collaborating with the City and relevant partners such as Sound Transit, King County Metro, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway to realize the full potential of the Connection project. While state funding allocations have become constrained and remain competitive between colleges and other state agencies, we anticipate opportunities to provide limited matching funds. We understand the preliminary design/engineering phase of the concept specifically may be an important phase for contributions from local partners.

We appreciate the initiative the City of Bellevue has shown in undertaking these planning processes and improving transportation and land-use in the Eastgate I-90 area. We look forward to collaborating in the realization of the vision outlined in these projects and specifically the Bellevue College Connection.

Best Regards,

Ray White
VP of Administrative Services
Bellevue College