January 7, 2014

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Avenue NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Bellevue College Associated Student Government

Honorable Councilmembers,

The changes proposed by King County Metro in response to lack of state funding will have a large impact on our student body. Specifically, the reroute of the 245 and 271, which would send the buses around the campus as opposed to its current route down through the heart of campus. The stop that would be cut picks up and drops off 1500+ rides a day. The 245 and 271 represent 55% of our transit riders and 17% of our entire student body. With ongoing work to promote alternative transportation, we have seen a rise in transit ridership, and as a result the college has seen a 4% drop in greenhouse gas emissions. The reroute diminishes the incentive for our students to use alternative transportation.

The stops that would be available for the students to use presents a saftey issue both for the riders and drivers on 148th. The students would be have to cross the street at 148th, creating uneeded foot traffic along a busy street. Buses dropping and picking up over 1500 rides a day would also add to the congestion. The distance to the campus is also an issues for safety and accessibility. At night the walk is dark and does not feel safe for most of our students. These changes impact equitable access to campus as the distance needed to be walked would make the campus difficult to access for some students with disabilities.

The current stop is on campus and features a heated shelter with bus arrival screens and a bike repair station. This creates an environment that promotes using buses as they have proven to make our campus accessible.

The City of Bellevue Transit Master Plan looks to provide efficient, abundant access across our region. Bellevue College has a strong relationship with the City of Bellevue and our campus is an important partner in building a sustainable city and future. Please support continued direct service to our campus.

Thank you,

ASG President

Bellevue College ASG

Kazuki Yorebayashi
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