BELLEVUE COLLEGE

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December 30, 2013

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

Honorable Councilmembers,

The King County Metro funding gap and proposed service cuts are of great concern to Bellevue College and the entire region and we hope that a resolution will be found to avoid impacts in Bellevue and throughout the county. We appreciate the time and effort put into the City of Bellevue Transit Master Plan and the framework of "abundant access," which provides a roadmap for a cuts scenario that preserves our primary corridors. We look forward to working with you and King County Metro to assure that vision is realized should the cuts take place in the near-term including protecting direct service to the Bellevue College campus.

Upon reviewing the King County Metro proposed Service Cuts we were extremely alarmed that service to the Bellevue College Campus would be cut for our two most well used routes, the 271 and the 245, which serve 55% of our student transit riders. Nearly a third of our students ride transit as their primary mode of transportation, which alleviates congestion in our neighborhood and throughout Bellevue. Metro's proposed re-routing of these services off campus on to 148th Ave SE would block traffic by stopping for passengers in-lane at frequent intervals. We already face complaints from students and employees that transit takes too long; adding a half-mile walk from the 148th Ave southbound bus stop to campus would only exacerbate riders' perceptions about the inconvenience of using transit, and it would significantly limit access to campus among students and faculty with mobility limitations. We should emphasize connections to population centers like Bellevue College, as more than 1,500 riders board or depart each day from this stop alone.

Bellevue College's staff have been participating in the Transit Master Plan process workshops and contributing feedback to the development of this plan. We support a robust network that encourages our students and employees to travel efficiently in Bellevue and make connections to destinations throughout the region. Given the dire tradeoffs we face, we support direct connections and streamlining coverage to make transit cost effective and operate at a meaningful frequency in primary corridors, including service to the Bellevue College.

As our partner in the region we support the City of Bellevue Transit Master Plan vision for abundant access—including its proposal for dealing with the potential cuts we face—and we look forward to your support in preserving direct service to Bellevue College in the face of these cuts, consistent with the City's plan.

Thank you,

Ray White
VP of Administrative Services
Bellevue College

Enclosed: Service Cut 245 and 271 Bellevue College, one page factsheet