



May 29, 2014

City of Bellevue
Attn: Claudia Balducci
450 110th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Mayor Balducci:

Metro proposes re-routing Route 271 around Bellevue College, placing the Route 271 stop on 148th. This change in service fails in supporting at-risk and vulnerable members of the Bellevue community. To avoid unnecessary impacts to the students and employees of Bellevue College, we ask that the City of Bellevue consider its resources and prioritize transit. **We seek a dialogue to explore ways the City and the College can collaborate in ensuring the safety and education of this important population.**

Metro's cut to the Route 271 places students, staff, and faculty at-risk.

- The re-route around BC impacts over 900 riders daily who use the 271 stop at the college.
- Students would navigate 1/3 of a mile between their stop, busy streets, and their classrooms.
- The distance presents severe issues to students with disabilities, particularly those with **in wheelchairs**, those **who are blind**, and those with other **sensory disabilities**.
- Students who take night classes and depend on transit will be placed in danger.

This un-necessary cut creates few savings, but imposes a high cost.

- No real change in distance occurs as a result of the re-route.
- Despite the proposed savings, ridership will decrease due to the added burden and risk.

This cut jeopardizes goals that reduce traffic congestion and transportation demand for the City of Bellevue.

- Transit is the primary mode of travel for 30% of students commuting to campus, up 10% from 2010.
- Single occupancy vehicle commuting decreased by 12% between 2010 and 2013.
- BC implements incentives for transit, but few students will utilize transit if they do not see the benefit.

Mayor Balducci, we realize this is an unpleasant circumstance. However, this cut endangers Bellevue residents and vulnerable students. We ask that City of Bellevue consider its resources and seek to mitigate the impact on vulnerable members of the Bellevue population. In particular, we ask that a dialogue be opened with the College for collaborating on alternatives that reduce the impact on students, staff, and faculty who rely on transit.

Thank you for considering the importance of this issue for the City of Bellevue and its student community. I would welcome an opportunity to continue this important conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray White'.

Ray White
Vice President of Administrative Services
Bellevue College
(425)564-2446