

January 2, 2014

Bellevue City Council  
450 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
PO Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009

**RE: Preserving All-day 15-Minute Frequencies on Route #235**

Dear Bellevue City Council Members:

Seattle Children's is deeply concerned about preserving affordable and convenient transit access for our patients and their families as well as our employees. We share this perspective as a major regional employer, a teaching institution and as a specialty and critical care provider to Bellevue and Eastside region. King County Metro Transit is in an unenviable position of planning service cuts when the time demand for transit service is at its peak. We appreciate the thoughtful and challenging work involved as Metro and the City of Bellevue determine where the reductions in service will be made.

Seattle Children's Bellevue Clinic and Surgery Center is a Significant Trip Generator Throughout the Day. Our Children's Bellevue Clinic and Surgery Center is a significant trip generator in downtown Bellevue, attracting over 250 patients and their families and over 100 employees and volunteers daily. Patients and staff arrive throughout the day - not just at peak times. It is critical that the frequency and span of service on Bellevue's most productive corridors be maintained which is consistent with Children's travel demand. It is for this reason that we support the 2015 Reduced Funding Scenario depicted in the Bellevue Transit Service Vision Report that preserves all-day frequent service to/from Bellevue's Medical Institutions District on 116th Avenue NE.

Metro's Proposed Frequency for Route #235 is Inconsistent with Planning Priorities. Metro's service reduction proposal for route #235 is inconsistent with the City Council's "Abundant Access" vision and commitment to the Frequent Transit Network in the Bellevue Transit Service Vision Report, specifically on a corridor that has been identified for "very frequent service" per Metro's 2013 Service Guidelines Report. Metro proposes increasing #235 frequency to 15-minute headways during commute hours but does not propose this same frequency during mid-day. We support all-day, 15-minute frequencies, on route #235 because the route's role connecting employees to their jobs, and patients and their families to critical care at all times throughout the day.

Seattle Children's has a High Rate of Metro Ridership. Seattle Children's is an unique institution providing speciality and critical care to families throughout the region regardless of their ability to pay. Seattle Children's ability to provide critical care is supported by the availability of transit to connect our staff to their life-saving jobs each day. On a daily basis 25% of Seattle Children's staff relies on public transit to get to work (almost 900 people on an average weekday). These 900 Children's employees and transit riders include nurses, doctors, administrators, housekeepers and food service employees.

Frequent headways throughout the entire day support affordability, convenience, access, effective regional connections, and the local economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Paulo Nunes-Ueno  
Director, Transportation and Sustainability