Public Comments on King County Metro's Service Reduction Plans at the Bellevue City Council's May 27, 2014 Meeting



12111 NE First Street, Bellevue, Washington 98005 / P.O. Box 90010, Bellevue, Washington 98009-9010

May 12, 2014

Bellevue City Councilmembers 450 110th Ave. NE Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Mayor Balducci and Members of the Council,

Bellevue School District (BSD) appreciates being a part of the Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP) workshops, meetings, and communications. The TMP group's primary concern is maintaining Metro service on the Frequent Transit Network (FTN) corridors. While these services are important to the school district, having service for our students to/from neighborhoods outside of the FTN corridors is equally important. Throughout the process, BSD has been able to voice our concerns regarding our service needs for maintaining to/from school services at the regular scheduled bell times. Fortunately, the Metro service reductions addressed in the City of Bellevue's January 2014 letter will have little to no impact on BSD students' regular service. However, the TMP does strengthen services for all students accessing community and school events outside of the normal bell schedule.

Recently, BSD Board Member Ms. Thai shared with me an interest in additional service after the regular scheduled bell time service. Ms. Thai also expressed a concern about the lack of service for special programs where the District does not provide transportation. The later service would increase options for a larger student population to remain after school or take advantage of BSD special programs. The later service and service for many of the BSD special programs is not State funded and is currently a parent responsibility. The District does not guarantee this as an option for all students, but it has been a service option for many students as a byproduct of the flexibility offered for students holding an ORCA card.

Though BSD has not been physically at the table with King County Metro for discussions regarding the currently proposed cuts, we have continued to maintain our strong working relationship with them. We have worked directly with them to maintain the level of service necessary to continue use of Metro as the primary service provider for BSD high school students. As mentioned, Metro's service reduction plan has very little direct impact on the district to/from student transportation for the 2014-15 school year.

However, the District is concerned that the reduction in service by Metro could result in overcrowding of District routes resulting in buses not stopping at bus stops, students being left behind and arriving late to school or home. Route reductions have not adversely affected our specific route coverage, but overall reductions along with increased ridership are contributing

to overcrowding. There are some reductions in service scheduled for September 2015, which could require the addition of BSD supplemental Metro routes or yellow school bus service.

We appreciate the City of Bellevue's interest in continuing transit service for BSD high school students and in providing them with an opportunity to learn how to utilize mass transit as a lifelong skill. With the City's support, and with its' influence on the service decisions of King County Metro, it is Bellevue School District's hope to maintain Metro service for BSD students in future years.

Sincerely,

Terry Parker

Senior Transportation Manager

Bellevue School District

cc: David Berg, Director of Transportation

Paula Stevens, Assistant Director, Transportation Planning

Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner

From: Al Kinisky [mailto:AlK@concur.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 13:57

To: Council

Cc: Chris Loeffler; Sandy Bumstead; Cindy Olsen

Subject: Response to Bellevue City Council's May 27th Metro Transit Meeting

To Whom It May Concern,

After being located in Redmond for the past 10 years, Concur Technologies made strategic decision to move to Bellevue in May 2013. One of the key decision points for making this move into downtown Bellevue at the Key Center Building was not only based on an "across the street" access to the Metro Transit Center but the numerous bus and rail routes across multiple zones to support our diverse employee population getting to and from work.

Currently we have over 45% of our Bellevue employee population using the ORCA card regularly. This equates to over 400 employees using both bus and rail services as a part of their commute. As Concur plans to increase our employee population, we expect the number of metro riders to increase as well — especially with garage parking rates at Key Center and in the local area rising. With the proposed Metro reductions, a large number of our employees who live in the Seattle, Issaquah, Bothell and Sammamish areas (to name a few) will be impacted. The outcome will vary for each person — some might have to make an additional transfer to get to the office or take a different route altogether and in some cases some may not choose to work at Concur at all. All of this could add time to their commute and could affect our ability as a business to retain good talent. Ultimately, with nearly two-thirds of King County Metro's routes being affected, we are now struggling to make good on what we've promised our employees — "easy use supporting multiple routes!" These cuts could cost us productivity and the ability to not only retain but attract the best local talent.

While we apologize that no one from Concur could attend this May 27th session, we appreciate having a voice to influence no reduction in proposed Metro routes. If we can elaborate further, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Al Kinisky, CFM, PMP
Sr. Director of Global Facilities, Real Estate, Procurement & Travel
Concur
601 108th Ave NE, #1000, Bellevue, WA 98004
www.concur.com
425-590-5000 (Main)

From: Singh, Gurvinder [mailto:gurvinder.singh@pse.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 15:20

To: Council

Subject: Metro's transit reduction plans

Dear Mayor Claudia Balducci and Honorable Councilmembers:

I am commuter from Seattle who comes to work in downtown Bellevue. I use the route 243 bus, which is the only convenient route for me. If I had to take two buses to come to Bellevue from where I live it would add 30 more minutes to my commute and it would make it harder for me to justify taking the bus. I like taking the bus as it is more convenient than driving, less costly to me and I feel good doing my part to help reduce congestion in downtown Bellevue reduce tail pipe emissions.

This bus route is special as it serves regular riders some of who have been taking this bus for over ten years, I have been taking it for almost 8 years. The bus is full, most of the time with standing room only both ways. If all fails and this bus route has to affected, I hope that a mitigation proposal will be considered:

1. Eliminate one time slot in the morning (there are three time slot on the morning from Seattle), and keep the already reduced two time slots going from Bellevue to Seattle in the evenings.

I appreciate your interest and efforts to maintain and expand transit choices for Bellevue residents and commuters.

Gurvinder Singh Resource Planning and Analysis Puget Sound Energy PO Box 97034 Bellevue, WA 98004-9734 425.456.2428 direct 425.531.8730 cell From: Shannon Ellis-Brock [mailto:shannone@psccu.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 10:59

To: Council

Subject: 243 Bus Route

Dear Mayor Claudia Baldacci and Honorable Councilmembers,

I wanted to take a moment to comment on the cutting of bus route 243 in hopes that the cities of Bellevue and Seattle can work together to find a way to save the only bus that services north Seattle to Bellevue. A bus that whenever I catch it whether it is the first morning bus, the middle bus or the last bus of the morning is standing room only. The same applies to the two evening routes, those of us that commute on the 243 work for all different employees throughout downtown Bellevue. From large employers such as Microsoft, Expedia and PSE to small employers like mine.

Cutting of this route is not just an inconvenience it has caused me and several others I have talked to, to consider employment elsewhere or face nearly doubling our commute times. I ask that you consider all of the ramifications of losing this route, from increased traffic, to parking issues to loss of revenues from those that no longer commute into Bellevue on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Shannon Ellis-Brock Chief Operating Officer shannone@psccu.org www.psccu.org 425-283-5155 | Phone 425-283-5152 | Fax

Michele Appell Comments to City of Bellevue Regarding Transit Master Plan Council Meeting May 27, 2014

Good evening Mayor Balducci and Honorable Council members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

I live in the Crossroads area of Bellevue. My address is 1435 154th Ave NE Bellevue 98007 #3906.

Public transportation gives me and other people with disabilities a way to work, socialize, and be a part of community life. I use public Metro transportation almost every day.

Today, I went to work at SME. They are a Fire and Security Company in Seattle. I do their scanning. I take Route 245 and then transfer to route 212 at Eastgate. I used a Sound Transit bus coming home and then transferred to Metro. Metro is the only way I can get to work to do my job and earn money.

I am able to be at this meeting today because of public transit. After work, I got downtown to the transfer station, was able to meet my husband Jaime, and have dinner. After I talk to you, I am going to Special Olympics track practice at the Highland Center. I will use Metro to get home from there.

There are so many people with disabilities who have jobs now. In the past, many of us didn't get a chance to work. Not working and trying to live on benefits is a hard life. You basically live in poverty. My job helps me pay my rent, buy food, and attend social events with friends. Working gives us a chance to show how capable we are and what we can do.

Public transportation, both metro and access, are the only ways for us to get to work. Even working, we can't afford to pay for a taxi to get to where we need to go. We don't drive or own cars. Sometimes I walk to places that are close. You can't walk everywhere. And sometimes the weather is bad and walking is not safe or comfortable. I am an athlete and participate in Special Olympics. Right now I am training for the state track meet coming up in a few weeks. I take metro to practice and I take metro to track meets. There would be no way for us to get home from practice or meets without the bus system.

Metro is our way of getting around and out of the house. We want to be part of the community and have a regular life like everyone else. The bus system gives us choices of where to socialize and where to shop.

We often take the bus to Bellevue Square or the mall in Redmond. We eat downtown and spend our money in local stores. Without a bus system, we would sit at home and those businesses would lose some of their customers.

We also use the bus to visit our friends. We visit Laurie in Totem Lake a lot. We go on Friendship Adventures events. I am a member of the Kiwanis Aktion Club of Salmon Country. I go to events like Concerts on the Green and Salmon Days. We raise money and do community service to help others. I volunteer at AtWork! and SODA, two nonprofits I care about. The bus lets me do all these things and contribute back to my community.

I love my job, my friends, my community, and my life. Metro makes a huge difference in my quality of life and the lives of all of my friends with disabilities.

Please consider all of us as you work on your master transit plan and consider cuts to metro and access services. Any cuts will have a big impact on people with disabilities. No one wants to lose their job because they can't get there. No one wants to live a life stuck in an apartment or a group home with places to go and no way to get there. Thank you.

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 To: Bellevue City Council

From: Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

RE: Chamber testimony on King County Metro and important of bus service to Bellevue

Mayor Balducci, Deputy Mayor Wallace, and Councilmembers, I'm Lincoln Vander Veen representing the Bellevue Chamber. As you are probably aware, our organization opposed King County Proposition 1 primarily because we believed it would undercut any momentum that exists in Olympia for a statewide transportation package. The Bellevue Chamber is a strong supporter of transportation improvements, both in infrastructure improvements, including for I-405 and SR-520, as well as bus service for Bellevue's residents and workers. All opportunities to grow and enhance bus service for Bellevue's employment base is critical to economic growth, but we should not fund one at the expense of the other.

While Proposition 1 was proposed to provide King County Metro with financial resources because of the then on-going economic recession and decline in sales tax revenues, according to King County's most recent economic and revenue forecast, sales tax revenues have now recovered and even exceed the high water mark of sales tax generated in 2007. And in fact, King County Metro is forecast to receive approximately 4.6 percent more (and possibly even higher) annually in sales tax revenue until at least 2023, roughly double the anticipated rate of inflation. Instead of simply avoiding cuts in existing bus service, with the rebound in sales tax revenues, the Bellevue Chamber believes the discussion should be focused on expanding bus service.

During our month-long due diligence on Proposition 1, we found that the King County Municipal League wrote in 2013 that "Metro has a relatively high cost structure and its cost per boarding and cost per vehicle mile continue to rise." Metro received additional tax increases in 2000, 2006, 2010, and 2011. Even with the additional revenue Metro stood to gain from approval of Proposition 1 Metro still forecasted that increases in its costs would continue to outpace increases in its revenues and that an additional tax increase would be needed in 2022 to simply maintain its current service levels.

Simply put, Metro's operating costs hurt Bellevue and Bellevue's need for robust bus transit service. Continual growth in Metro's operating costs beyond the level of inflation are simply unsustainable, and the defeat of Proposition 1 illustrates that voters will not support open-ended tax and fee increases to fund Metro. King County must take the necessary – and sometimes difficult -- steps to manage those costs, because Bellevue's appetite for bus transit is exploding.

We have contributed to the work behind the Bellevue Transit Master Plan and have testified in favor of the Plan's "Abundant Access" vision statement and appreciate the work the city did to prepare for all future scenarios. We know 17 percent of commute trips to downtown Bellevue occur via transit. We know that between 2003 and 2013, daily transit ridership in downtown Bellevue increased 144 percent. We also know that many thousands of employees and employers travel to and from work within the greater 405 crescent, and bus service is the only alternative to the single-occupancy vehicle for those employees and employers. Bellevue College – by many measures the second-largest institution of higher education in Washington state –is represented on our Board of Directors and we stand in support of maintaining Metro routes 245 and 271, two routes integral to the multi-modal transportation options for students and faculty there.

In other words, the market for efficient bus service in Bellevue is growing stronger and our member companies know that. It is clear, however, that the voters of the eastside view King County Metro's budget and operating expenses with suspicion, and as the above facts illustrate, for good reason. It is vital that Bellevue speak clearly and forcefully to King County Metro that bus transit resources must remain robust and comprehensive here but that King County Metro must continue its efforts to increase operating efficiencies and cap its annual increases in operating expenses. Bellevue is the economic and cultural heart of the Eastside. Metro's service must acknowledge that reality and provide our employers and employees with the bus service the 2nd largest jobs center in the Central Puget Sound deserves.

From: Terry Pottmeyer [mailto:terry@friendsofyouth.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:28 PM

To: Council

Subject: Input for May 27th Briefing re: King County Metro's Transit Service Reductions

Dear Mayor Claudia Balducci and Honorable Councilmembers,

As the primary provider of services for homeless youth and young adults in East King County, including the city of Bellevue, Friends of Youth urges the council to do all that it can to prevent, avoid or limit the proposed transit cuts to Metro service. These cuts would dramatically impact our clients' ability to access emergency overnight shelter services, housing, employment and education. It also reduces the safety net for youth in crisis under 18 by decreasing the number of Metro 'Safe Places' available, particularly during evening and overnight hours.

Homeless Youth:

Friends of Youth participates in Metro's discounted fare program, buying discounted bus tickets each year to help homeless and at-risk youth get to school, work, shelter, housing, and other appointments safely and efficiently. Transit is an essential link to education and the support services that help homeless young people move beyond the streets and prepare for life. We provide bus passes to youth in our shelter, outreach, housing, and employment programs. Public transit is the primary means of transportation for homeless youth—without transit homeless Bellevue youth cannot get to school, or to work, or to emergency shelter (our shelter, the only one serving homeless 18-24 year olds on the Eastside, is located in Redmond).

Safe Place Impacts:

Safe Place in King County was launched in August 2011 in partnership with Metro Transit. Every Metro bus is a Safe Place site where youth ages 12-17 in crisis can ask for help. Metro buses, each one a Safe Place site, have proven to be a very effective way to extend the front doors of youth shelters and counseling services throughout the county. Although Metro is one of many Safe Place sites, it is unique in not only its regional reach, but in its availability to youth during the evening and overnight hours when many other Safe Place sites, like our local libraries, are closed.

The current transit system is a critically important tool in for homeless youth as they journey to stability and independence, while providing a city wide safety net for youth in crisis. Please let us know how we can help to keep Metro services fully operational in Bellevue.

Terry Pottmeyer President/CEO Friends of Youth 13116 NE 132nd Kirkland, WA 98034 www.friendsofyouth.org 425.869.6490 x313 From: Walter R Weston [mailto:wrweston@comerica.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 08:27 **To:** Council; council@seattle.gov

Subject: Petition to Save King County Metro Route 243

Honorable Mayors and Council members of the City of Seattle and City of Bellevue:

As a SR-520 bus commuter from my home in Seattle to my office in Bellevue, I am writing to ask that you urge the King County Council to reconsider the elimination of Metro route 243. In September 2014, this and numerous other peak-only routes will be eliminated. This means longer and more crowded bus commutes and more congestion that will hurt businesses throughout the region.

The elimination of King County Metro route 243 can and should be avoided. The City of Seattle and City of Bellevue have a responsibility to act regionally and work together under King County Executive Constantine's Community Mobility Contracts program to maintain route 243 funding. This funding partnership between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue would be a temporary bridge to keep buses on the road until King County can get permanent and sustainable revenue authority from the Legislature for the regional system.

In the attached petition, employees of Microsoft, Expedia, Puget Sound Energy and many others have joined together in asking that the City of Seattle and City of Bellevue act quickly to preserve King County Metro route 243.

(See attached file: 243.pdf)(See attached file: 243 Continued.pdf)

Thank you,

Walter Weston
Vice President
Comerica Bank
Technology and Life Sciences Division
10500 NE 8th Street
Suite 1905
Bellevue, WA 98004
425.452.2539 direct
425.452.2510 fax



Petition	We, the undersigned transit riders urge the King County Council to remove Metro Route 243 from the list of routes scheduled
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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Michael Means	Med 2	Seattle	Bungie	5/22/14
Jones BRAG		Souther	A,X,D	5/22/14
Drew Luper	DUKE	Jeattle	Aerotek	5/22/4
Andy Holdeman	grale / Releian	Seaffe	Symetra	5/22
Julie Letchner	fre I	Scattle	Microsoft	5/22/2019
Lyatt Smith	St Supe	Seattle	Mulvanny G2	5/22/14
Allison Pascol	alliso Rascol	Seattle	Bellewe Downtown Association	5/22/14
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Michael CARREIRO	MAC	Seaffle	Roof Metrics	5/22/14
Rachel Waven	Jun	Seattle	Guidant Financial	5/22/14
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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Margaret Chepm	an Michap	Seatte	UW	5/22/12/
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Kari Lynn Mosse	Mari y promo	seattle	ARRIS	5/22/201
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Eric Bergstrom	Ene C.M. Bergt	Seattle	HDR Engineering	5/22/14
Dana Hamry	Dana Hamry	Seattle	Expedia	5/22/14

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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
CASIEY HARMIN	VA	SEATTLE	PUTET SOUND ENERGY	5/22/18
Shann Ellis-Bea	k Slll Bur	SEATTLE	PSCCU	22 MAT 201
Daniel wills	In a sal	Seattle	Optimar International	5-22-14
Linda Glas	Lole Bles	Seattle	City of Bellevue	5/22/14
Score TAYLOR	Sott Jayle	SCATTLE	CITY OF BELLEVUE	5/22/2014
RobChellon	Poley E. Chelton	Seattle	HDR	5/22/2014
Kevin Look		Seattle	Overlale Hosp	5/22/14
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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
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Tanlyn Momas	Maries	Seattle	DWMC	5/22/14
James Miller	James Mill	Seattle	T-Mobile	5/22/14
Yuza Pigott	IMA	Souttle	Nextitle	5/22/14
Ein Beck	The Property of the Party of th	Sealth	Greenpoint	\$22/K
Heather Boydell	Freth Bergell	Sea Hle	Zwish Day School	5-22-14
Beverly Ikeda	Blury Jule	seattle	Pricet Sound Energy	5-22-16
Sophie Pattison	5192	Seattle	Bureau of Education &	5/22/14
Jessie Rozier	Zum	Seattle	ARA Ward	5/4/14
Joe Seabreak	W Seafrech	Seattle	Puget Emil Fren	5/22/14
	·	Seattle		5/12/14

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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Jakson Taylor	John Do	Seattle	Puzet Sand Exergy	5/22
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Amy Takmaz	any Juhm	Seattle	Mürket leader	5/22
Melvin Gruschow	My. Com	Seatle	Radiant Logistics	5/22
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JAKE DUNN	Specific ()	SEATLE	CHZM HILL	5/22

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Printed Name Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
John Phillips HOH	Seattle	Puget Sound Energy	5/22/14
Valerie Graber Neith	Bellevue	City of Bellovue	5/22/14
Joshua Landon Mal	Seath	Morosoft	5/22/04
Shelton white Mhylle	Seattle	GZLLC	5/22/14
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Patricia Smith	Patien Smit	Seattle	Pokemon	5/23
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Jeron Bet	1887	Scattle	EXERCAIA	5/23
Eyan Cox	300	Seattle	NetApp	5.23
ALEX JONE	Jan 11	SEATLE	GLU GAMES	5/23
Paul Derham	Bal Delm	Seattle	Pskéme	5/23

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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
BYRON WILLIAMS	By Win	LAKE FORFST PARK	VACATION INTERNATIONAL &	3/23/14
Steven Chalman	I bow Clemen	Segtle	Experis	5/22/14
Lindsay Hawsford		Seattle	A: lon	5/28/14
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Colby Chopman	9 cy	Seattle	MGZ Architecture	5/23/4
JAKED RANGELL	pt bull	GEATTLE	EXPERIA	5/23/4
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Erin Strom	Em Stan	Seattle	Point Inside	5/23/14
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Executive C partnership get perman	ersigned transit riders urge the King County Council to remove Metro Route 243 from the list of routes scheduled in September 2014. Additionally, we urge the cities of Seattle and Bellevue to work together under King County onstantine's Community Mobility Contracts program to maintain Metro Route 243 funding. This funding between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue is seen as a bridge to keep buses on the road until King County can ent and sustainable revenue authority from the Legislature for the regional system. Please save our North Seattle in Bellevue peak period commuter route.
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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
PAUL THACKRAY	TPOM/	SEATTLE	MICROSOFT	5/22/204
Lorrie Tele	184 J Ohn C	ete Redmind	City of Be Ol	5/22/20
Andreas Piller	any In	Seattle	Cty of Bellevue	Skakay
Franz loewenher	200	Seattle	City of Bollevue	5/22/201
			(0)	

Petition	We, the undersigned transit riders urge the King County Council to remove Metro Route 243 from the list of routes scheduled
	for deletion in September 2014. Additionally, we urge the cities of Seattle and Bellevue to work together under King County
	Executive Constantine's Community Mobility Contracts program to maintain Metro Route 243 funding. This funding
	partnership between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue is seen as a bridge to keep buses on the road until King County can
	get permanent and sustainable revenue authority from the Legislature for the regional system. Please save our North Seattle
	to Downtown Bellevue peak period commuter route.

Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Grant MeVicar PAUL INCHRAM	DAM.V	SEATTE	Valve Software CMY BELLEVUE	5/22
PAUL INCHRAM	Palm	STATIL	CMY BELLEVUE	5/22

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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Bradley King	BA	Seeffle	Mirrosoft	5-22-14

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Printed Name	Signature	City of Residence	Employer	Date
Erin Boyt	2 But	Seattle, WA	Arena Sports	5/24/14
Katherine Tarray	Katton	Statle, wit	City of Bellevire	5/27/14
Elizabeth Miller	Folia	Seattle, WA	Vacation International	5/27/14
Gric Delalo	ala	Seattle, WA	Metiz	5-27-2014
Kelsea Forther	Ma Silter	Sed Hle, WA	Croup Health	5/27/14
Priscilla Pierce	Lower	Death, WA	HDR	5/27/14
CORISM ally	Couon ally	Seattle, lea	Payar (Panu)	5/2/14
Charlotte Fallow	e Charlette Ellan	Seattle WA	Smartsheet	5/27/14
Rjando Sitchin	leste	Sertle WA	Symetra	5/27/14
Nathan Anthor	Miller and	Seaffle WA	Accelerite	J-27-14
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