

Bryant, Shellie

From: Candace Neufeld [REDACTED]
Sent: May 22, 2020 4:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Neufeld - Speed Limit on McOrmond Letter of Concern - CK 6320-1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Submitted on Friday, May 22, 2020 - 16:05

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, May 22, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Candace
Last Name Neufeld
Phone Number
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Stensrud Rd
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Speed Limit on McOrmond - Letter of Concern
Meeting (if known) City Council Regular Business Meeting
Comments

To His Worship and City Councillors,

As a Grassland Ecologist, I am writing today to strongly oppose the increase in speed from 50 km/hr through the Northeast Swale conservation area. I do not support the motion and would like it to remain at 50 km/hr.

In 2012, the City and Meewasin authorized 50 km/hr speed limits through the Northeast Swale under the Northeast Swale Development Guidelines to reduce animal-vehicle collisions. A technical advisory panel which included many wildlife experts provided advice on these guidelines. An engineering study that deems an increase in speed is feasible is irrelevant in this situation as the speed limit was set with ecological and environmental considerations in mind, as well as considerations for safety for the public.

This sensitive native prairie is home to a large variety of wildlife - amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, insects - some of which are federally listed species that are considered at risk. We need to respect this important diverse ecosystem through proper actions and protection. Some of the wildlife moving through this area, like moose and deer, can cause considerable damage to life and property, not to mention death of the animal, if hit by a vehicle. There are countless peer-reviewed scientific journal articles that have repeatedly found that reduced vehicle speeds result in reduced wildlife collisions, particularly at night when wildlife are harder to see. The sections of road where speeds have been increased to 60 or 70 km/hr on McOrmond have seen animal mortality, including through the small swale, whereas the 50 km/hr zone has not. This shows the effectiveness of a lower speed limit. It should also be noted that the "study" being referred to regarding wildlife mortality doesn't tell the full

story as the data only reflects collisions with larger wildlife and misses those that may have died away from the road and also does not record small wildlife that are hit and quickly removed by larger predators or thrown off of the road upon impact. A properly planned study by a wildlife biologist has not been conducted in this area to investigate the actual wildlife mortality that may be occurring inside and outside the reduced speed area - wildlife mortality data was instead obtained from a road maintenance contractor.

If Council does approve the speed limit change, it will be yet another decision about the Swale based on politics and public opinion rather than science. The opportunity to continue to mitigate our impact on this sensitive area full of biodiversity and rare species will be further lost.

Sincerely,
Candace Neufeld, M.Sc.
Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

