

Bryant, Shellie

From: Penny McKinlay [REDACTED]
Sent: May 24, 2020 5:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Sunday, May 24, 2020 - 17:05

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, May 24, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Penny
Last Name McKinlay
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] 7th Avenue North
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Speed Limit - Northeast Swale
Meeting (if known) City Council Regular Business Meeting
Comments

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am strongly opposed to raising the speed limit near and through the Northeast Swale.

The Meewasin Northeast Swale (and neighbouring Small Swale) is home to a herd of white-tailed deer, a sharp-tailed grouse breeding ground, endangered species such as the northern leopard frog, and more than 300 other bird and wildlife species. Life isn't easy for these wild animals. Used to ranging freely from grassland to river, they are now confronted by housing developments and roads.

The Canadian Wildlife Roadsharing Resource Centre notes that "Wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) pose a serious risk to people and various animal species across Canada. They can result in severe injury or death for drivers and other road users, along with associated significant costs, up to \$200 million annually. . . . The impact on wildlife is just as problematic. Increased land use and human development have further encroached into wildlife habitat areas, diminishing food and water sources for animals, and creating barrier effects between habitats. Equally important, road mortality is a leading factor for over 30 species designated as threatened or at risk by the Government of Canada."

In a presentation to the City of Saskatoon's Committee on Transportation, the Northeast Swale Watchers said, "While it is a challenge to protect environmental resources within an urban context, much can be done to mitigate the negative effect of human encroachment, particularly if we are to reconsider traditional design approaches. . . . the real solution should involve good design that encourages the driver to reduce speed and watch for crossing wildlife."

Lower speed limits save animals lives and reduce animal-vehicle collisions. 50 kph through the Swale was

chosen based on the 2012 Northeast Swale development guidelines which state, "Posted maximum speed should be 50 kph to reduce wildlife interactions." The sections of road at 60 kph and 70 kph have seen animal mortality while the 50 kph zone has not, showing both the effectiveness of a lower speed limit and the presence of wildlife.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a deadly reminder that human lives are closely interconnected with the lives of other animals. The more we interfere with nature, the more we refuse to respect our fellow beings, the more we as humans suffer.

I urge you to respect science and nature and to vote against raising the speed limit near and through the Northeast Swale.

Thank you.

Penny McKinlay

[REDACTED]
Saskatoon, SK [REDACTED]

Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]