

Bryant, Shellie

From: Chet Neufeld [REDACTED]
Sent: May 24, 2020 10:02 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Sunday, May 24, 2020 - 10:01

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 Chet
Last Name Neufeld
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Stensrud Road
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject McCormond Drive speed limit
Meeting (if known) City Council Regular Business Meeting
Comments
Letter of Concern

To His Worship and City Councillors,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the motion to raise the speed limits near the Northeast Swale. I strongly oppose the motion and feel that it is imperative to leave it at 50 kph. I've been a biologist for twenty years, and have experience with, and a deep understanding of how roads can impact natural areas and the species that depend on them. The Northeast Swale is an important and diverse ecosystem. It's one of the largest, most diverse and most intact wild areas within the city limits, is home to provincially and nationally rare species, and is a gem that other cities would be envious of. We need to respect this area through action and proper protection instead of subjecting it to the status quo. If they are enforced and respected, lower speed limits save animals lives and reduce animal-vehicle collisions. Ideally, there should never have been a road built through the Northeast Swale, and Saskatoon's conservation community fought hard for this. One of the concessions that they achieved was the lower speed limit through the Northeast Swale, and now even that is in jeopardy. McCormond Drive was never intended to be a high speed thoroughfare like Circle Drive. The current 50 kph speed limit was chosen based on the 2012 Northeast Swale development guidelines which states "Posted maximum speed should be 50 kph to reduce wildlife interactions." The sections of road at 60 kph & 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. Additionally, people already regularly speed through this area, so increasing the speed will only result in even higher speeds over the posted limit. No science-based study has been conducted on the area to determine the impacts of the road through the Northeast Swale, including speed limits, so any decision at this point to increase speeds will be entirely based on opinion instead of fact. Data-driven decision-making is the only way to ensure that what you are doing is correct, and it is how progressive municipalities do business these days. The city has made great strides toward becoming environmentally proactive, and increasing

the speed limit through the Northeast Swale would be a step backward. I urge you to reject this motion and any motion that puts the integrity of Saskatoon's natural areas at risk.

Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

