

Bryant, Shellie

From: Kenton Lysak [REDACTED]
Sent: May 25, 2020 7:51 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Monday, May 25, 2020 - 07:50

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, May 25, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Kenton
Last Name Lysak
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Dragan Crescent
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Protecting Speed Limits in the Northeast Swale
Meeting (if known) City Council Regular Business Meeting
Comments
To His Worship and City Councillors,

I am writing in to voice my concerns about the motion to raise the speed limits near the Northeast Swale. I do not support the motion and would like them to remain at 50 kph.

Why I'm concerned:

- The Northeast Swale is an important diverse ecosystem and we need to respect that through action and proper protection
- If they are enforced and respected, lower speed limits save animals lives and reduce animal-vehicle collisions
- 50 kph 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
- If Council approves the speed limit change, it will be yet another decision about the Swale based on politics rather than science.

The Northeast Swale is one of the most unique features in our city. Due to it's nature, the Northeast Swale depends on the local biodiversity and interactions between all encompassing species in order to continue to provide vital ecosystem services and a phenomenal environment for people to visit. What scientific research has shown is that biological corridors and access to all areas of the swale is critical for the survival and health of ecosystem and species that call it home. Considering the amazing amount of diversity that includes rare and endangered species, such as big brown bats that control mosquito populations, solitary bees that are essential for pollination, and our provincial bird the sharp tailed grouse, I strongly encourage City Council to continue to

allow these species and others the ability to move throughout the swale. Increasing speed limits have been shown to increase deaths within numerous natural areas and conservation sites throughout the world. Moving from 50km/hr to 60 or 70km/hr will inevitably result in high mortality rates while saving individuals that frequent that roadway roughly 10 to 15 seconds per trip. This is a negligible sacrifice, considering the ecological and historical importance of this area. This is another opportunity for Saskatoon to be leaders in protecting one of the most rare and vital ecosystems within our city.

I ask for your continued support in protecting the current speed limits within the Northeast Swale. Thank you for your consideration.

Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

