



Walking Saskatoon

An Advocacy Group for Pedestrians in Saskatoon

July 11th, 2020

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
City Hall, City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and City Council,

Walking Saskatoon supports the use of MEEP and reallocated funding to address pressing infrastructural needs to create a more walkable community. We ask that Council prioritize pedestrian related projects as they are some of the most equitable projects that can be considered for this funding stream. Whereas many of the projects on the reallocation list have a particular group or part of the city that would benefit, sidewalks on the other hand serve everyone.

The issues with the pedestrian infrastructure in the city are well documented: missing curb cuts, streets without sidewalks, lack of resources to preserve or rehabilitate assets, and unfunded projects. The global pandemic and physical distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 have exacerbated the issues bringing to light the challenges pedestrians face daily in the city. This Council has the opportunity to address these deficiencies headon.

We are encouraged to see that the proposed projects for MEEP funding include bringing the preservation and rehabilitation of sidewalks in line with the city's 1/20 lifecycle goal, but there is still much work to do to provide a connected accessible network for walking in the city. As a result we ask that Council prioritize and fund the pedestrian related projects on the reallocation short list. These include:

2.4 Active Transportation - Sidewalk Expansion - \$3 Million

2.8 West Central Multi-Use Corridor - \$1.4 Million

Sidewalk Repair and Maintenance - \$5 Million (Councillor Donauer's Motion)

Pedestrian/Cyclist Rail Crossing near Waman/Assiniboine - \$0.5 Million (Councillor Donauer's Motion)

We appreciate that many councillors have recognized the chronic underfunding that pedestrian related infrastructure has endured over the past several terms. This one time source of funding

is a chance, as Councillor Block noted, “to move the dial” on addressing basic pedestrian infrastructural needs for Saskatoon citizens. Please take advantage of it.

Regards,

Walking Saskatoon