



# SOS Trees Coalition

1618 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, SASKATOON, SK. S7K 3A1

[www.sostrees.ca](http://www.sostrees.ca)

April 2, 2021

To: Committee Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

Re: Proposed Victoria Avenue Bikeway

As a coalition protecting and fostering stewardship of our urban forests since 1992 we find the recommendation to adapt option 4 short sighted and expensive. We find the removal of trees from the center median unacceptable as indicated in options 4. As I assume you are aware that the city trees are a significant asset of the city with values that can reach \$30-\$50,000 per tree and is a significant element in removing the climate changing CO2 from the air. The city trees affects impact residents who live, work and use the streets, bikeways, sidewalks and trails of Saskatoon and are a critical component to the high quality of life residents enjoy. Many of the residents in the neighborhood purchased their homes in the area because of the mature trees.

Can we assume if option 4 is approved that the value of the environmental service of the trees that are removed will be included in the project budget and transferred to the Urban Forestry capital fund? Can some of the trees be relocated?

We strongly support the addition of bikeways though out the city and believe the trees enhance the riders experience and lead to a more liveable city. It appears a much more prudent option is to divert the bike lanes around Buena Vista Park to Melrose Ave. This would not cause the removal of trees, it would reduce the traffic conflicts on Victoria, it would not require destroying the work completed to the Victoria curbs and median last summer, it would impact very few residential parking places, and could be done for a fraction of the proposed cost of option 4.

We urge the committee to send the recommendation back to management to include the option of :

From 8th street going south on Victoria to 5th, then over to Melrose and continue South. From Taylor going North to 6th street then over to Victoria and continue North. This could either continue on Melrose as bidirectional protected bike lanes at street level or separate direction protected bike lanes at street level.

Yours sincerely,

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