



February 16, 2022

Premier's Office
Room 226, 2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK
S4S 0B3

Dear Honourable Premier Scott Moe:

Re: Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study – Phase 3

It has come to our attention that the Ministry of Highways (the Ministry) has indefinitely postponed Phase 3 of the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study (the study) between Highway 16 west and Highway 7. We believe that this phase of the Saskatoon Freeway serves as a critical component to our region's overall transportation network, generating a substantial economic return to Saskatchewan businesses, residents, and governments. We are writing you today requesting that your government proceed with Phase 3 of the study in the upcoming budget cycle and clarify the expected timeframe for the project to commence.

Over the past decade, Corman Park and Saskatoon have been working together with the municipalities of Warman, Martensville and Osler on a coordinated and collaborative regional growth plan through the formation of the new Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) Planning District. To further that partnership, we have worked closely with landowners and developers in the region to support smart, efficient, well planned growth, including securing needed municipal and provincial transportation rights-of-way and infrastructure requirements. Uncertainty about the final alignment of Phase 3 risks jeopardizing this progress.

We view all phases of the Saskatoon Freeway study as integral to the future of our region. The intent of the study is to determine how the Saskatoon Freeway will look and operate in the future, including the roadway centre line and defining the type of interchanges, service roads and accesses on and off the freeway. By postponing Phase 3 of the study, the 500 m subdivision and development restriction area remains around the existing alignment. Keeping this large subdivision and development restriction area has a detrimental impact on regional growth as landowners and developers do not have certainty on the land requirements for provincial infrastructure.

We have been working with a number of developers and First Nations with land holdings in the Phase 3 corridor, to advance their development projects as much as possible, while supporting and encouraging participation in the Ministry's study to determine the refined right-of-way and infrastructure requirements. Since there have been changes to the Saskatoon Freeway alignments in Phases 1 and 2 of the study, there are concerns that leaving the Phase 3 restrictions area in place will not be sufficient to protect the actual needed highway corridor in the future. Existing wetlands, the Saskatoon International Airport and existing municipal development require consideration by the Ministry in the Phase 3 study; additional development outside the 500 m

corridor will only constrict the Ministry should it need to look at alternative alignments, similar to the first two phases.

Delays to this work, and an open ended timeline for completion of the Phase 3 study, will have a negative impact on advancing orderly and efficient regional growth and development projects. To this end, we would ask that the Ministry commit to immediate funding and completion of Phase 3 of the study in the upcoming budget cycle. Municipalities and investors need certainty on where the Saskatoon Freeway will be located. To be clear, we are not expecting immediate construction of the Saskatoon Freeway, however we are asking for completion of the necessary planning work.

We know your government supports and encourages regional cooperation, therefore, we ask you to continue to work closely with us, to help us reach our goals and ambitions for a more prosperous region and province. Phases 1 and 2 of the study were excellent examples of multiple orders of government working together to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the area. To that end, we continue to offer elected official and administrative support to the study through participation on the various technical working groups and committees to help advance the Ministry's work.

Completion of the Phase 3 study will help to create certainty in this crucial development area of our region to attract substantial investment, employment opportunities and new revenues for all governments. We look forward to continued dialogue and planning with the provincial government on the Saskatoon Freeway.

Sincerely,

Reeve Judy Harwood
R.M. of Corman Park



Mayor Charlie Clark
City of Saskatoon

cc: Honourable F. Bradshaw, Minister of Highways
Honourable D. McMorris, Minister of Government Relations
K. Muench, Mayor, City of Martensville
A. Quiring, Mayor, Town of Osler
G. Philipchuk, Mayor, City of Warman