

Mr. Jeff Jorgenson  
City Manager

Subject: 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Redevelopment Request

Dear Mr. Jorgenson,

The new central library will be located at 321 2nd Avenue North. Construction will begin in the spring of 2023 and be complete by the end of 2025.

Following years of extensive community consultation, one of the most consistent themes that emerged was the importance of accessibility and the desire for barrier-free access to this important building. Residents want the new central library to be accessible to everyone, regardless of ability level. We are designing the library according to Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ standards. Saskatoon will be the first public library in Canada to receive this prestigious certification.

As part of our commitment to accessibility on the library site, we have identified the need to enhance accessibility at the street level. We propose partnering with the City of Saskatoon to redevelop the 2nd Avenue streetscape in front of the library; concurrent with our construction. We see this as an opportunity to showcase what accessibility can look like in Saskatoon for future downtown development.

We propose that the City of Saskatoon will:

- Convert the existing parallel parking to angle parking and match the streetscape aesthetic to what already exists further south along 2nd Avenue.
- Create two Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certified parking spaces adjacent to the main entrance.
- Add a layby for school buses, Access Transit and other visitors who may need assistance to be safely dropped off near the main entrance.

The existing sidewalks that border the new central library site along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue will be damaged during construction, and the library will replace them. We expect the hardscaping for the library to be installed in the summer or fall of 2025. If the City agrees to fund the 2nd Ave streetscape improvements and do this concurrently with SPL's work on sidewalk replacement, it could save the City 10-15% of the cost compared to doing it later. The savings would come from general conditions already being in place, as the general contractor will already provide these services during the sidewalk replacement.

Thank you for considering this request.

Regards,

Attachment: Proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Redesign



24<sup>th</sup> Street E

25<sup>th</sup> Street E

2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N

