

January 20, 2023

Jay Magus  
Director of Transportation  
City of Saskatoon  
222 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Re: 2nd Avenue Adjacent to New Central Library Street Redesign Report

Dear Mr. Magus,

This letter confirms that Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) will fund the \$175,000 project as presented by Administration in the 2nd Avenue Adjacent to New Central Library Street Redesign report (Jan 10, 2023). We make this commitment in support of creating barrier-free access to this prominent public facility.

Through our extensive community consultation about the library's design, we heard challenges from people with lived experience that the approach to accessibility in Saskatoon's downtown will, if unchanged, create barriers to accessing the library site. The primary needs identified were:

- A. Dedicated accessible parking (not loading zones). We were advised that dedicated accessible parking was not permitted on the public right of way downtown. Subsequently, SPL studied multiple options to add accessible parking within the library property, but none were viable.
- B. A safe drop-off/pick-up zone due to the busy nature of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. We proposed adding a layby within the library property but were also advised this would not be permitted within existing regulations.
- C. Barrier-free curbs, which are not within SPL's purview to change.

We produced a concept design to open a conversation with the City of Saskatoon about a possible redesign of the streetscape in front of the new central library. The concept design demonstrates our recommendations for enhancing access to the library site based on needs identified by the community.

Our accessibility goals for the streetscape are:

1. Two dedicated accessible parking spaces (designed to Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ standards) as close to the main entrance as possible,
2. One five-minute loading zone adjacent to the exterior material return slot,
3. A safe drop-off/pick-up zone (ideally a layby for Access Transit and school buses) for people with disabilities, mobility issues and children, as close to the main entrance as possible, and
4. Create barrier-free access to the library site.

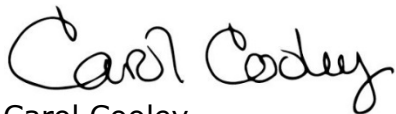
Should redevelopment proceed and take place concurrent with the library construction, SPL will transfer the funds allocated for the sidewalk replacement to the City. Beyond that, SPL is open to discussing a future cost-sharing arrangement with the City, provided:

- a) There are surplus funds available within the new central library's construction project budget, and
- b) The redevelopment acceptably meets SPL's accessibility goals.

We understand streetscape redevelopment is a complex issue with many competing priorities. However, as the first public library in Canada aiming to receive Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™, we believe it will be a missed opportunity if the City of Saskatoon does not improve access to the library site.

We recognize there are additional factors to consider, which is why we strongly support the project as proposed by City Administration. We believe the study can produce an outcome that both supports inclusivity and balances other competing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Cooley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Cooley  
Director of Libraries & CEO  
Saskatoon Public Library