

Thompson, Holly

From: City Council
Subject: 7.2.2 - Request to Speak - Keith Moen - NSBA - Connecting Avenue C Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5
Attachments: NSBA Letter regarding Avenue C Bike Lane - December 4.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 3:24 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Keith Moen - Connecting Avenue C Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

--- Replies to this email will go to keith.moen@nsbasask.com ---

Submitted on Monday, December 4, 2023 - 15:23

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, December 04, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Keith

Last Name: Moen

Phone Number : [3062423060](tel:3062423060)

Email: keith.moen@nsbasask.com

Address: 190-833 45 Street West

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7L5X2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): NSBA - Saskatoon's Business Association

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project [TS2023-1201]

Comments:

Good afternoon,

Please find attached NSBA's letter.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

December 4, 2023,

Standing Policy Committee on Transportation
222 3rd Ave. N.
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Standing Policy Committee,

Re: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Bike Lane on Avenue C

On behalf of the NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association, I am writing to express our continued concerns regarding the proposed bike lane on Avenue C from Spadina Crescent West to 45th Street West, as outlined in the recently released administrative report.

As an organization, we understand and support the City's commitment to enhancing active transportation options for the community. However, our stance remains the same – the identified route for the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling route is not suitable for various reasons, and we urge the City Council to reconsider this project.

The latest administrative report reveals information that further solidifies our reservations about the proposed bike lane route. The estimated project cost of \$8,793,597 is already a significant burden on the City's strained finances. Another major financial concern lies in the implementation cost from 38th Street to 45th Street, with a total cost of \$4,342,476, which we find to be steep. The report explicitly states that these estimates do not include the cost of property acquisition for the additional right-of-way required. In these challenging economic times, pursuing a project with such a substantial financial burden is unwarranted, considering the funding model for the project is yet to be identified by the City.

Moreover, the proposed project is expected to result in the removal of 35 paid on-street parking spaces, constituting nearly an 11% reduction in the paid parking supply in the Riversdale BID. This translates to an estimated annual revenue loss of approximately \$68,000 and a decrease of about \$34,000 per year to the BID Streetscape Reserve. The economic implications are substantial and should not be taken lightly, especially when many businesses are already facing financial challenges and increased property taxes.

In our previous communication, we highlighted safety concerns, citing the annual report of the Saskatoon Police Service's traffic unit, which reports five intersections in Saskatoon that accounted for 110 collisions. Avenue C North and Circle Drive West intersection being number one, accounting for 27 crashes. Between 2018 and 2021, the Avenue C and Circle Drive intersection consistently ranked in the top five for the highest number of collisions, totalling 217 incidents, according to SGI's data.

We also noted the lack of awareness among our members and businesses in the north end about the public engagement conducted in the fall of 2022. We would like to stress that communication is paramount in such matters, and we believe that the City should distribute adequate information with enough time to ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and have an opportunity to provide input.

In conclusion, the NSBA reiterates its stance that Avenue C is not a suitable location for an AAA cycling route. Considering the financial strains faced by the City, the safety concerns highlighted in the police report, and the potential adverse economic impact on local businesses, we strongly urge the City Council to reconsider this project. We encourage further dialogue with stakeholders and businesses to explore alternative solutions that align with the community's needs and priorities.

A solution and a route can likely be found, just not on Avenue C, particularly intersecting with Circle Drive and northward.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director