
From: City Council
Subject: Communication - Mike Winter - Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:18 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Mike Winter - Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

--- Replies to this email will go to contact@walkingsaskatoon.org ---

Submitted on Sunday, December 3, 2023 - 15:18

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

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: Sunday, December 03, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Mike

Last Name: Winter

Email: contact@walkingsaskatoon.org

Address: [REDACTED] 2nd Street East

Neighbourhood: [Buena Vista](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: s7h [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Walking Saskatoon

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

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 ? : 7.2.2

Comments:

To the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation:

As an organization advocating for pedestrians in Saskatoon, Walking Saskatoon was glad to participate on June 13 in the stakeholders' forum for the Connecting Avenue C project. We commend the city for planning to use Avenue C to improve the connectivity, safety and accessibility of Active Transportation in Saskatoon.

The plan proposes numerous changes to the street that will improve the pedestrian experience along Avenue C and we urge Council to approve the plan in principle and work in future budgets towards providing adequate funds to implement the plan in full.

There are a few points that we need to emphasize in expressing our support for the plan:

1. A reduction in the speed limit for cars along Avenue C is crucial in making the plan work. Unless a 30 km per hour limit is set for key areas along the street, the safety of cyclists and pedestrians is compromised and AT is much less likely to be used there. It is to be hoped that Council will not undermine the plan by refusing to approve the necessary reduction.

2. The dog-leg crossing of 33rd St. is potentially dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists even with a half-traffic light installed there. The crossing design relies on the willingness of walkers and bikers on the west side of Avenue C to take the extra steps to cross the avenue and press a beg button to cross 33rd St., then perhaps doubling back towards the west. It is predictable that not all people will have the time and patience to make this convoluted crossing. Some will go straight across and risk collision with a car. The resulting tragedies may be attributed as much to poor street design as poor individual judgement.

3. The installation of walkways in the industrial area at the north end of Avenue C is a plus. People who already walk and cycle there will find the provision of a defined route to be a great help. Yet this section of Avenue C is undeniably dangerous, with six well-used lanes of large-vehicle traffic moving at high speeds. Transit stops along the street add to the danger for those who must cross Avenue C here to catch a bus. To ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, serious attention needs to be paid to the placement of safe street crossings along this stretch as well as to ensuring adequate maintenance of the street in all weathers.

Finally, we would note that the Connecting Avenue C plan struggles to meet the criterion of accommodating people of all ages and abilities. The AAA criterion would be better met if there were fewer changes in the traffic pattern along the street, greater and more consistent separation of pedestrian, bike and car traffic, and fewer judgements needed in order for people to negotiate difficult crossings. However, the plan is a definite step forward in making Saskatoon a better city for those who walk and bike.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Walking Saskatoon by
Mike Winter, President

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