

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Robert Judge - Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km-h Speed Limit Policy and Connecting Ave C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5 x 6320-0

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:05 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Robert Judge - Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km-h Speed Limit Policy and Connecting Ave C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5 x 6320-0

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 20:04

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 17, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Judge

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: ɹɒbɹ̩t dʒɛdʒ

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue K South

Neighbourhood: [King George](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - Wednesday, 20 December 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Neighbourhood Bikeways 30 km/h Speed Limit Policy [TS20231203] and "9.2.1 Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project [TS2023-1201]

Comments:

We had great hopes for Saskatoon as a livable city when we moved our family here sixteen years ago. Saskatoon had the Meewasin Trail, a decent start for a useful network of biking and walking connections that would make getting around the city a healthy, happy, clean and safe thing to do.

There has been some incremental progress: bits of trail here and there and curb bulbs help pedestrians. But we are extremely frustrated by the opportunities squandered over our time here. The Victoria bridge could have been excellent, but it is car-centric and it stinks. It also has a steel guardrail cutting across the bikelane right at the point where width is needed most. Saskatoon's curb bulbs are not porous to bicycles. Motorists here are uneducated, honking and swearing, demanding people on bikes to get out of the road. Saskatoon's street education campaigns are an exercise in victim-blaming. The half-hearted travesty of a proper bike lane on fourth was torn out completely. What do you call progress that goes backwards? We know that serious improvements have happened in other cities across Canada and around the world over the last decade and frankly Saskatoon is a disappointing laggard.

Our family is hard working, honest and involved members of the community. We volunteer and do what we can to make Saskatoon a better place. We have an above average income and use it to support local business and local jobs much more than average people do. Many cities want people like us, who use active transportation and they prove it in their infrastructure. Many cities responded to the pandemic by opening up more places to walk and cycle. Saskatoon clung to its 1950s style "car-is-king" mentality. I once asked a Saskatoon traffic engineer why it took so very long to get a green light to cross 19th Street. Her answer was that the lights going the other way were synchronised to optimise traffic flow. Car traffic flow. That tells us what Saskatoon's priority is.

Last night as we walked home from one of our favourite restaurants, my wife was almost hit by car. She had the green light, but if I hadn't yelled, and if she hadn't jumped back when she did, I'm horrified to think of where we would be right now. That car never even bothered to stop.

After writing the above, I now realise that we were on Avenue C, which is the one being considered. Does it take one of us dying under a car to get change around here? Sometimes it feels like Saskatoon hates cyclists and pedestrians.

We are sometimes told that proper infrastructure to protect people from cars is too expensive, that there isn't enough money in the active transport budget to do it. But please remember: whatever it takes to make people safe from cars is not a cost of having people in the city. It is a cost of having cars in the city and belongs in the motor transport budget, not the active transport one.

Our frustration is at the point where we are looking at other cities. There are many communities who would value us more than Saskatoon seems to do. If these small changes: lowered speed limits near bike lanes and better walkability and cycleability on streets like Avenue C are not possible here, why should we stay in Saskatoon? We know what happened to Darin Kinniewess and Natasha Fox; one way or another we are determined not to let that happen to us.

Sincerely Robert Judge
Saskatoon

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