

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Emily Hopkins - Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km-h Speed Limit Policy and Connecting Ave C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5 x 6320-0
Attachments: Hopkins_CityCouncil_Dec18.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:43 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Emily Hopkins - 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 Monday, December 18, 2023 - 14:42

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: Monday, December 18, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Emily

Last Name: Hopkins

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: EM-uh-lee HOP-kinz

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] 5th St. E.

Neighbourhood: [Haultain](#)

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?: 9.2.2 Neighbourhood Bikeways 30 km/h Speed Limit Policy [TS20231203] and 9.2.1 Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project [TS2023-1201]

Comments:

Emily Hopkins

[REDACTED]
5th St. E.
Saskatoon SK

Dear City Council,

I recently wrote in to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation in support of the speed limit on Neighbourhood bikeways, and am very happy to have the opportunity to write to ask you to consider the following motions for safer roads in Saskatoon:

- 9.2.2 Neighbourhood Bikeways 30 km/h Speed Limit Policy [TS20231203]
- 9.2.1 Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project [TS2023-1201]

I live in Haultain and work at USask. Cycling, taking the bus, and walking are the main ways my family gets around. I first wrote to the city about the need for improvements to cycling safety after Natasha Fox's death last spring, and was told that there would be an audit to ensure they are accounting for the safety of "all road users" before any changes would be considered. But all road users are not equally at risk of harm! Cyclists and pedestrians are more vulnerable, and if a car does hit us, their speed can truly be a matter of life or death.

The fact that anyone here still cycles (and many people do!) should be considered evidence that there is a HUGE desire to cycle here, because it's not easy! Concrete improvements like the proposed motions would make it a lot easier for new cyclists to get started. I have talked to several colleagues who would like to cycle to work but are too intimidated by the traffic. With the recent deaths of Natasha Fox and Darin Kinniewess, who can blame them? I pass by Natasha Fox's memorial most days on my way to work and it weighs heavily on my heart. If I wasn't already dedicated to cycling, I would probably have given up already.

The only reason I feel like I can cycle here is because I moved here from Montreal, where I spent several years cycling as my main mode of transportation. To be clear, this is not because drivers in Montreal are better people than drivers in Saskatoon! Many of them still called in to the radio to complain bitterly about cyclists, and there were all many localized protests to cycling infrastructure. However, there is a critical mass of infrastructure, and cyclists and pedestrians using, that makes things a lot more tolerable as a non-driver using the road. Here, sharing the road involves a lot of cars driving very close and passing very quickly, and I have been told by drivers more than once to "go use the bike lane" in a part of town where there isn't one available. If there were more bike lanes I would indeed go use them! 😊

Just telling drivers to be more careful in lieu of concrete changes to infrastructure is a good way to make careless drivers resentful (because "cyclists break the rules too!") and cautious drivers paranoid, as it is genuinely difficult to share the roads safely here. Drivers need to be supported with safer infrastructure too.

The Walking and Cycling Improvement Project on Avenue C and 30km/h speed limits on bikeways are steps towards making roads safer for all. Please vote in favour of these motions!

With hope for a safer and more vibrant Saskatoon,
Emily Hopkins
Ward #6

Attachments:

- [Hopkins CityCouncil Dec18.pdf](#)70.59 KB

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

Emily Hopkins

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Saskatoon SK

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