

Thompson, Holly

From: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Emily Hopkins - Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km-hr Speed Limit Policy - TS2023-1203
Attachments: Hopkins_transport_1Dec2023.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:13 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Emily Hopkins - Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km-hr Speed Limit Policy - TS2023-1203

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

Submitted on Friday, December 1, 2023 - 14:12

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: Friday, December 01, 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):: Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, December 5, 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.3 Neighbourhood Bikeways 30km/hr Speed Limit Policy

Comments:

To the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation:

I am writing in support of the proposed 30km/h speed limit for the neighbourhood bikeways. I live in Haultain and work at USask and cycling, taking the bus, and walking are the main ways my family gets around.

I've written to the city before about the need for improvements to cycling safety after Natasha Fox's death, 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. Just telling drivers to be more careful in lieu of 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, and lower speed limits is a clear way to make roads safer for everyone.

Changing the speed limit also makes things less intimidating for new cyclists. The only reason I feel like I can cycle here is because I moved here from Montreal where I had several years to learn to cycle with much more robust infrastructure. 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. The deaths of Natasha Fox and Darin Kinniewess have also been devastating, and if I wasn't already dedicated to cycling, I would probably have given up already! Despite all this, Saskatoon has a lot of potential as a cycling town. The fact that anyone here still cycles should be considered evidence that there is a HUGE desire to cycle here, because it's not easy!

Concrete infrastructure changes, like lower speed limits, make things safer for everyone. This change would also make Saskatoon neighbourhoods more pleasant to be in for everyone, rather than sacrificing the safety of the local community for the sake of shaving a few minutes off the commute time for people who live further out. Saskatoon is not a huge place; 30km/h is plenty fast to get across town. Changes like this can mean that even when accidents occur, the worst-case scenario is a lot less harmful for everyone involved.

Please implement 30km/h speed limits, thank you!

Sincerely,
Emily Hopkins

Attachments:

- [Hopkins transport 1Dec2023.docx](#) 14.28 KB

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

Emily Hopkins

Saskatoon, SK
(Haultain)

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