

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email – Communication - Jason Hanson - Saskatoon Cycles - Assiniboine Drive CN Rail Pedestrian Crossing - November 2023 Update - CK 6000-5 x 6171-1

From: Jason Hanson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:02 PM

To: Jason Hanson <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Saskatoon Cycles - Support for Assiniboine Drive CN Rail Pedestrian Crossing

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To Saskatoon City Council,

The board of Saskatoon Cycles has long advocated for a legal pedestrian/cycling crossing over the CN tracks between Millar Avenue and Assiniboine Drive.

This missing piece of infrastructure has been pointed out for years as highly problematic for the thousands of people who live near, visit, or work in the North Industrial section; there is currently no legal way to cross these tracks as a pedestrian or cyclist from 33rd Street to 51st Street.

The implications of this are myriad and significant:

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- It is inequitable. The lack of access
- is a particular barrier to anyone without the means of vehicle ownership.
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- It is inconvenient. The forced detouring
- from an obvious crossing discourages active transportation use by those who might otherwise choose a healthier option.
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- It is unsafe. The current lack of
- a legal, codified crossing invites users to cross at random points of their own choosing.
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To his credit, Councilor Randy Donauer (Ward 5) has been working on this file for years, navigating both City of Saskatoon and CN Rail processes to address the concerns of the community. We do understand that these types of infrastructure projects involving private companies can be very complicated, and likely not made easier with budget concerns, and we appreciate any and all efforts that have been made to this point.

We note this update in the REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Wednesday, November 22, 2023:

RECOMMENDATION: That the Assiniboine Drive CN Rail Pedestrian Crossing project be forwarded to the 2024/2025 budget deliberations for funding consideration within the Capital Business Plan Options.

RATIONALE: The following was considered in developing the recommendations:

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- It allows the project to remain viable,
- thus potentially addressing the safety issue of not having a formal pedestrian crossing of the CN rail near the intersection of Assiniboine Drive and Warman Road.
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- If funded for 2024/2025, the project
- can be completed for the updated budget amount, whereas if it is deferred, further inflationary increases would likely occur.
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- A comparison with, and discussion
- about, other City initiatives and needs is enabled.
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Saskatoon Cycles supports this recommendation and further **urgently** stresses the importance of this crossing to meaningfully connect neighborhoods in the north end and strongly urges council and city administration to maintain whatever momentum it can to ensure proper funding and support to this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Board of Directors
Saskatoon Cycles

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Jason Hanson
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Saskatoon Cycles
he/him


saskatooncycles.org