

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Sherry Tarasoff - Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Conceptual Design - CK 4130-14
Attachments: 2024-02-14 8.3.4 Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Conceptual Design.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 4:56 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Sherry Tarasoff - Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Conceptual Design - CK 4130-14

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

Submitted on Monday, February 12, 2024 - 16:45

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, February 12, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Sherry

Last Name: Tarasoff

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Peterson Cres

Ward: Ward 4

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: GPC - February 14, 2024

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.3.4 Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Conceptual Design

Comments:

Please find my comments attached. Thank you.

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

8.3.4 Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Conceptual Design

A Triple Bottom Line review was finally completed. Will a TBL review be done for the possible scenarios of SaskTel Centre (renovate and continue using, adaptive reuse, demolition)?

The Conceptual Design Report indicates that a Class D cost estimate has been developed. When will that be shared publicly?

The Process section of the Conceptual Design Report indicates *“The Design phase took programming thinking and developed it into concepts. For the Event Centre, this included exploring options for adaptive reuse or demolition of SaskTel Centre...”* When will these options for SaskTel Centre be shared publicly?

Is there a timeline for the phased expansion of the arena? Once the seating reaches the 18,000, there is no room for expansion. What is the lifespan of this new arena? Is it expected to last at least as long as SaskTel Centre (36 years)? What is the plan after that?

The Programming section for Festival Street indicates *“22nd Street will continue to function as a street serving vehicles and the planned BRT, and will be designed to allow for closure when needed for street festivals, larger outdoor concerts, or large events with multiple components requiring expanded outdoor space.”* The closure of 22nd Street serving the Green and Red lines is contrary to the transit priority of the BRT. What is the planned detour for the BRT, recognizing that the BRT infrastructure is not moveable?

The Transit Integration Strategy states *“The District Core will be one of the best-served destinations in the BRT system with a station on 22nd Street on the event plaza serving the Red and Green lines and a station on 1st Avenue at 23rd serving all three lines.”* My understanding is that there will be two stations on 22nd street (a west-bound curbside station and an east-bound curbside station) and one station on 1st and 23rd (a centre station in the middle of the road, bordered by exclusive contra-flow runningsways). I have trouble understanding the subsequent statement *“Both stations will have ample lane length to store extra buses for event departure pulses when general purpose traffic is redirected to other streets, with any heavy street crossings to platforms kept behind buses so they may embark immediately when full.”* This may be true for curbside stations, but impossible for the centre station, since buses cannot leave in any order other than the order in which they arrive.

The Mode Share and Transportation Impact Evaluation section indicates that detailed traffic analyses and capacity analyses were conducted. Will these be shared publicly?

The Entry Level of the arena indicates *“the team store and restaurant will be open during and between event days.”* What about the public restroom beside the entry, facing the concert terrace? Will it be available 24/7? A public washroom was also noted for the Community Park. What is the planned operation for that one?

The modest changes to the 2nd Avenue North corridor for the PUDO zones may conflict with the current “2nd Avenue North (300-block) Parking and Public Realm Planning” project, as portions of 2nd Ave N are proposing to reduce driving lanes. Has communication happened between these projects?

I may have other concerns, but have not been able to go through the conceptual design thoroughly due to time constraints to submit my comments for the GPC meeting. It appears from the Information Report that public engagement on this is not expected until 2025. Why wait that long? If the plan is to be shovel-ready for when funds are available, shouldn't efforts be focused on feedback now?