

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Sheila Catto - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:30 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Sheila Catto - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Monday, February 5, 2024 - 16:07

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 05, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Sheila

Last Name: Catto

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: CAT-toe

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Fairbrother Bay

Ward: Ward 5

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.2

Comments:

I am writing to request that the Committee votes for Option 1, to NOT endorse the study on the Saskatoon Freeway which will pass through sensitive grasslands and wetlands in the northeast of the city.

I understand that the route for the Freeway was "selected" many years ago without any studies into the environmental impact, and without public input into the route to move it away from sensitive wildlife habitats.

- The Saskatoon Freeway will force 8 lanes of high-speed traffic through the Northeast Swale and will widen to 10-12 lanes through the Small Swale. This brutal intrusion will cause irreversible damage to the endangered grasslands and wetlands of both Swales.

- The Freeway will directly harm the Swale ecosystems and the species that rely on them, through fragmentation, habitat loss, damage and degradation of wetlands, and noise and light pollution.

- There are clear advantages to protecting the Swales. These range from the provision of ecosystem services to the potential for a National Urban Park. (Many Saskatoon residents already enjoy walking in the swales to observe the birds, butterflies, native plants, deer and other wildlife, and to observe the stars and northern lights at night. It's also an important place for First Nations and Metis folk to walk on the land, practice ceremonies and gather medicinal plants and food.)

- The estimated cost of the Saskatoon Freeway is well over \$2,000,000,000 (2015 estimate). That is a lot of money to spend on infrastructure that will cause irreversible damage to our last, best natural areas. (More information: <https://swalewatchers.org/seeking-solutions/>)

- Highways and busy urban roads pose a health risk to people within 500 m of them. Endorsing the Saskatoon Freeway ignores the future harms to people who will be living in neighbourhoods next to the freeway.

The Saskatoon Freeway should be routed further north through farmland, where native plants and wildlife have already been removed. We must protect the swales, which have already been damaged by new roads and the new north commuter bridge. If the Saskatoon Freeway goes through the swales, the environmental damage will be irreversible.

Please don't "pave paradise, and put up a parking lot."

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