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**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 12:24 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - John Penner - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Monday, February 26, 2024 - 12:13

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 26, 2024

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** John

**Last Name:** Penner

**Phone Number :** [306-](tel:306-)[REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] 7th Ave N

**Ward:** Ward 1

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** Standing Policy Committee on Transportation - Mar 4

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today in favour of the Swale Watchers recommendations:

The world, including our prairies are threatened with environmental degradation and climate change resulting in the extinction of many flora and fauna species. This issue can best be address at the local level by the preservation of wetlands and wildlife habitat. Along with urbanization, the major threat to wildlife habitat in the development of roadways. Roadway negatively impact natural habitat by the fragmentation of ecosystem, noise pollution, light pollution, the introduction of invasive species, and high roadkill, to name but a few of the obvious negative impacts of development. The proposed Department of Highways bypass project will have a significant negative environmental impact.

When the Department of Highways first conceived of the project it should have done an environmental impact assessment to determine the best location for the bypass considering potential negative environmental impacts. Instead, it appears to have focused only transportation and land purchase issues. The public input process was grossly inadequate because it presented only a narrow range of pre-designed options as if moving the road alignment a couple of hundred feet would make a significant difference. In other words, the Department was looking for a public endorsement of their acceptable options when all the important decisions had already been made.

The questions remain:

- Is the project justified in terms of actual need, public cost, and incurred environmental damage?
- Is the current alignment(s) the best option?
- If the project proceeds, what measures would be taken to mitigate the environmental damages, and would these measures be adequate?
- Given the proximity of McOrmand Drive, how does the proposed bypass roadway alignment actually benefit the citizens of Saskatoon?

Given the predictable environmental damage this Highways bypass project would cause, I would agree with the Swale Watchers recommendations to City Council which are:

- "1. Given that the Biological Assessment and the Functional Planning Study for Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway demonstrate that irreversible harm would befall the Northeast and Small Swales –two of Saskatoon’s most valuable and valued natural areas—if the project proceeds as planned, we urge you NOT to endorse the Functional Planning Study for Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway.
2. Recognizing that the ultimate authority over where, when or if this project is completed lies with the province, rather than with the City of Saskatoon, we urge you to call on the Government of Saskatchewan to choose a route for the Saskatoon Freeway that does not intrude on the Swales and to guarantee that the project will be subject to a thorough, impartial Environmental Impact Assessment."

Yours sincerely,  
John J Penner

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