
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:37 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Teresa Jones - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement - CK 6003-1
Attachments: COS, Swales, Mar 2024.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: FILED

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

Submitted on Monday, March 4, 2024 - 11:31

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, March 04, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Teresa

Last Name: Jones

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Ter-e-sa Jonz

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Pinehouse Drive

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 ?: 7.2.1

Comments:

See letter attached.

Attachments:

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

03 March 2024

██████████ Pinehouse Drive
Saskatoon, SK., S7K ██████████

Saskatoon City Council Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

Re: Agenda item 7.2.1

Dear Committee members:

It has come to my attention that the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways is asking our City Council to endorse the Functional Planning Study for Phase 2 of a proposed Saskatoon Freeway.

As I understand it, ...”The plan for Phase 2 covers a 27-kilometer-long segment of divided highway that arcs around the eastern outskirts of the city and then swings west, through future neighbourhoods, toward a new bridge across the South Saskatchewan River. As the route cuts through the city, it will expand from its standard width of 4 lanes to 8 lanes (4 each way), where it crosses the Northeast Swale, and then to 10 lanes (5 each way) where it crosses the Small Swale.”¹

I write to you in support of *The Swale Watchers* urgent recommendations for Saskatoon City Council on this matter:

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.***

As a newcomer to Saskatoon in 2021 from NE Ontario, I was delighted and impressed that these ancient places of prairie and wetland exist within what is a very concrete, fast-paced city. My partner and I have enjoyed our visits to the Swales very much where we have encountered many wonders of the prairie context while deeply appreciating a place of peace and quiet.

The Swales need to be protected for themselves but they are also a gift to human beings. They are a place open to anyone without an admission price, accessible on foot, by bus or bicycle. I have seen school groups there and Indigenous gatherings. As the effects of climate change impact our lives, the Swales provide a natural antidote.

Please do everything in your power to protect the Swales for the citizens of Saskatoon now and the generations to come.

Sincerely, *Teresa Jones*

¹ February 20, 2024, Swale Watchers: Position Paper on the Saskatoon Freeway Phase 2 Functional Planning Study, written by co-chairs, Meghan Mickelson & Candace Savage