

Thompson, Holly

From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:09 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Chad Hammond - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement - CK 6003-1
Attachments: WAS Letter_SPC Transportation_RE Saskatoon Freeway_Mar 2024-compressed.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 - 16:03

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: They/them/theirs

First Name: Chad

Last Name: Hammond

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Evergreen Blvd

Ward: Ward 10

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Wild about Saskatoon

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, March 5th @ 2:00pm

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.1. Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study

Comments:

This submission is replacing a previous one from 10:10am today. We originally submitted a letter without a request to speak. We now have an available member of Wild about Saskatoon, Joanne Blythe, who would like to speak to the committee about the attached letter. Please include Joanne Blythe on the

Attachments:

- [WAS Letter_SPC Transportation_RE Saskatoon Freeway_Mar 2024-compressed.pdf](#) 698.48 KB

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wild About Saskatoon

*Joyfully advocating for nature
in beautiful Saskatoon*

RE: The Saskatoon Freeway Functional
Planning Study, Phase II Report

March 3, 2024

Joyfully advocating for nature. That's what we do.
So, here we go!



The Northeast Swale and Small Swale are treasures, places of abundant life and beauty. With less than 5% of the original prairie remaining in the Saskatoon region, they are unique and precious. Marvelous in all seasons.



That's not all. They are home to a myriad of species:
birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, plants .

Northern Harrier



Meadow Lark



Long-tailed Weasel



Northern Leopard Frog



Bumble Bee in a Crocus



American Badger



Sharp-tailed Grouse



More species or habitats are discovered each time people do assessments, such as a second sharp-tailed grouse lek and a rare marl bog. If this proposed highway goes through, we may be destroying species and places we don't even know are there.



Three-flowered Avens



Crowfoot Violet

Many of the species we know live there are Species of Conservation Concern, which means they are rare, threatened species at risk of extirpation or extinction:

- American Badger
- Northern Leopard Frog
- Baird's Sparrow
- Bobolink
- Short-eared Owl
- Crowfoot Violet

The Swales are a refuge for plants and animals who are fast losing places to live let alone thrive.



Western Canada Lily



Bobolink



Light Pollution over the Swales

A multilane high-speed highway through the Swales would further damage and fragment an already fragmented ecosystem bringing with it further harms including highway and construction deaths, vehicle pollution, exposure to noise and light pollution, and incursion of invasive introduced species.



Trembling Aspen



A Couple White-tailed Pals

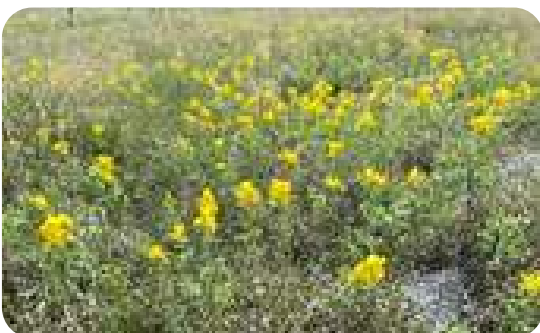
It has also been documented that there are health risks for people living within 500 meters of a highway such as this, thus bringing harm to people who will live in neighbourhoods planned for the future.



Snowy Owls
Ryan J. Bradshaw

These elegant fowl are diurnal owls,
Unlike most of their owl chums.

They dance by the light of the sun,
The sun,
The sun,
They dance by the light of the sun.



There are more wonderful things
to tell you about the Swales.
While they are being breathtakingly
beautiful and filled with life,
they are also doing other
beneficial things:

- Purifying air and water
- Sequestering carbon
- Preventing floods
- Offering a place where people can learn and do research
- Providing public spaces to relax, connect with nature, gather together, and be inspired.

Talk about multi-tasking!!!



Why oh why, would we want to put a high-speed highway through all this, a highway that would do damage beyond measure that could not be repaired or compensated for elsewhere?

To shift the highway (if it must be built) further north out of the Swales would leave these spaces able to function, give us the room to further protect and restore them, and let the species inhabiting the Swales continue their lives.

The Swales could become the centre of the proposed Meewasin National Urban Park. What a benefit that would be for the Swales and for the people of Saskatoon and beyond. By refusing to endorse Phase 2, you will align your actions with the City's environmental programs and policies supporting nature, biodiversity, and climate action:

- Pathways for an Integrated Green Network
- Natural Areas Policy Framework
- Wetlands Policy
- Low Emissions Community Plan
- Water Conservation Strategy

In addition, this decision would honour the City's commitment to optimize the economic, social and environmental aspects of its Triple Bottom Line.

For these critical reasons, we ask that you please do not endorse Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Blythe
Karen Bolstad
Chad Hammond

Wild about Saskatoon
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hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Photographs generously provided by
Meghan Mickelson and Muhammed Zain Ul Abideen

Wild About
Saskatoon