

---

**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 1:39 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - David Forbes - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** FILED

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

Submitted on Sunday, March 3, 2024 - 13:39

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:** Sunday, March 03, 2024

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

**First Name:** David

**Last Name:** Forbes

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** David Forbes

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**  
**Address:** [REDACTED] Spadina Cres E  
**Ward:** Not Sure

**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:**

Dear Councillors:

I understand that City council Standing Policy Committee on Transportation has been asked to endorse the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study – Phase 2 Functional Design Report and supporting appendices on March 5th (Agenda item 7.2.1). I want to express my full support for the Swale Watchers position on this issue as stated in March 2024

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 I have stated in my earlier comments in February, I have several concerns about City of Saskatoon City Council making decisions too quickly on the Freeway project and what the final impact/unintended consequences will be of a completed freeway through the NE Swale. While I am aware that the Highways Ministry & city council and others have been working on this project for several years, there appears to be several more years to go with no definite timeline provided in this report – there seems to be an unwarranted desire to rush over some contrived finish line. I am also concerned that the City of Saskatoon has several other significant projects on the go that certainly will impact the NE Swale including the imminent National Urban Park. As well, I understand the city is undertaking a strengthened wetlands and natural areas policy initiative. Both projects are very worthwhile and deserve careful consideration. The role of the NE Swale should not be encumbered and limited by an earlier unfortunate decision to endorse Phase 2 Functional Design Report as the city council is now being asked to endorse.

I am also concerned about the seemingly lack of appreciation of the Report’s authors of the environmental impact of the Freeway project through the NE Swale. First dismissing any impact on the NE Swale as “none evident” and that the “The Ministry will follow all regulator’s requirements as the project progresses” seems almost trivializing and not fully appreciating the obvious ecological impacts this freeway will have on the NE Swale.

To conclude – I would urge City Council to reject this report and its proposed route for Phase 2 of the Freeway through the Swales. But if this is impossible for you – whatever your reasons may be, whatever interests you serve – I urge you, at the very least, to take your time with this critical decision and not endorse this report as provided.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Forbes

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