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**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 2:35 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Mercy Harris - 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 - 13:48

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:** Mercy

**Last Name:** Harris

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**  
**Address:** [REDACTED] Cumberland Ave S  
**Ward:** Ward 6

**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:**

Dear Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to encourage you to vote Option 1 – Do NOT endorse the study for the Saskatoon Freeway Planning

Study. As a wildlife biologist, I believe that the proposed route of the freeway would be highly detrimental to our wildlife and ecosystems.

The Saskatoon Freeway is a project that would have unnecessarily harmful effects on the ecology of areas such as the Northeast Swale and the Small Swale. The Northeast Swale and the Small Swale represent enclaves of native prairie that supports plants, pollinators, and animals. These areas are extremely valuable, as approximately 80% of Saskatchewan's native prairie has been lost, and prairies are considered the world's most endangered biome. Considering this astounding loss, WE SHOULD BE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID MORE PRAIRIE DESTRUCTION from further development. The Saskatoon Freeway would do the exact opposite by moving highway traffic through a sensitive prairie ecosystem.

Though the proposed freeway itself may cover only a modest proportion of the swales, it will irreversibly fragment the swale habitat. Think of the wildlife – perhaps a fox or a toad– that will no longer be able to move freely throughout their prairie habitat due to the multi-lane highway. The intact habitat that once allowed wildlife to range widely will be shattered into smaller habitat patches – separated by a fast-moving road that will likely be the death of many animals. Why must we build a huge freeway in one of OUR MOST ECOLOGICALLY INTACT AREAS?

In closing, I ask the committee to please not move forward with the freeway project. THERE MUST BE SMARTER WAYS to deal with traffic issues that do not disturb our few remaining wild areas. If you care about the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE ACTION is to look for smarter alternatives and VOTE NO.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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