
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Joanne Blythe - Wild About Saskatoon - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1
Attachments: WAS to SPC Transportation_Feb 6 meeting.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Submitted on Monday, February 5, 2024 - 15:23

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

First Name: Joanne

Last Name: Blythe

Phone Number : 306 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Munroe Ave S

Ward: Ward 6

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

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:

Wild About Saskatoon is very concerned about the impact of the Saskatoon Freeway on the Swales and other sensitive areas in the northeast sector of the city.

Attachments:

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



February 5, 2024

Re: SPC Transportation, February 6, 2024, Agenda item 7.2.2
Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study Endorsement Request

The Northeast and Small Swales are miraculous survivors -- remarkable islands of nature in a sea of disturbance and change. Yet even in this challenging context, these ribbons of native grassland and natural wetlands support an astonishing abundance of life, including at least 29 species so severely threatened by habitat loss and other stressors that they are at risk of extinction elsewhere. The Swales are a refuge for nature and people alike.

Wild about Saskatoon is very concerned about the impacts of the Saskatoon Freeway on these irreplaceable natural assets and other environmentally sensitive areas in the northeast sector of the city. We urge you to vote for Option 1 -- Do not endorse the study (our preferred action) **OR**, at the very least, to delay your decision until:

- a) the full Report is made available as part of your agenda. Weirdly, it is missing from this file,
- b) you receive a thorough, independent review of the environmental impacts of Phase 2 on the Swales so you can make an informed judgement,
- c) you have the benefit of the anticipated Natural Areas Policy Framework and updated Wetlands Policy to guide your decision.

There are clear advantages to protecting the Swales, these life-giving and life-supporting places. Their benefits range from the provision of many ecosystem services – sequestering carbon, infiltrating and purifying water, cooling the air, supporting climate resiliency – to a National Urban Park designation that will attract tourism and employment to our city. We urge you to act on Council's stated commitment to protecting the Swales and to achieving the goals laid out in the City's Official Community Plan.

Respectfully,

Joanne Blythe, Andrea Carroll & Chad Hammond

Wild about Saskatoon
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