

Mayor Charlie Clark & City Councillors
City of Saskatoon
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March 19, 2024

I am writing on behalf of the Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability (SAWS). We are a group of concerned citizens working together to encourage wetland conservation, sustainable water management and the protection of water quality in our lakes and rivers.

We are very concerned about the development plan to build a large freeway around the eastern outskirts of the City of Saskatoon. We understand this new highway will be built directly in the path of two significant wetlands – the Northeast Swale and the Small Swale.

Wetlands are one of our most productive ecosystems and also one of our most threatened. Wetlands filter and recharge our freshwater, store greenhouse gases, help prevent flooding and provide habitat for numerous species. Because wetlands have so many benefits to our ecosystem, they are becoming more common in urban communities.

We understand the need for highway infrastructure, however we ask that before you endorse this plan, please consider further consultation in this matter with the purpose of conserving these wetlands, before the development is approved.

We are writing to you today in support of the Swale Watchers recommendations below:

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 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.

The Swale is a treasure for the city of Saskatoon and the Province, and should be protected for generations to come. It cannot be replaced. Please find an alternate route that does not further impact the Swale and this gem of the prairies.

Yours sincerely,

Sherry Forsyth
On Behalf of SAWS