

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - John Krowina - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 - CK 6003-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:32 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - John Krowina - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Monday, March 25, 2024 - 16:32

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 25, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: John

Last Name: Krowina

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Adelaide St E

Ward: Not Sure

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): n/a

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: City Council regular business meeting
March 27th

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Item 9.2.1

Comments:

Council must say NO to the Phase 2 Functional Planning Study

1. There is no serious dispute that the reality is that for this project to proceed as planned will destroy the Swales as a viable natural place.
2. I agree with the Swale Watchers that the Freeway plan needs to be revised so as to respect the natural integrity of the Swales and to respect the value of the Swales to all Saskatonians, now and in the future.
3. I respectfully request that Council demand that reasonable changes be made to the route of the Freeway so as to achieve a win-win which saves the Swales and secures transportation infrastructure.
4. The following document sets out my own personal views.

Heading: The Freeway plan is the outcome of a defective process

5. The province was made aware several years ago that the Freeway plan conflicted with the imperative to preserve and conserve this significant natural area.
6. The province refused to be reasonable and to show it was flexible and willing to accommodate important interests of the City by making adjustments to the route.
7. It now falls on the City to respond to the flawed outcome of this stacked and defective process.

Heading: The City administration has taken a too-narrow position on the Freeway

8. With respect, the City administration's position on the Freeway is too passive and focussed upon the activity of another level of government and speculative projections about the future.
9. This narrow focus is due to the city administration's concentrating on its assigned areas of responsibility.
10. The transportation section of the City is either silent or in favour of this plan. That is because their job does not include the public interest, conservation of important natural areas, or seeking compromise with the province.
11. This reality of bureaucracy only underlines the absolute necessity of Council stepping in to stand up for other important needs besides transportation.
12. Destroying the Swales, an acknowledged precious and deeply vulnerable natural area, for the sole benefit of having the most efficient transportation corridor is neither balanced nor necessary.
13. Similarly, allowing the destruction of the Swales out of concern for the interests of land owners along the route should not be allowed to dictate the City's response to this issue. The City should not take ownership of decisions it did not make in the first place.

Heading: The City has the duty and responsibility to engage in this process and stand up for the Swales and the public interest of its residents

14. The City of Saskatoon is a self-governing entity that is fully empowered to stand up for the Swales and the interests of the public in protection of significant and important natural areas.
15. Paragraph 3(1)(a) of The Cities Act recognizes that "cities are a responsible and accountable level of government within their jurisdiction."
16. Along this line, paragraph 3(2)(a) of the same legislation recognizes that cities govern themselves and make the decisions that they consider appropriate and in the best interests of their residents.
17. The City has every right to take the position that the province has been unreasonable and wrong to ignore the Swales.
18. Doing so now is critically important, because it may result in the provincial government changing course and generating a win-win outcome while it is still possible to make reasonable, meaningful and substantive changes.
19. But this will likely never occur unless the City pushes back.
20. Future generations will also see the historical record being created today. They will see that the City stood up for them and was in the right.
21. Where is the vision for the future of Saskatoon going to come from, if not from the City itself? Where is the action to further and protect this vision going to come from, if not from City Council?
22. It is up to Council to help itself here, not to roll over.
23. This is shown by paragraph 4(2)(d) of The Cities Act which states that the purposes of cities include the fostering of "economic, social and environmental well-being".
24. Today it falls on Council to again stand up for the social and environmental well-being of Saskatonians (not just their economic well-being).

Conclusion

25. It is time for City council to stand up and inject some reasonableness and flexibility into this process, refuse to endorse the Report and respectfully request modifications to the Freeway plan.
26. Council showed last year that it understands and supports the need to conserve the Swales. Council's assistance is needed again because the Swales now face an existential crisis.
27. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and personal opinions on this subject matter.

Yours truly,
John Krowina
Saskatoon
March 25, 2024

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