

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Joshua Erikson - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 4:11 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Joshua Erikson - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Monday, June 26, 2023 - 16:10

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, June 26, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Joshua

Last Name: Erikson

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Sutter Place

Neighbourhood: [Stonebridge](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known): City Council Regular Business Meeting on June 28th

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Item 14.1 Motion by Councillor C. Block - Cycling Safety
[CC2023-0602]

Comments:

To Saskatoon City Council,

I'm writing to voice my support for the motions to improve cycling safety at the intersection of College Drive and Wiggins Avenue, introduced by Councilor Block (Ward 6). These motions include:

- A third party road safety audit at the intersection
- Funding for the above audit
- An update on the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan
- A budget option for an annual Road Safety Audit program

The motion for a third-party road safety audit at the intersection is much needed. Due to changes in how private motor vehicles can access the university campus, the pressures on cyclists at this intersection have only gotten worse since it was last looked at by the city.

Further to these motions, I beg you to do more to create safe cycling infrastructure throughout the city than what is currently being done. Separated bike lanes are especially needed near schools and campus, then those lanes can be connected to create a proper network for getting around the city safely. Some of the wider streets like Albert Avenue are good candidates as well.

For the past 18 years I have been riding my bicycle around the city. I commute to work by riding the entire length of Preston Avenue; I run errands by bike, stopping to shop at local businesses downtown, in Riversdale, on Broadway, 8th Street, and the North Industrial Area; I take leisurely rides along the Meewasin trails; and 50km+ training rides all over the city. As the population, and the number of vehicles on roads, has increased, I have encountered more and more aggressive or inattentive drivers and I've reduced the number of roads I consider safe to ride with traffic on. Getting around the city has gotten slower, and more dangerous.

Following the current Bicycle Bylaw and Traffic Bylaw puts cyclists in a very uncomfortable position of either overexerting themselves to keep up with car traffic, or more likely, holding up traffic and coming into potential conflict with impatient drivers. I do my best to follow the laws, take the center of the lane, and ride cautiously and defensively, but, even then, I've had trucks purposely try to squeeze me against parked cars while they pass me. I've had drivers pull over and try to fight me for following the laws. I've had pedestrians yell at me to stop blocking traffic. It is crazy and stressful and dangerous, and riding a bike shouldn't be like that. It should be a safe, pleasant, healthy, affordable way to get around the city. A well developed, separated bicycle infrastructure network is critical to make Saskatoon a safe place to ride a bike and to prevent further tragedies like the one we recently witnessed. I'd like to close this letter by asking council, the next time you see a cyclist riding on the extreme right side of the lane, and weaving in and out of the parking lane to let cars pass, think of that person as someone riding in a bike lane that still needs to be built.

Thank you for your time,

Joshua Erikson

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