

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - Saskatoon Cycles - Capital Business Plan - CK 1700-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:14 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - Saskatoon Cycles - Capital Business Plan - CK 1700-1

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

Submitted on Monday, November 27, 2023 - 11:14

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, November 27, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Hanson

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue H South

Neighbourhood: [King George](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

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

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - BUDGET
Tuesday, 28 November 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Capital Business Plan

Comments:

To Saskatoon City Council,

The board of Saskatoon Cycles has long advocated for a legal pedestrian/cycling crossing at the CN tracks between Millar Avenue and Assiniboine Drive.

This absent piece of infrastructure has been pointed out for years as highly problematic for the thousands of people who live near, visit, or work in the North Industrial section as there is currently no legal way to cross these tracks as a pedestrian or cyclist from 33rd Street to 51st Street.

Imagine a concrete wall spanning 3.5 km that ran through major neighborhoods and featured only a single passageway, and that passageway was exclusive to motor vehicles. We might suggest that this would not be the design of a city committed to active transportation, yet that is the legal reality faced in Saskatoon's north end by anyone getting around by foot or bike.

The implications of this are myriad and significant:

It is inequitable. The lack of access is a particular barrier to anyone without the means of vehicle ownership.

It is inconvenient. The forced detouring from an obvious crossing discourages active transportation use by those who might otherwise choose a healthier option.

It is unsafe. The current lack of a legal, codified crossing invites users to cross at random points of their own choosing.

To his credit, Councilor Randy Donauer (Ward 5) has been working on this file for years, navigating both City of Saskatoon and CN Rail processes to address the concerns of the community. We acknowledge and applaud any and all efforts that have been made to this point; we are told that these types of infrastructure projects involving private companies can be very complicated, and likely not made easier with budgetary pressures.

Still, we must insist that more be done.

At the REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Wednesday, November 22, 2023 the following recommendation was approved and forwarded for budget deliberations:

RECOMMENDATION: That the Assiniboine Drive CN Rail Pedestrian Crossing project be forwarded to the 2024/2025 budget deliberations for funding consideration within the Capital Business Plan Options.

RATIONALE: The following was considered in developing the recommendations:

It allows the project to remain viable, thus potentially addressing the safety issue of not having a formal pedestrian crossing of the CN rail near the intersection of Assiniboine Drive and Warman Road.

If funded for 2024/2025, the project can be completed for the updated budget amount, whereas if it is deferred, further inflationary increases would likely occur.

A comparison with, and discussion about, other City initiatives and needs is enabled.

Saskatoon Cycles cannot stress urgently enough the importance of this crossing to meaningfully and safely connect neighborhoods in the north end, and we therefore strongly support proper funding being provided during these budget deliberations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Board of Directors
Saskatoon Cycles

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