
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:44 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Hannah Pilat - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 11:30

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: Sunday, February 04, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Hannah

Last Name: Pilat

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Hannah Pill-ought

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] McClocklin Rd

Ward: Ward 4

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:

I urge the committee to vote on Option 1 to NOT endorse the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning study.

The Saskatoon Freeway will cause irreversible damage to the endangered grasslands and wetlands of the Northeast and Small Swales. These ecosystems are integral to conserving and supporting biodiversity and carbon capture in a time of twin crises between biodiversity loss and anthropogenic climate change. Global efforts to carbon sequestration and halting biodiversity loss are tremendous, and local efforts need to reflect this. Once these ecosystems are damaged or removed, they cannot be brought back. The Swale ecosystem would be irreparably harmed by the Saskatoon Freeway, removing the necessary habitat for many species that currently rely on the Swale, and those who need it in the future.

With the possibility of an Urban National Park being established in the Swale, the Freeway would negatively impact this potential project. The Swale is also an incredible ecological feature of Saskatoon, and disrupting the connectivity of the Swale further will produce not only an eyesore, but an effectively dysfunctional series of disconnected wetlands and grasslands in an already lacking landscape. Highways and urban roads also pose a health risk to people within 500m of them. Nature in an urban setting is a huge draw for incoming and prospective residents and can improve the quality of life of those enjoying these spaces. No one's quality of life is improved by yet another freeway in an already overloaded landscape of roads and railways. The Saskatoon Freeway cannot possibly provide enough benefit to negate the irreversible ecological and human health damage that it will incur.

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