

Janzen, Heather

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

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:48 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Julia Adamson - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 11:47

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: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Julia

Last Name: Adamson

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Appleby Court

Ward: Ward 2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): City Constituent of Ward 2

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: March 27, 2024 City Council Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Phase 2 Functional Design Report for the Saskatoon Freeway

Comments:

His worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon, Councillors.

I am writing to you today concerning the upcoming critical vote scheduled for March 27, 2024, regarding the endorsement or denunciation of the Phase 2 Functional Design Report for the Saskatoon Freeway. This matter holds significant importance to our community, especially in light of the potential impacts on our local environment, particularly the North East and Small Swales.

As we recently celebrated World Water Day on March 22, it is imperative to direct our focus towards protecting our natural gems, such as the North East and Small Swales. These wetlands play a crucial role in sustaining our region's biodiversity and provide habitats for numerous species of conservation concern.

It is our duty as stewards of the environment to conserve these sensitive habitats, enhance ecosystem resilience, and protect these valuable species.

In the context of celebrating World Water Day on March 22, it is essential to direct our attention to the North East Swale and Small Swale wetlands, which serve as vital components of our ecosystem. The aim of stewardship and guardianship of these wetlands is to conserve sensitive habitats, improve ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, and protect species of conservation concern.

Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge the importance of implementing recovery strategies for species at risk in the North East and Small Swales. The Species at Risk Act (SARA), developed by the federal government, emphasizes the need to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are endangered, threatened, or extirpated as a result of human activity. The federal government, under SARA, bears explicit responsibilities to take action, especially and most particularly concerning aquatic species and migratory birds. As such, it is imperative that recovery efforts are fully implemented to arrest or reverse the decline of these species and ensure their long-term persistence in the wild natural spaces.

The North East and Small Swales serve as refuges for both nature and the people of Saskatoon, supporting a remarkable abundance of life, including at least 30 species listed as Species of Conservation Concern. Despite their ecological significance, there are plans needing a critical vote regarding the development that would drive multiple lanes of high-speed traffic through both Swales, posing a significant threat to their integrity and biodiversity.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Saskatoon City Council:

- Announce your repudiation, rejection, disapproval and opposition to the Functional Planning Study for Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway as currently proposed.
- Call upon the Ministry of Highways to select an alternative route for the Saskatoon Freeway that avoids intruding on the Swales. Furthermore, please ensure that any proposed project undergoes a thorough, impartial Environmental Impact Assessment to fully assess its potential consequences on our environment and community.
- I urge you to reject, denounce, and censure the Functional Planning Study for Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway as currently proposed.
- I call upon the Ministry of Environment, and City of Saskatoon Sustainability department to work in concert to ensure that the project undergoes a thorough, impartial Environmental Impact Assessment.
- In addition to the ecological survey, I call upon both the municipal and provincial governments involved to forthwith and immediately implement and fast track the planning document for the recovery strategy for all species of concern in the North East Swale and Small Swale with clear goals and objectives and main areas of activity to be undertaken in compliance with the federal government Species at Risk Act (SARA) for recovery.

Thank you for considering these requests and for your commitment to preserving our natural heritage and fostering sustainable development in Saskatoon.

Kind Regards
Julia Adamson

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