

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Jason Hanson - Road Safety Audit – College Drive and Wiggins Avenue - CK 6330-1 x 6000-5

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 5:10 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Jason Hanson - Road Safety Audit – College Drive and Wiggins Avenue - CK 6330-1 x 6000-5

--- Replies to this email will go to jason@saskatooncycles.org ---

Submitted on Thursday, April 18, 2024 - 17:03

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: Thursday, April 18, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Hanson

Phone Number : [3063800203](tel:3063800203)

Email: jason@saskatooncycles.org

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Ave H S

Ward: Ward 2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): A Saskatoon Cycles board member will address council.

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Wednesday, April 24, 2024

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 9.2.1 Road Safety Audit – College Drive and Wiggins Avenue [CC2023-0602]

Comments:
City Council,

The tragic and avoidable death of Natasha Fox on the afternoon of May 24, 2024 impacted many lives in Saskatoon. Her immediate family and close friends were suddenly left with a piece torn out of their lives that can never be replaced. The wider community of bicyclists experienced the gut punch of the death of one of their own, and were reminded of how vulnerable they are, every day, on their own city streets. Hundreds showed up to ride in her memory determined to do what was necessary to avoid future deaths.

In this context of frustration, fear, and anger, Councilor Block's June 28th motions provided an opportunity to move the city toward some tangible improvements. Dozens of letters and numerous speakers supported the motions and addressed the need for better infrastructure and a shift in the way cyclists are treated. Two proposals that passed at that council meeting are now before us, offering some promise that things can change in Saskatoon when the community speaks as one with passion and reason.

Our advocacy continues today, as we address the motion:

Road Safety Audit – College Drive and Wiggins Avenue

We are pleased to see many of the CIMA+ consultant's recommendations already being applied or supported by administration.

However, we were deeply disappointed that none of the cycling-specific recommendations (Numbers 8, 9, and 10) were supported by administration.

We fully support recommendations 9 (One-way modification to Wiggins) and 10 (Acceleration of the 'Connecting Campus' study), and while we accept the administration's position that they not be implemented at this time, both recommendations are solid solutions that should be implemented when administration has the resources to move forward with them. However, "sometime later" is not an acceptable time frame and when it is expected, and better yet planned for, needs to be identified.

Recommendation 8 (Bike lane and box with no right turn on red") is a partial solution that deserves a far more nuanced explanation than what was offered in the administration's report.

Councillor Kirton's motion at the SPCT to "continue with implementation of recommendation 8" was defeated there in a tied vote, but we would strongly urge council to reconsider.

We recognize the administration position, articulated by Mr. Magus at the SPCT meeting, that implementation of the bike box and lane at this location would not be optimal given the available physical space on Wiggins. We share their concerns that the width of the street does not make it an ideal candidate for this type of infrastructure.

However, we would stress that even though the consultant's recommendations would not make it completely safe to ride there, it would almost certainly make that intersection safer than it is now. This is the intersection at which Natasha Fox lost her life. The consultant counted a number of near misses for cyclists during their relatively brief assessment period. It is an area that will continue to see high levels of all modes of travel given its direct connections into campus. To do nothing just illustrates the maxim of "perfect being the enemy of the good".

It is Saskatoon Cycles' position that recommendation 8 be supported, while recognizing:

- That administration concerns related to road width are real
- High visibility signage explaining the diverse transportation modes moving on the block must accompany any painted infrastructure
- This rapid deployment, while not perfect, moves this intersection toward improved safety
- Other recommendations (9, 10) would make more substantial changes to the safety of this intersection over time

Saskatoon Cycles has encouraged council and administration at every step to remember Natasha, and Darin Kinniewess, who was killed on his bike in Sept. 2023, as they deliberate on matters related to cycling. Every piece of active transportation infrastructure contributes to a safer city, where cyclists are afforded the traffic legitimacy they deserve.

The goal of this motion and the recommendations within should be to create a safer, more inclusive community that never sees another death like Natasha's or Darin's. We believe this item offers an opportunity for the city to start the work toward something better, and we hope it is embraced by council to move Saskatoon towards being a safer, more liveable city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Saskatoon Cycles board

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