Janzen, Heather

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 5:04 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Daniel Kuhlen - Road Safety Audit – College Drive and Wiggins Avenue - CK 6330-1 x 6000-5

--- Replies to this email will go to ████████████████ ---

Submitted on Friday, April 19, 2024 - 17:03

Submitted by user: ██████████

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: Friday, April 19, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Daniel

Last Name: Kuhlen

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: ██████████

Email: ██████████████

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:
Address: ██ Eddy Place, ██████████
Ward: Ward 1

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (Bicycle Safety)

Comments:
To Saskatoon City Council,

I want to live in a city that prioritizes the safety of active transportation users like Natasha Fox and Darin Kinniewess. Their deaths last year were a sobering reminder of how vulnerable I am as a user of Saskatoon streets, and I'd like to see as much done as possible to make my trips safer.

Councilor Block's June 2023 motions to address cycling issues were a good start. The move toward utilizing rapid deployment in new, adaptable infrastructure is something I support and the Road Safety Audit at College Drive and Wiggins Avenue is a subject close to my heart; it's where Natasha died.

I'm happy to see many of the CIMA+ consultant's recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14) already being applied or supported by administration.

However, I am concerned that none of the cycling-specific recommendations (Numbers 8, 9, and 10) were supported by administration at this time.

I understand that these three recommendations are complicated, but I would urge council to strive to implement numbers 9 and 10 as soon as administration can resolve the issues around transit negotiations and staffing resources.

In the meantime, I also support recommendation number 8 (a painted bike box and lane along Wiggins Avenue, with a "no turn on red" prohibition).

While some of the reports' conclusions regarding this recommendation are valid (the physical space of the street may not lend itself to a perfect solution), the requiring of "driver adherence" or a supposed "false sense of safety" are not.

I do not believe that a heightened awareness of cyclists on this street could do anything but make it safer. Even if the finished infrastructure is not ideal in the eyes of administration, it could not be worse than the current configuration in which Natasha died. With concerted effort to keep the streets clear of debris, and signage highlighting the nature of the intersection, I believe recommendation 8 could add greatly to the actual safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Please reconsider the SPCT's defeat of recommendation 8 and help make College and Wiggins a little bit safer than it was exactly 11 months ago.

Lastly, I am an all-season cyclist, commuting and recreational, for 40 plus years. When I cycle in Saskatoon, I have as much right to safe traffic infrastructure as a cyclist as I do when I am a driver or a pedestrian. This is not about pitting one group of road users against another but, rather, finding ways to make commuting in our city safer for everyone and therefore avoid more needless tragedies such as befell Natasha Fox and Darin Kinniewess and their respective families. I urge everyone elected member of City Council to take practical and meaningful steps to advance this goal for the sake of everyone.

Thank you.

Daniel

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