

Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request – May 2024 Update

ISSUE

The Ministry of Highways has provided the City of Saskatoon a final draft for the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study – Phase 2 Functional Design Report and have requested that City Council review and formally endorse the Phase 2 report. Previously requested additional information from the provincial government has been received and is provided for City Council’s consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council endorse the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study – Phase 2 Functional Design Report and supporting appendices.

BACKGROUND

At its Regular Business Meeting held on March 27, 2024, City Council considered the Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request [report](#) and resolved:

“That City Council ask Mayor Clark to send a letter to the provincial government requesting guiding principles for how the environmental mitigation opportunities in the Phase 2 Functional Design Final Draft Report and the Biological Assessment, as well as the future environmental impact assessment will be implemented, prior to voting on the proposed alignment of phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway project, and the province be asked to do this work as soon as possible to provide certainty for the future development in and around the Saskatoon Region.”

“That future reporting bypass the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and go directly to City Council.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

A letter dated April 12, 2024 from Mayor Clark was sent to the provincial government. The letter is attached as Appendix 1.

A letter, date stamped May 8, 2024, was received from the Honourable Minister of Highways, Lori Carr. The letter is attached as Appendix 2.

For clarity on the alignment of Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway, a map showing the current proposed alignment is attached as Appendix 3.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of the Saskatoon Freeway have not been identified. Future work on the Saskatoon Freeway, including the construction, is expected to be funded by the Government of Saskatchewan.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Endorsement of Phase 2 of the study sets in place another significant infrastructure project that brings more certainty to the location of the future Saskatoon Freeway for consideration in existing and future transportation and land use planning and projects.

The environmental implications on Phase 2 of the Saskatoon Freeway have not been fully identified at this phase of the project. As noted in the letter from the Minister, various levels of environmental studies and activities take place during the planning, design and construction phases of the project, including completing an environmental impact assessment typically three to five years prior to construction.

NEXT STEPS

1. The Transportation department and the Planning and Development department will consider future planning and design work required for city planning to align with the Saskatoon Freeway alignment and interchange configurations. These projects will be proposed to City Council for consideration, including funding, at the appropriate time.
2. Continue to work with the Province on Phase 3 of the project.

APPENDICES

1. Letter dated April 12, 2024 from Mayor Clark to the provincial government
2. Letter date stamped May 8, 2024 received from the Honourable Minister of Highways, Lori Carr
3. Map of Saskatoon Freeway Phase 2 Alignment

Report Approval

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