

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - John Paul Wasan - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request – May 2024 Update - CK 6003-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:18 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - John Paul Wasan - Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request – May 2024 Update - CK 6003-1

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

Submitted on Monday, May 27, 2024 - 15:47

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: Monday, May 27, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: John Paul

Last Name: Wasan

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Laycoe Cres

Ward: Ward 5

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: City Council Agenda – Regular Business Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 10.1.1 Saskatoon Freeway Planning Study – Phase 2 Endorsement Request

Comments:

Dear City Council,

I write to you in a personal capacity today to urge you to NOT endorse the Saskatoon Freeway Functional Planning Study – Phase 2 Functional Design Report.

I commend Council for taking steps to protect the Swales (a critical and sensitive habitat), especially seeking additional information and clarification from the Province regarding the environmental mitigation measures for the Freeway. However, I believe that the Province's response has not yet provided sufficient detail for Council to endorse this report.

The "Anticipated Key Considerations" provided by the Province do not provide much additional detail from the previous report. Council requested "guiding principles" for how the Province will undertake the environmental assessment process and how it will implement its findings, yet the provided response simply restates the previous plans for assessments, wildlife underpasses/fences, and regulatory requirements. There are no principles or assurances that the Province is taking steps to recognize the environmental significance of the Swales and to go beyond the minimum regulatory requirements. For example, with respect to the Environmental Impact Assessment process, it is possible that the project may be exempted. Further, the entire area has not yet been surveyed, with the potential for SARA to be triggered.

This document has not yet provided Council with a reassurance that the Province is making a serious commitment to protecting the Swales. Therefore, you should not endorse this plan to construct a 8-10 lane freeway through a sensitive and endangered wetland and grassland habitat. Instead, take this opportunity to protect the Swales from development. Please, for the sake of future generations, do not endorse this freeway!

Sincerely,

-John Paul Wasan

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