

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Chuck Rourke - Corridor Growth Boundary Plan and the House Accelerator Fund - Official Community Plan - CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 12:31 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Chuck Rourke - Corridor Growth Boundary Plan and the House Accelerator Fund - Official Community Plan - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, May 27, 2024 - 12:16

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: Chuck

Last Name: Rourke

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Kirk Cres

Ward: Ward 8

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: MPC

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Corridor Growth Boundary Plan and the HAF Official Community Plan

Comments:

I'm disappointed with the lack of consultation the City has had with property owners directly impacted by the proposed rezoning changes the Corridor Growth Boundary Plan Amendments and the HAF Official Community Plan Amendments would have on their neighbourhoods. I strongly disagree with these proposed changes.

First, the points listed on the Saskatoon BRT site are inspirational but do not address the impact and uncertainty it would bring to thousands of homeowners. Their "Fast Facts" are pie-in-the-sky, best case scenarios. Please consider these points:

- What percent of Saskatonians currently pay to use public transit? Why is there belief ridership will increase? What studies have been completed – that included direct feedback from Saskatonians.

- The BRT is a key to revitalizing Downtown? Ridiculous. Fix the crime and make it safe for people to utilize the Downtown and for businesses to want to stay open. A BRT will do nothing to revitalize the Downtown in its current state.

- Where are the facts about the proposed BRT? What plan has City Council approved? What are the projected costs, where are the implementation plans and how will Saskatoon's portion of the BRT be financed? Through additional taxation or by redirecting current spending? Why would rezoning be considered before these steps have been completed.

- It's hard to believe meaningful cost analysis and planning has gone into the proposed BRT when the 1st point on the site is about the Public Art Program.

Please organize the City of Saskatoon website; a person should not have to spend hours bouncing from one site (and out of date document) to another to find current information. I believe this is the main Corridor Land Use and Rezoning site. Clearly, how you are trying to communicate with people is not working. At the six 2023 sessions "feedback from the fall engagement sessions", a total of ~325 people attended. Statistically, based on a population of ~280,000 any feedback they provided is virtually meaningless.

You want to implement the most significant, and costly plan (in quality of life and financially) in the history of Saskatoon homeowners. Why were other medias not used over the last 5 years to keep Saskatonians informed of possible changes, such as the Star Phoenix or the Evan Bray Show (formerly the John Gormley Show) on a monthly basis?

Before rezoning destroys the current landscape of some beautiful neighbourhoods, have the courage to reset this initiative. Start with a scientific, fact-based approach to what Saskatonians want and are willing to incur the costs to build. Focus on the real stakeholder; The homeowners these changes would impact. Don't start with "Targeted Stakeholders" for engagement sessions like developers, realtors, etc.

Don't operate in a silo that City Hall "knows best". If the MPC and City Council are confident this is the direction Saskatonians want to go, please have a plebiscite that includes full disclosure of all financial ramifications and open dialogue. It would tie in nicely with this fall's civic election.

Thank you,
Chuck Rourke

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