

From: Louise Jones <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2019 2:41 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: june_10_2019_letter.doc



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Submitted by anonymous user: 207.47.175.232
Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, June 06, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
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Province: Saskatchewan
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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Northeast Swale Watchers

Subject: Letter to SEAC re the proposed Saskatoon Freeway and the Northeast Swale

Meeting (if known): EUCS June 10

Comments: This pertains to item 7.2.1 letter from SEAC concerning the report of the Northeast Swale Working Group

Attachments:

june_10_2019_letter.doc: https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/june_10_2019_letter_0.doc

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/315272>

June 10, 2019

Dear Madam Chair and Committee members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Northeast Swale Watchers. As you know our position has always been that an in-depth evaluation of the proposed route for the Saskatoon Freeway through the Northeast and Small Swales is needed. This recommendation was first listed in the document known as the Twelve Points presented to EUCS in April 2016. Since then the Northeast Swale Stakeholder Working Group has considered a number of the Twelve Points as part of its mandate, but has failed to address the issue of the route of the Saskatoon Freeway, considering that topic to be out of its scope.

Unfortunately, Saskatchewan Highways' mandate under the terms of its Functional Study is to consider the precise location of the 100 metres within the 500-metre allowance. Even though the Freeway may not be built for ten to fifteen years, Highways maintains that they need to determine the Right of Way as soon as possible in order to confirm the land restrictions with landowners and make the detailed design plans. The timeline means that the environmental and cultural heritage study is limited to desktop review and investigation of vegetation within the 500 metres and study of wildlife in a 2-kilometre width during one month -- June into early July. The report will be completed by August of 2019.

We are pleased that SEAC is advising "City Council to engage the Provincial Government to reconsider the proposed route and to ensure appropriate protection of this critical habitat."

The Swale Watchers have been urging the provincial government to conduct a more comprehensive ecological study of the route as almost twenty years has passed since the first preliminary study was completed and our knowledge of the importance and sensitivity of area has increased since then.

We would ask EUCS to support SEAC's letter and its recommendations by passing a motion to take this to full Council for discussion.

Sincerely,

Louise Jones, Chair

Northeast Swale watchers