

April 6, 2023

Councillor Randy Donauer
Ward 5, City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Councillor Donauer,

Re: Proposed Cycling Route from Avenue C Spadina Crescent to 45th Street

As we know, the City is committed to improving and exploring active transportation options for residents and visitors. Although the NSBA supports the City's commitment, which would greatly benefit the City in numerous ways, we do not support the Avenue C from Spadina to 45th Street route that has been identified as an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling route.

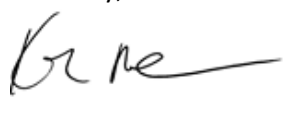
Recently, the annual report of the Saskatoon Police Service's traffic unit pointed out that five intersections accounted for 110 crashes last year, or nearly five per cent of the collisions at all Saskatoon intersections. Avenue C and Circle Drive topped the chart, which, according to the City, has been identified as a safe and inclusive space for all modes of transportation, including a bike lane.

The NSBA believes this project is not viable for various reasons, the first being safety, as stated in the annual police report. Also, considering that the proposed bike lanes require specific measurements for space, this project is highly detrimental to businesses, customers, and property values. Another downside to this project is traffic congestion. The traffic queue along Circle Drive heading towards Idylwyld Drive is the longest ever seen in the City, from eastbound to westbound and reducing vehicular traffic lanes would harm traffic flow, especially in the summertime. We strongly believe the City is setting itself up for failure in this situation.

According to the City, in the fall of 2022, public engagement was done to receive feedback and comments regarding the proposed cycling route from Avenue C, but most of our members in the north end were unaware of this engagement. While we believe communication is critical, we assume that a project this capacity should be well communicated by City to gather enough information before making internal considerations.

In closing, the NSBA does not think this is an option for Avenue C, north of Circle Drive to be considered active transportation for an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling route, and we would encourage the City to conduct further dialogue with stakeholders and businesses.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director
NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association