

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NSBA Commends City Council for Halting the 1st Avenue LINK Corridor Plan; Further Review Ordered

SASKATOON, SK – April 30, 2026 — The NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association is commending Saskatoon City Council for their decision to defeat the proposed concept plan for the 1st Avenue corridor under the Link Saskatoon Rapid Transit project.

Following debate on April 29, Council voted against the motion as presented and has directed City Administration to undertake further work before bringing the plan back for consideration.

Specifically, Council has directed Administration to:

- Meet with the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee to review accessibility considerations
- Report back with broader operational planning, including:
 - Emergency response planning
 - Emergency access
 - Snow removal plans

Once this additional analysis is completed, Council will determine next steps and provide further direction on how to proceed with the LINK design along 1st Avenue.

"This decision reflects the importance of getting this project right," said Keith Moen, Executive Director of the NSBA. "Downtown businesses raised clear and consistent concerns about accessibility, safety, snow removal, and overall operations. We are encouraged to see Council take the time to ensure those issues are properly addressed."

The NSBA and Downtown YXE have been working collaboratively together for months, actively advocating on behalf of businesses impacted by the proposed changes, including concerns related to the loss of parking, reduced traffic capacity, and the absence of detailed operational plans, particularly for winter conditions.

"We want to sincerely thank downtown Saskatoon businesses for bringing these concerns forward and for trusting the NSBA to advocate on their behalf," Moen added. "Your input made a difference in this discussion, and we will continue to represent your interests as this project moves forward. The NSBA has always spoken in support of a BRT in Saskatoon. We just want to make sure it's done in a way that benefits businesses and transit users."

According to public reporting, Council members emphasized the need for a clearer understanding of how the proposed design would function in real-world conditions before proceeding, particularly in areas such as accessibility and emergency response.

While the 1st Avenue concept plan is now on hold, work on the broader LINK project continues elsewhere in the city. Construction is currently underway along the College Drive corridor, and numerous station platforms are in progress. To date, 41 station platforms have already been completed.

The NSBA reiterated that it supports improved transit infrastructure in Saskatoon, but believes it must be implemented in a way that balances transit efficiency with the needs of businesses, residents, and the overall functionality of the downtown core.

“We look forward to continuing to work with the City to ensure the final design reflects both strong transit planning and a practical understanding of how our downtown operates every day,” said Moen.

For more information: The NSBA – Saskatoon’s Business Association is a member-driven and focused business association in Saskatoon that serves, promotes and protects businesses throughout Saskatoon and beyond. The NSBA has developed its mandate and reputation by being a relevant, topical and effective organization that interacts with all levels of Government and industry on various issues for the betterment of our local economy.

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