

October 23, 2026

Her Worship Cynthia Block
Mayor, City of Saskatoon
City Hall 222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Re: Connecting Millar Avenue – Support for Transportation Committee Recommendation

Dear Mayor Block and Members of Council,

On behalf of NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association, we are writing in support of the recommendations approved by the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation on October 6, 2026, regarding the Connecting Millar Avenue project and the 51st Street and Millar Avenue Intersection Improvement. We encourage City Council to approve the Committee's recommendation.

The NSBA appreciates the Committee's consideration of the concerns raised by businesses along the Millar Avenue corridor and believes the recommended amended Option 1b for the Connecting Millar Avenue project and Option A of the 51st Street and Millar Avenue Intersection Improvement represents a reasonable compromise between improving pedestrian safety and accessibility and maintaining the operational needs of this important industrial and commercial area.

As part of our engagement on the original proposals, the NSBA spoke directly with approximately 35 businesses along Millar Avenue. While feedback was mixed, with some businesses supporting the proposed improvements and others expressing opposition, a consistent concern was that the original proposal was more extensive than necessary to achieve its intended objectives.

In our original submission to the Committee, the NSBA recommended a more measured, phased approach. Specifically, we encouraged the City to consider a sidewalk on one side of Millar Avenue, with the east side identified by many businesses as the preferred location. We also recommended beginning with targeted pedestrian infrastructure, evaluating actual usage and safety outcomes, and considering further improvements where a demonstrated need exists. We emphasized the importance of directly consulting operating businesses, rather than relying solely on engagement with property owners.

The revised recommendations demonstrate that transportation improvements can be pursued without automatically proceeding with the most extensive design option and the City can address important pedestrian connectivity needs while responding to the operational concerns raised by the business community.

The NSBA recognizes that balancing transportation safety, accessibility, and commercial functionality requires compromise. We believe the Committee's recommendation represents a constructive step toward achieving that balance.

We respectfully encourage City Council to approve the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation's October 6 recommendations as presented. We also encourage the City to maintain direct communication with affected businesses as the project advances, particularly regarding construction scheduling, property access, deliveries, and the mitigation of operational disruptions.

Thank you for considering the perspectives of Saskatoon's business community. The NSBA looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with City Council and Administration to support practical transportation solutions that improve safety and accessibility while allowing local businesses to operate and grow.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director, NSBA