

REGINA NEEDS A DIFFERENT BYPASS SOLUTION!

We are finding that most people are unaware of the details of the location of the 1.2 billion dollar Highway #1 Bypass in east Regina that will make it a “tragedy waiting to happen”. A sense of secrecy prevails and limited information has been disclosed about the “largest infrastructure project in Saskatchewan’s history“. Requests have been made through the Freedom of Information Act and the government still persists in stonewalling the release of significant information and avoids answering citizens’ legitimate questions for why the Tower Road location in east Regina was selected when much better, safer, more functional options exist to divert truck traffic around the City. For more information about the bypass, go to: <http://goo.gl/SNCoey>.

The Tower Road location studied and selected for a bypass is **WITHIN CITY LIMITS**, therefore by definition is **NOT** a bypass. In moving it from Tower Road to 400 meters east of Tower Road, there is a potentially increased and unnecessary risk situation for travelers associated with more complex bridge structures. It is admittedly a higher cost to construct. The impact of 2 major pipelines, high pressure gas and oil, as well as overhead high voltage power lines, will cause constructability issues resulting in significantly higher costs. Congestion will **not** be reduced on Victoria Avenue of truck traffic heading northeast to freight terminals and for truck services. Homeowners will be displaced from their homes, and businesses and livelihoods will be affected, to name but a few of the negatives associated with this short term plan.

Since the City of Regina annexed land on the east side to the railway tracks on January 1, 2014, it is heard that people on City annexed prime land are now expecting over \$200,000 per acre, instead of possibly \$5,000 - \$20,000 an acre based on what people on the west side received for their expropriated agricultural land: the costs alone for approximately 266 acres from Highway #1 to Arcola Avenue will be significantly more for the government to purchase City annexed land. Another major concern is how will the bypass extend north to create a seamless bypass with existing businesses in its direct path? This warrants that the government re-evaluates the Tower Road location, considers it cost prohibitive and NOT a viable, suitable choice of location for the bypass.

As a democracy we must stand up and challenge decisions with such far reaching consequences as this, and not blindly follow a request to ‘trust me’. When 95% of the people we talk to question why a bypass is being put within the city, taxpayers must know that our opinion counts and accountability is required. The news media reporting on the deficiencies of the present design now will be much more important to change the government’s mind than the possible reporting of a tragedy in the future because no one cared enough to make a difference and speak up before it was too late.

Contact our committee at WhyTowerRoad@gmail.com, Facebook and Twitter: Regina Highway #1 Bypass: Why Tower Road? Share this with others to help make a positive change in the bypass location. Help convince the government to be mindful and act responsibly with taxpayers’ money, to take a second sober look and effect change in the location of the 1.2 billion dollar Highway #1 Bypass project around Regina. **WE WANT A SAFE, COST EFFECTIVE, FUNCTIONAL, LONG-TERM SOLUTION--A TRUE BYPASS THAT WILL SERVE ALL TRAVELLERS FOR 50 YEARS.**

Thank you.

THE REGINA COMMITTEE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE BYPASS SOLUTION