

**BRIEF PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON MONTREAL'S
TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

I applaud the City's idea to reduce our dependence on automobiles and I have some suggestions on how to do this. I am in agreement that the transportation policy should seek to minimize the negative environmental impact of moving people and goods.

For that reason, the City should not allow the extension of Antoine-Faucon Boulevard (in the Pierrefonds/Senneville borough). Currently, it is proposed to do this in order to serve relatively few houses to be built within the Rivière-à-l'Orme ecoterritory. The *Plan Triennal* of the Pierrefonds/Senneville borough foresees spending an *estimated* \$16 million dollars to extend Pierrefonds and Antoine-Faucon Boulevards across the Rivière-à-l'Orme ecoterritory. These proposed roads will likely not be served by public transport because they are not in a high-density residential area. So, this plan goes contrary to the City's proposed policy.

Instead of building a large highway on the 440 right-of-way, a two-lane road could be built to alleviate the congestion that already exists on Antoine-Faucon Boulevard.

The benefits to be gained by building Route 25 from Laval are far outweighed by its negative impacts: increased pollution, destruction of farmland and aquatic habitat. The City must not allow this.

- ✓ Please do not build more roads. Over and over again, it has been demonstrated that this does *not* alleviate automobile traffic over the long term. Roads inevitably fill up with more cars.

I would like to offer some suggestions about improving our public transportation system, which I use regularly. Have as your objective that it should be at least as fast, easy, and agreeable to travel to downtown by bus or train as by car, as well as much cheaper.

Please clean the bus shelters regularly. They are sometimes almost unbearably dirty.

Could the Rigaud train line become a sort of surface metro, with trains every 15 minutes? I think many people who now use the 211 bus might take the train, because the 211 is very slow, but has many more departures.

- ✓ At some stations, notably Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and Beaconsfield, access to the train needs to be improved for less able people. And it is a very high step up to get on the train; something needs to be done about that. Perhaps some steps that could fold down.

- ✓ I would like it to be much easier to bring my bike on the train. Please allow this on more trains (keep in mind that a bicycle is a serious mode of transportation for many of us, not just something we do on the weekend). At the Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

station, I have to carry my bike up about fifty steep steps and then lift it a couple of feet into a narrow doorway to get it on the train. That is extremely difficult for me, and is one reason I don't take the train.

Another reason I don't take the train is the automatic ticket dispensers which often don't work. Could it be made possible to buy our ticket on the train, or at the station where we get off? I have seen quite a few people miss their train because they were struggling to figure out the instructions on the automatic ticket dispenser! Very frustrating.

I would also like to see bike racks on the front of city buses, like they have in Vancouver.

One place I go regularly is on St Charles Boulevard near Pierrefonds Boulevard. It takes 50 minutes by bike, ten by car, and at least an hour with one transfer by bus. If there could be express north-south buses on St Charles, St John's, and Sources Boulevard, that would be great.

If you don't want to have more trains, then for goodness' sake please have an express bus that runs all day long. The 211 meanders all along the Lakeshore Road, and takes a terribly long time.

Finally, I would like to see Gérald Tremblay, Claude Dauphin, Alan De Sousa, and other municipal representatives ride the bus, train, and metro at least once in a while. I would like to see them share the transportation system so many Montrealers depend on, and get a feel for how it works. It would be a great way for them to show solidarity with their constituents.

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