

## **MOVING TOWARDS A NEW PARK LANE**

### **PILOT PROJECT TO INTERRUPT INDIVIDUAL CAR TRAFFIC ON THE VOIE AVENUE CAMILLIEN-HOUDE/CHEMIN REMEMBRANCE ROADWAY**

In a spirit of urban modernity and in the interest of protecting the inestimable natural and cultural heritage that Mount Royal represents, improving accessibility to the mountain and ensuring everyone's safety, the city is launching a five-month pilot project from June 2 to October 31, 2018.

During this time, drivers can use parking lots in the Parc du Mont-Royal. However, the central stretch of road that links Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance will be closed to personal-use vehicles. Only public transportation and school buses, emergency services, bikes and pedestrians can use this stretch of road. A data collection before and during the pilot project will provide tangible information and enrich discussions about the future of this access road. The city has also put the Office de consultation publique de Montréal in charge of holding a public consultation to gather opinions and proposals from the population during the project.

1. Discover a pilot project that serves the community, the environment and our cultural heritage.
2. Understand the issues and the big picture around accessibility and security with which this project is aligned.
3. Participate in the public consultation and make your voices heard for the future of the mountain.

## **THE PILOT PROJECT**

The pilot project, which will be held from Saturday, June 2 until Wednesday, October 31, 2018, is the result of discussions that began several years ago. In 1990 and 2008, public consultations were held ahead of two enhancement and protection plans for the Parc du Mont-Royal. In November 2017, a working committee on the future of Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance was created.

This project was borne of the desire to improve accessibility and safety in the park. Protecting the mountain's exceptional natural heritage is also a priority. The Parc du Mont-Royal, a "green lung" designed by Central Park landscape architect Frederick L. Olmsted, is also a highly inviting and cultural place that must be preserved and enhanced.

### **Accessibility and safety**

At present, Mount Royal can be accessed on foot, by bike, by car and by bus. Voie Camillien-Houde, which dates back to a time when cars were becoming more and more ubiquitous, runs eastbound and westbound across the mountain. Traffic on the road peaks during rush hour from Monday to Friday.

At the same time, the Parc du Mont-Royal welcomes millions of visitors each year. Safety and accessibility are imperative for all of them, including persons with reduced mobility. The idea is to temporarily close Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance to traffic while maintaining accessibility to the park for everyone, no matter the method of transportation, including cars.

### **Very tangible objectives**

The pilot project's mission is to conduct a field test of stopping through traffic between east and west. Obviously it affects automobile traffic, but it also affects residents' quality of life, repercussions on the environment and the comfort of people who visit the park.

The pilot project aims to collectively re-imagine the vocation and purpose of Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance by helping users reclaim the site. With this in mind, temporary developments have been created around the road and an activities program will be launched to give people a new experience of these spaces.

One of the project's objectives is to be able to measure the effects of the new changes. Data on traffic, safety, parking, the environment and public transportation will be collected before and during the pilot project, which will provide a clear portrait of the situation and enrich discussions.

### **Expected changes**

The changes that will be implemented during the project primarily affect road access. All access routes for eastbound and westbound individual car traffic to the park will be

maintained, and drivers will have access to the park's parking lots.

The changes that will be implemented during the pilot project primarily involve road access. All access to Mount Royal will be maintained eastbound and westbound for individual cars and drivers will have access to parking lots in the park. However, traffic will be interrupted between the parking lot at the Smith House and the parking lot at the Lac-aux-Castors. This 550-metre stretch of road will be closed to individual cars. This zone will be reserved for pedestrians, bikes, buses and emergency vehicles.



Parking lots near the Smith House and the Chalet du Mont-Royal, will be accessible to users arriving from the east of Montréal. The parking lots at the Lac-aux-Castors will be accessible to users arriving from the west of Montréal. Pedestrian access will not change.

All traffic on Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance will be limited to 40 km/hour for all vehicles, including bikes, and new road signage will be adopted.

Public transportation service will be increased with a new bus line, the 711. It will be available on weekends between June 2 and 17, 2018; seven days a week between June 18 and August 18, 2018; and may be available on weekends after August 27, 2018).

## **ORIENTATIONS**

For several years, the Mount Royal heritage site has been the subject of continuing improvements to make the mountain more accessible and more welcoming, to protect the parks plants and animals and facilitate users' travel while being environmentally conscious.

These orientations support the 2004 Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats, the 2008 Integrated Transportation Plan for Mount Royal and the 2009 Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan.

With this in mind, the city has carried out several development projects. In June 2017, the municipal administration also tasked the Service des grands parcs, du verdissement et du Mont-Royal with developing an overall accessibility vision for Mount Royal, with a view to ensuring consistency among all upcoming projects.

The project to close traffic on Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance, as well as the possible requalification of this urban roadway that crosses Mount Royal, are part of this proposal.

### **Restoring the mountain's natural purpose**

The city wants to enhance the natural aspect of the mountain by alleviating the visual effect of traffic lane and accentuating the landscape character of Voie Camillien-Houde, which could become a "park road." Simplicity and continuity will be emphasized.

The city also aims to promote non-polluting travel and user-friendliness by developing safe, welcoming paths and spaces that relate to one another through the mountain. These inclusive developments will take the needs of all users into account.

### **Considering residential elements**

According to the SGPVMR, the new developments on Mount Royal and the possible requalification of the new Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance must take all of the local components into consideration, including residential areas, parks, cemeteries and access roads.

Preserving Mount Royal's natural and cultural heritage is a priority. This objective must guide any addition or alteration to its current layout. The road network, including detour routes on the mountain, must be considered as historic elements of Mount Royal. The idea is to offer a diversified experience of the heritage site while also providing a variety of routes to go from nature to the city and vice versa in peace and quiet.

## **Reducing the automobile footprint**

In North America and in Europe, the automobile's place in urban spaces is being revisited. People want to be able to walk and bike more freely. Paris and New York City have closed certain urban areas to car traffic, either temporarily (Paris Respire) or definitively (Prospect Park).

The city has also redeveloped certain parts of downtown to reduce traffic and comply with planning orientations: demolishing the Avenue du Parc/Avenue des Pins interchange, closing the southbound lane on Chemin Remembrance, and redeveloping the Rue Peel and Avenue Cedar entrances to the Parc du Mont-Royal.

Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance are part of this urban redevelopment concern. The city is preparing a summary report on the roadway's evolution through history, their heritage interest and a diagnosis of the issues being faced, which will be enriched by a participatory process organized in collaboration with the Table de Concertation du Mont-Royal. The global vision statement will then be presented to the public.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The pilot project to close Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance to traffic for five months, from June 2 to October 31, 2018, provides for a public consultation to be organized by the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM).

The objective of this consultation is to dialogue openly and transparently with Montrealers to find out their opinions about the project, what they feel while it is going on and their vision of the future role of this road.

Public consultations were held on the subject in 1990 and 2008, leading to the adoption, in 1992, of the Mount Royal Enhancement Plan, and in 2009, of the Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan.

The development of traffic loops on the summit of the mountain to prevent through traffic while maintaining automobile access to the Parc du Mont-Royal had already been suggested.

This public consultation is one of several different actions whose aim is to enhance Mount Royal's natural and cultural heritage and offer the population easy and pleasant access to the site. The aim is to establish the site within a contemporary, ecological view of urban life while recognizing the role this road played in Montréal's history.

Information about the public consultation is available in French on the OCPM Web site: <http://ocpm.qc.ca/fr/consultation-publique/voies-dacces-au-parc-mont-royal>