

Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM)

Subject: Support for Permanent Pedestrianization of Promenade Wellington

Dear OCPM,

My name is Amelia, and I've called Verdun home for the past five years. I live just off of Wellington street on 2e avenue, so I have had a front-row seat to witness the vibrant evolution and positive impact pedestrianization has had during the summer months. I am writing to strongly support the initiative to make Wellington Street a pedestrian-only zone all year round.

I own a car but I am also an enthusiastic advocate for car-free streets. When Wellington is closed in the summer, personally I have not noticed any increase in traffic or lack of parking on my street. I think one of the biggest benefits to making Wellington fully pedestrian is encouraging people to take public transport when they visit Verdun. The more visitors take the metro, the greener Verdun and Montreal in general will be. I believe smart city planning can help with encouraging more people to use public transport. Even though I own a car, I will always take public transit if the route is convenient. Which in Montreal, it often is!

In terms of design ideas, I think planting more trees would provide much-needed greenery and shade, aiding in beauty and sustainability. Adding sculptures and street art would further instill a sense of place and creativity in the heart of Verdun. I envision flat, raised, and accessible surfaces to ensure everyone, including people with reduced mobility, can comfortably navigate the space.

While I wholeheartedly support this project, I understand the importance of addressing concerns from those with reduced mobility. Ensuring that the street remains accessible should be a top priority as plans develop. I am confident that with careful consideration, we can create an inclusive space that facilitates ease of movement for all.

Finally, I also want to bring up the issue of homelessness on Wellington. There are quite a few people living on the street and I worry that number may increase if Wellington goes car-free. I don't think a tent city popping up would be good for anyone. While this issue is bigger than just how it relates to a pedestrianized Wellington, I think this could be a good opportunity to address it head on. From my understanding there are no homeless shelters in Verdun, leaving many residents of the street to have to travel if they want to find a bed for the night. I don't have the solutions but I wanted to bring it up as a matter to reflect on. How can we make sure there are spaces for people without homes to feel safe and secure.

Thank you for considering my input. I sincerely hope that with proper consideration the pedestrianization of Promenade Wellington will become a permanent and proud feature of Verdun. It has the potential to foster community interactions, support local businesses, and contribute to a greener and healthier urban environment.

Warm regards,

Amelia Moses