

Mémoire sur le projet particulier d'urbanisme dans Saint-Raymond et aux abords du CUSM

Présenté à l'Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM)

Introduction:

We are a family who have lived in NDG for about fifteen years, work on the West Island, and visit Roger's mother in the United States several times per year. We mostly drive, but also ride bikes, use the bus and metro, and walk around the neighborhood and go from NDG toward downtown and to the west island often.

When the super hospital site was chosen, we were happy to have the facility in our neighborhood, in spite of the additional strain on our roads, busses, and metro. Then the Turcot interchange overhaul was announced, and we wondered if the planning of these two major projects would take the needs of the residents into account. Sadly, neither project has had any consideration for the people who live around these projects. The dust, noise and most importantly increased congestion and lack of safety of the neighborhood has driven us to submit this brief to express our concerns and propose sound workable solutions for the problems caused by these mega projects in our residential neighborhood.

There are so many areas where the needs of people coming to or through our neighborhood have taken precedence over local needs, and which will impact the quality of life regardless of how many pretty mini-parks or condos are proposed. Here is a brief and incomplete list:

1. Increasing traffic on Girouard ave, by keeping the change from one-way to two ways, including hundred of idling vehicles in the congested areas during rush hour. In addition, closing the recently renovated entry ramp to the Turcot interchange forces NDG residents to go north to Cote St. Luc Rd which is already congested, adding thirty minutes plus to any trip involving the interchange, and making the newly consolidated intersection a traffic night mare.
2. Closing Upper Lachine Rd. (also recently rebuilt and in excellent condition) cuts off an important part of the community from the Vendome metro, detours cars and forces those of us who shop and dine to take a major detour in order to get to the upper Lachine area. In addition, the immense pressure put on Crowley Ave and the surrounding streets has made that small neighborhood a throughway rather than a nice residential area.
3. Making the newly constructed exit ramp off of the Decarie Expressway south on to de Maisonneuve ONLY available to people heading east toward the super hospital site rather than making it an entry point for residents (like us) who live west on deMaisonneuve gives benefits to others at our expense.
4. The lack of a bike and pedestrian bridge over the new Decarie Blvd with all of the additional traffic around the hospital does nothing to help pedestrians and cyclists navigate the "valley of danger" and makes it more difficult to bike

from NDG to downtown, since this intersection is the only break in an excellent (and expensive) bike path built from Montreal West to the centre of town. Citizens have asked for this improvement for over a decade, and have been given vague promises of expert opinions and studies, none of which have ever been done.

The issues above have left the citizens of NDG think that they do not count; that it is more important to impose megaprojects on us rather than work with us to make something that works for everyone. In EVERY so-called "Good Neighbor" meeting, citizens and their views have been systematically ignored and defended against, rather than listened to, taken into account, or incorporated into still-fluid plans. In order to make these two mega projects serve both the new users of the area and the local residents, please consider the following:

1. Return Girouard Ave. to a one way street and re-open our entrance ramp off of Girouard;
2. Keep upper Lachine Rd. open to cars and keep the southwest part of NDG a coherent community; and Crowley and the surrounding area as a residential part of this community;
3. Allow people to use the new de Maisonneuve exit in both directions to take the traffic pressure off of Decarie and Sherbrooke streets;
4. And most importantly, build the bike and pedestrian bridge over the Decarie/deMaisonneuve/Upper Lachine intersection. By separating the pedestrians and bikes from the vehicle traffic in this dangerous intersection, it would be much safer, and would show the citizens of NDG that all of these mega projects can be good neighbors and take the repeated and overwhelming support for this bridge by NDG residents into account. This one act would go a long way toward relieving the widespread feeling that our neighborhood and its concerns have/are being considered as part of the planning of these two mega projects.

We hope that this new phase of consultation is not just a diversion, and that the presented plans and unpopular decisions taken without any public input will not just roll forward unchecked.

Yours Sincerely,
Susan Gyetvay
Roger Haughey