

## GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MUHC Glen Site: construction and road work

### MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday, June 19, 2012 (7 p.m.)

#### Committee Members in Attendance

##### CITY OF MONTREAL

Sébastien Deshaies (Urban Planner, Public Works Department)

Michel Therrien (Head of Communications, Assistant Director, CDN-NDG Borough)

Valérie Legris (Technical Officer, Traffic and Circulation, Public Works Department)

Stéphane Caron (CDN-NDG Borough)

##### MUHC

Pierre Major (Associate Director, Facilities Planning and Construction, Redevelopment Project)

##### MODERATOR

André Bouthillier

##### SNC-Lavalin

Chantal Sorel (Project Director, SNC-Lavalin)

##### MTQ

Vicky Lachapelle

Anne Pelletier

##### STM

Gary Bernard

##### CITIZENS

Sharon Leslie

Derek Robertson

Donna Allen

Louise Fournier

Malaka Ackaoui

Nasar Omar

M. Santangelo

#### Meeting called to order

- The moderator welcomed all of the meeting participants.
- He explained the committee's mandate and the meeting objectives: the items discussed must involve the work planned for the coming months.
- He also explained that his role is to ensure the meeting proceeds smoothly, and he asked all participants to show courtesy to one another.
- Introduction of attendees - Round table.
- Adoption of the meeting agenda and addition of Miscellaneous items.
- Adoption of minutes of last meeting of the Good Neighbourly Relations Committee.

**Presentation of upcoming municipal work**  
Presented by Sébastien Deshaies (City of Montreal)

The City of Montreal currently has two major work sites underway:

- On Décarie Boulevard between de Maisonneuve and Saint-Jacques: reconstruction of water mains and sewers. The work is proceeding well and should be completed by mid-August 2012;
- Reconstruction of the new railway bridge.

On Décarie Boulevard:

- Installation of the 7.50 sewer pipe has been completed, and the necessary connections to private homes are now being carried out. The work should be finished by the first week in July. We have implemented certain measures to accommodate residents, and we will re-open the roads once the work has been completed.

Reconstruction of the new railway bridge:

- Farther north, work has continued on the railway bridge. This work began on June 4, and since then we have completed a support wall next to Garage Nelson. Piles have been installed along the west side of Décarie in preparation for the excavation work, which will begin shortly. This week, we removed almost all of the metal structure of the old railway bridge. Concurrent to this, we excavated the entire east side to prepare for construction of the new bridge. In the coming month, we will continue to demolish the existing bridge and drive the piles so that later this summer construction of the new railway bridge can begin. This week, all components of the work on de Maisonneuve Boulevard between the Décarie – de Maisonneuve – Northcliffe intersection were awarded. Once the contract has been awarded, we expect that work will begin in July (official date not yet known).
- Once the work on Décarie between Crowley and Saint-Jacques is finished, we will leave a window to enable the Commission des services électriques and Gaz Métro to finish their connections in the sector. These teams will be inserted into the schedule between two phases. This work will not create any major hindrances.

**Discussion period: Municipal work**

ISSUE	ANSWER
<p>(M. Santangelo) They are going to build a sewer along de Maisonneuve between Décarie and Northcliffe that will go up to Sherbrooke and along Sherbrooke to Graham. Water running down the hill will hit this interceptor to be brought to Northcliffe. In my opinion, this will take 2 months and it will be fall before the work is finished. The bad news is that the work between Décarie and</p>	<p>(Sébastien Deshaies) What is coming will be the section further north between de Maisonneuve and Northcliffe, currently in the design phase, because we are awaiting the geotechnical results to decide on the exact placement of the pipes. So this is in fact planned for the fall.</p>

ISSUE	ANSWER
<p>Northcliffe on De Maisonneuve will disrupt traffic. Eastbound traffic will be closed, and buses will have to detour onto Claremont to go up or down Sherbrooke for some 4 to 6 months.</p> <p>Could this take until next year?</p>	<p>It is important to understand that a 1.5 m pipe and the associated excavations require extensive work. We have no choice, given the size of the pipe.</p>
<p>(Citizen in the room) Will we have to cross the street again to get to the métro?</p>	<p>(Valérie Legris) In fact, we are not changing the pedestrian layout. What will likely change once workers arrive on the north side, is that the south sidewalk will be under construction due to the moving of machinery. The westbound flow will be left on the same side as always. Given the disruption due to the excavation and unsafe bike path, we will ask cyclists to make a detour.</p> <p>The sidewalk on the north side will be available for safe crossing at the pedestrian crossing already in place. This will be the responsibility of the developer. The STM must still confirm its detours, and we do not have these details yet.</p>
<p>(Louise Fournier) When will construction on the new bridge be finished, and when do you expect Décarie to reopen?</p>	<p>(Sébastien Deshaies) We are on schedule. The contract was awarded a month earlier than planned, and we therefore hope to install the railway line under the new bridge before winter 2013. I will keep you updated on this.</p> <p>The underground infrastructure work must be done (aqueduct, sewer, CSEM, Gaz Métro) to finalize and connect all of the systems. This should all be completed by the end of November or in December.</p>
<p>(Nasar Omar) My car wash business is not doing well at all; I've lost many customers. How will I gain back my clientele? Can the City advertise my garage to help me?</p> <p>Yes, but it has not helped. It takes more than that.</p>	<p>(Michel Therrien) In terms of the measures we have taken to help you, we have maintained access to your garage for your customers. We cannot allow people to cross the construction site.</p> <p>(Valérie Legris) Have you advertised in the weekly papers?</p>

ISSUE

ANSWER

At least we'll finish a month earlier than planned, so that's good news.

(Michel Therrien) We understand your situation, and we have already discussed it. In fact, the work is nearing completion. Mazda offered you space to work, but that was insufficient. As for advertising and compensation, we will not discuss that now, but rather later in our Borough offices. We have tried to find solutions, and we'll keep trying.

(Citizen in the room) What measures are planned to improve safety? I understand that people want to ride their bikes, and we have asked many times for extra police presence, particularly during rush hour, but we have not had a response to our requests, and I think we've been lucky to date that there have been no accidents.

What measures have you planned to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists?

No, I mean now, during the work. Have you ever tried crossing on a bike? It is dangerous, particularly for cyclists using the path from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce to downtown. Almost every day when I cross, I see close calls.

(Louise Fournier) People need to be more responsible.

It would be a good idea to fine cyclists who ride through a prohibited zone. Would it be possible to mark highly visible lines on the ground?

(Sébastien Deshaies) What is your question?

(Valérie Legris) Are you referring to after the work is finished?

(Sébastien Deshaies) Regarding the issue of the pedestrian crossing, I think we have discussed this at every meeting. Each time, we have tried to implement every possible measure: lights, securing the path, signage, and police presence. Any time there are major changes to the work phases, we systematically bring in the police.

You can be sure of police presence; police are always on site during key phases to assure the safety of citizens around the new set-up.

(Valérie Legris) Each time, we reinforce the safety of pedestrians. However, I have seen with each site implemented that there are people who do not respect the signage in place. It becomes a question of raising awareness and increasing people's respect for the signs. I can assure you that we have implemented many security measures at this site.

(Sébastien Deshaies) Do you have any other questions?

ISSUE

ANSWER

(Valérie Legris) Anything is possible; it is just a question of budget.

(Peter McQueen) Traffic is disrupted mainly because the synchronization of the stop lights has not been changed. For example, there are green lights that are impossible to make when driving. We asked that a number of seconds be added for the pedestrian crossing on Décarie Boulevard on the north side of de Maisonneuve, because it is a problem area, but nothing has been done.

(Valérie Legris) The green light is there because the pedestrian light is there. The timing for this light is fine for pedestrians who are crossing and for cyclists. This is why we have kept it as is. If we add time there and just for Upper-Lachine/de Maisonneuve, how will pedestrians cross? Everything has been planned according to the work phases.

(Louise Fournier) There are trucks north on Décarie that are creating a lot of dust. If these trucks are there for the hospital construction, can they be cleaned more often?

(Sébastien Deshaies) At the last meeting, we agreed we would need to make an effort in this regard in the spring. As a result, extensive cleaning was carried out. If the problem returns, please let us know, and we will take care of it. The cleaning was done twice a week, following complaints received.

(Derek Robertson) With respect to the merchant who has been complaining for a long time, there should be a consensus between the City, the MUHC administration and the Quebec government to help him before he goes bankrupt. That's how other provinces operate in similar circumstances.

(Michel Therrien) We are not authorized to financially compensate Mr. Omar. We have met with him on a number of occasions to try to find other solutions.

There should be security personnel present on the site to better enforce compliance with the signage and signals.

As to your second question, the police are already involved in the site and not just for the de Maisonneuve-Décarie sector. Operations have been conducted on Crowley for the speed issues. The police have been very helpful and are doing a good job. The City cannot ask citizens to do the job of the police.

(Citizen in the room) What are the hours for the work being done on Décarie Boulevard?

(Michel Therrien) Generally, work begins at 7 a.m.

We hear noise from the site starting at 6:30 a.m.

I will check and get back to you with a more precise answer.

As residents on Prud'homme, we hear a lot of noise before 7 a.m.

ISSUE	ANSWER
It's summer, and it's getting hotter, which means sleeping with the windows open and using earplugs.	
<p>(Citizen in the room) What are the new routes and schedules for buses in the area?</p> <p>She would also like to know the speed limit on Crowley, as she was almost hit by a car leaving the construction site at 60-65 km/h. Is there a way to reduce the speeds near the site? It is always like this.</p>	<p>(Gary Bernard) The schedules are noted on the signs affixed to the bus stops. If you would like more information, I can give you my card and you can call me.</p> <p>(Chantal Sorel) I have taken note of this.</p>

### **Presentation of work at the Glen site**

Presented by Chantal Sorel, Project Director

As you have seen, construction is proceeding well. We currently have approximately 1,400 workers on the site, with peaks of 1,700. You have perhaps noticed that the concrete structure of Block A has been finished, while Blocks B and C have advanced well and were completed in the past month. The structure was finished yesterday, June 18 (one day early). The concrete structures for all of the blocks are now completed. There remains some concrete work to be done, but only in the parking lots for Blocks E and G. There will now be fewer cement mixers and less work involving water, and I think that will help everyone. The mechanical bulkheads on the envelope are being installed. Our next objective is to finish most of the formwork by August and complete the exterior work up to the roof by November. Following this, the interior work will begin. During the construction holiday (July 22 to August 4), some civil work will be done, but in the south section only; this should therefore provide a break.

With respect to parking, we still have 900 parking spots for the workers. There are already 3 sections of Block G that have been finished. The fourth is underway, and in Block G we were able to create 200 extra spaces. Part 4 will be finished by the construction holiday, which will enable us to add 200 more spaces.

In terms of public transit, we are very careful about the parking permits we issue. We encourage the use of public transit and bicycles. Posters will be installed on the site, and bicycle stations and showers will also be available.

The construction is going very well, and we are quite satisfied with the progress of the work. Workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. We have received some complaints about the noise, and I am taking note of your comments regarding the traffic as well. We are trying to respect the hours established and focus on the work in the south section. We have also had Glen Road cleaned. There remains a bit of work to be done, but the cleaning is for the most part completed. The sewer pipe connections on Saint-Jacques are also finished. I cannot go so far as to say that Saint Jacques will be reopened, as this is not in our jurisdiction; there is other construction underway. For our part, however, the pipe connections are done.

ISSUE	ANSWER
<p>(Citizen in the room) You have said you will be making more noise on the south side. Have you considered that there are disadvantaged communities and low-cost housing in that area?</p>	<p>(Chantal Sorel) We have not received any complaints. The number of workers on site is lower in the evening, and we have been careful in this regard.</p>
<p>(Citizen in the room) What is the highest building among all of the blocks? Have all of the floors now been completed?</p> <p>Who is hammering between 9 and 10 p.m. and mornings and on Saturday. I live across from Block A and I hear this person.</p>	<p>(Chantal Sorel) D is the highest building, with 12 floors. Yes, all of the floors are now done.</p> <p>We have no such person. The sound may be coming from the cleaning of the grilles, which must be done each day. I will check.</p>
<p>(Omar Nasar) If you have finished the buildings, where is the dust coming from that covers the cars in my garage within just minutes?</p> <p>No, the dust in the garage lasts all day long. As soon as I wash a car, the dust resettles on it.</p>	<p>(Chantal Sorel) There are 900 cars that leave at the same time. Even if we lay down gravel, this will not help.</p> <p>We try to keep the dust to a minimum. But it is difficult, given that we have poured 200,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of concrete.</p>
<p>(Peter McQueen) With respect to the métro entrance: when will you be building the promised tunnel, and what is the status on coordinating the third rail line with CP?</p> <p>What have you done about the second métro entrance?</p>	<p>(Chantal Sorel) We are currently in discussions with CP about the land boundaries. We have begun work on the esplanade side close to the exit. The plans have been finalized for the access ramp and doors, but the work has not yet been done. We are currently discussing permits. The work will be done in the months that follow.</p> <p>(Pierre Major) The AMT cannot begin work on the third rail line until the new railway bridge is built. Their work will follow the construction of the bridge.</p> <p>What we have in the contract is a walkway, which is a solution that needs review. We are in discussions with the STM and AMT to find another solution.</p>

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	<p>The technical solution is quite complex. The pre-feasibility study should be finished in the coming weeks. Afterwards, we will go to the MTQ to start the next step, the feasibility study. The objective for us is to find a solution for the opening of the site.</p>
<p>(Louise Fournier) The walkway was part of the original plan, but the hospital was increasingly leaning towards a tunnel as the solution. Has the City come out in favour of either of these solutions?</p> <p>Recently, the Inter-Neighbourhood Coalition talked about the closure of Upper Lachine Road. Can we talk about the traffic over the longer term at an extra meeting to discuss planning?</p> <p>(Peter McQueen) This winter or in the spring?</p> <p>(Louise Fournier) Will the ramp to Autoroute 15 South be opened?</p> <p>(Peter McQueen) Will the Saint-Jacques bridge over the 15 be demolished?</p> <p>(Louise Fournier) The major concern of citizens is the traffic: when will Autoroute 15 and the Saint Jacques exit be reopened?</p>	<p>(Pierre Major) I cannot say, as this project has not yet been presented. We are still in discussions with our partners. When a solution has been found, we will present it to you. Of course, our studies take all scenarios into consideration; we look at all of the pros and cons. All I can tell you is that we negotiated with Canadian Pacific for a right-of-way within an extrajudicial agreement for the construction of the railway bridge, and it is a tunnel we negotiated, not a walkway. This was the proposal of our partners, but they have not yet taken the steps to obtain the permits. We also need to hold our own discussions.</p> <p>Each year, a public information session is planned. We had one in January. The next one will be either in November or in the winter.</p> <p>During the next information session, all of the project stakeholders will be there to answer any questions you might have.</p>
<p>(Citizen in the room) Regarding the second métro entrance, what exactly is the problem: the technical complexity or a lack of money? There is an entire community in the area, and everyone could put pressure on the provincial government.</p>	<p>(Pierre Major) Both.</p> <p>Duly noted.</p>

**Presentation of MTQ work**  
Presented by Anne Pelletier

Mr. Dubé will attend the next information session to answer your questions related to the MTQ work.



With respect to the question about the reopening of the 15 South exit, as the people from the City know, a reorganization of the municipal road network (Décarie) must be done to enable this exit to reopen.

The work currently being done by the MTQ is in partnership with the MUHC (co-signatories). There is an agreement in place between the MTQ and MUHC to build an access road to the hospital. We closed the Saint-Jacques exit to build an overpass to allow for the building of the hospital. That is why we closed the exit.

With respect to the site, the work began in April and is progressing well and is in fact a little ahead of schedule. We have posted photos on our Web site. Our contractual obligation is twofold: reopen the Saint-Jacques exit in September, and finish all of our work by November.

ISSUE	ANSWER
(Citizen in the room) What is the status of the access to the 15 South via Girouard?	(Valérie Legris) Access to the 15 South was closed to do work on de Maisonneuve and Décarie. This planning was done to enable activities on Sherbrooke and between Saint-Jacques and Sherbrooke.
(Citizen in the room) We would like more technical information about the sites. I have been unable to find this information anywhere, and we need to know what is really happening to understand the impact these changes and disruptions are having on our lives.	(Anne Pelletier) I have taken note of this.
<p>(Peter McQueen) Who is responsible for cleaning the sidewalk on Saint-Jacques for the pedestrians and cyclists who use it? It is full of stones, and if you are going to say it is being cleaned each day, you should actually clean it.</p> <p>Another long-term question: will the next phase of the MTQ work for the Saint-Jacques bridge start next year or right away?</p> <p>So in November, will we have detailed answers and specific timetables?</p>	<p>(Anne Pelletier) I cannot give you an exact answer. We discussed the cleaning this spring with our partners. We will look at this together with the City and the MUHC and see how we can resolve the solution.</p> <p>(Anne Pelletier) In January we presented a number of things to you; this evening is not the time for this kind of discussion, but rather in November.</p> <p>If we are invited in November, we will present everything. I can tell you that indeed, the Saint-Jacques bridge is part of the current project. We can provide you with the exact date in November.</p>
(Derek Robertson) He asked the same question	(Anne Pelletier) With respect to the

ISSUE	ANSWER
<p>that he asks each month: a street-cleaning truck should be cleaning the streets twice, even in winter.</p> <p>I am not here to speak on behalf of the MTQ, but if you visit the site, you can see it all in 3D.</p>	<p>information we are able to provide, we cannot always do what someone requests at a specific time or place.</p> <p>I'd like to add that in the coming month, as part of the preparation work for the new Turcot Interchange, our department will be closing the St-Remi street on the Côte Saint-Paul side. It is far from here, but those going to Verdun would use the Saint-Rémi tunnel. This work will begin on July 3 and continue until November. Residents in the area will all be advised. You can find all of the details at <a href="http://www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca">www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca</a>.</p>
<p>(Donna Allen) Asks whether at the next MTQ presentation the issue of pedestrians can be addressed and not just cars. She is referring to the area around the MUHC and not Turcot; the MTQ is a partner in the MUHC work.</p>	<p>(Pierre Major) We have meetings with the Inter-Neighbourhood Coalition. During the last meeting, we had discussions about these interfaces, and a proposal was made to conduct a charrette on the south-west access, which we are looking at very seriously.</p>

### Adjournment of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Salon Glen, 5100 Blvd. de Maisonneuve West.