



GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MUHC Glen Campus: Construction and Roadwork

MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (7 pm to 8:45 pm)

Attendees

Pierre Tessier (independent moderator)
Charles Chebl (Senior Vice-President and General Manager, SNC-Lavalin)
Alain Trudeau (Project Manager, Project Management Office, City of Montreal)
Sébastien Deshaies (Urban Planner, Public Works Department, City of Montreal)
Nathalie Rheault (Division Manager, Public Works Department, CND/NDG Borough)
Mario Duguay (Division Supervisor, Development and Operational Services, Public Works Department, City of Montreal)
Michel Therrien (Assistant Director and Head of Communications, CDN-NDG Borough)
Constable Lévesque (Service de police de la Ville de Montréal)
Gary Bernard (STM)
Pierre Major (Associate Director, Facilities Development & Construction, Redevelopment Project, McGill University Health Centre)
Stéphane Caron (Engineer, Public Works Department, Sud-Ouest Borough)
Derek Robertson (citizen)
Wanda Potrykus (citizen)
Donna Allen (citizen)
Ian Nelson (merchant, Garage Nelson)
Steven Jass (citizen)
Louise Fournier (citizen)
Phil Bergeron-Burns (citizen)
Maureen Kiely (Westmount citizen)
Nick Patulli (merchant, Crowley Arts Centre)
Nasar Omar (merchant, Alborz Car Care)
Luciano Michetti (citizen)
Thomas Gagné (citizen)
Domenico D'Alesio (Westmount citizen)

Meeting called to order

- Word of welcome from Pierre Tessier
- Explanation of the committee's mandate and the meeting objectives: items discussed must involve the work planned for the coming month
- Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on March 22, 2011
- Introduction of attendees

Update on roadwork

Alain Trudeau presented an update on the construction and the work planned for the coming month.

Phase 1: The work under the rail line at Décarie Boulevard and the work at the de Maisonneuve intersection.

This work is entering its final phase. In addition, the signage has been changed. This last segment of Phase 1 consists of creating a huge chamber where many sewer pipes merge and connect. This work had to be suspended and is now delayed, notably because of the recent rain and bad weather and complications encountered with the drilling operations. We will be asking the contractor to make up for this delay.

Phase 2: Installation of a 3.6-metre-wide collector sewer along Décarie Boulevard between Saint-Jacques and de Maisonneuve (east side).

Because the contractor Infrabec has filed for bankruptcy protection, the surety will now take over the contract and work. The surety must also find a new contractor able to finish the contract. Meetings have been held with five contractors, and the bid deadline is May 16. Work should resume by May 24, 2011. This work is expected to be finished by mid-August 2011.

Phase 3: Work at the intersection of Décarie Boulevard and Saint-Jacques.

The configuration of the construction zone at the intersection of Décarie Boulevard and Saint-Jacques has recently changed. The contractor has also taken a delay due to the recent heavy rains. The City and contractor are currently revising the construction schedule in order to accelerate the work and make up for the delay.

Discussion period: roadwork

ISSUE	ANSWER
(Donna Allen) Is it possible to install a sign indicating "dead end" or "no thoroughfare" to alert drivers that Décarie Boulevard is completely closed at Saint-Jacques?	(Alain Trudeau) Yes, we will look into this.
(Luciano Michetti) Could you please let us know when Phases 1 and 3 will	(Alain Trudeau) It is difficult to give an exact date for the end of this work. The bad weather, such

be finished?	<p>as the rain we've had in recent weeks, has had a big effect on the set timetable. If the rain continues, the schedule could be further disrupted.</p> <p>The work is almost finished. However, we know that the contractors are currently delayed. Without speculating on an exact date, I feel that during the month of June we will have a much better idea of the situation and delays.</p>
(Luciano Michetti) What is the status of Phase 2?	(Alain Trudeau) We know that only 20% of the contract was completed by Infrabec. The new contractor will therefore have two months to complete the remaining 80%. The work that has already been done was the most complicated. The rest is more straightforward, and we believe there's a good chance that Phase 2 will be finished by mid-August 2011.
(Ian Nelson) Would it be possible to open the new Crowley access in both directions (at the intersection of Upper-Lachine Road)?	(Alain Trudeau) No, as we do not want to encourage the use of Crowley as a through street. We are also awaiting the installation of traffic lights to make traffic here safer.
(Ian Nelson) Would it be possible to allow motorists to turn eastbound at the Prud'homme exit (at the intersection of Saint-Jacques)?	(Alain Trudeau) No, because U-turns are allowed on Saint-Jacques (in front of Mazda Gabriel). Your suggestion would conflict with this and could make the area dangerous and accident-prone.
(Nick Patulli) Phases 1, 2 and 3 have remained stalled even in good weather. Why was there no activity on nice days? Things are very difficult for my business at the moment. Can you not force the contractor to speed up the work?	(Alain Trudeau) The contract specifies the precise number of days needed to carry out the work. If the contractor goes over the stipulated deadlines, a penalty of 0.5% of the contract value is applied for every day the work is delayed.
(Nick Patulli) These penalties do absolutely nothing for the merchants. They only benefit is to the City of Montreal.	(Alain Trudeau) We are doing our best to help the businesses and improve life for citizens.
<p>(Nick Patulli) Since the barriers have been installed on Upper Lachine Road, the signs indicating that the businesses are open can no longer be seen.</p> <p>Would it be possible to install another sign at the corner of Addington and increase the size of the lettering?</p>	(Alain Trudeau) We will find a solution to this problem. However, the format has already been enlarged and the colour changed as you requested. If the signs are too big, they become a hazard to pedestrians and motorists.
(Derek Robertson) I suggest that the City of Montreal install surveillance cameras that would enable it to observe the traffic and fix any problems. This would allow traffic	(Alain Trudeau) We have taken note of this suggestion.

congestion to be eased rapidly.	
(Louise Fournier) Will the delay to Phase 2 also delay the beginning of work on the rail line?	(Alain Trudeau) No. We hope that the contractor for Phase 1 will finish the work soon so as to not delay work on the railroad viaduct. This work is scheduled to begin in July and should be finished before winter.
(Nasar Omar) I've received tickets for parking my customers' cars on Décarie Boulevard. What am I supposed to do with them? I can't pay them.	(Alain Trudeau) We received complaints about cars illegally parked in the City of Montreal construction zone. The contractor is complaining that work is impeded due to cars parked in the work zone. It is prohibited to park in this area, even if work is suspended and the road is closed. You must respect the signage. You could have called us to ask for permission to park there temporarily.
(Nick Patulli) Customers who have come to the KoSa Centre have all received tickets, but the MUHC construction workers park on our streets.	(Alain Trudeau) We have already asked the borough to examine the parking options for Crowley and Prud'homme. We are still waiting for these changes. (Constable Lévesque) There are "No Stopping" signs on Décarie Boulevard. We have to enforce the law.
(Phil Bergeron-Burns) At the last meeting of this committee, you indicated that the Phase 1 contractor was respecting the timetable and that no delays had been announced. Today, you are saying that the rain has delayed the work. Is the rain the only reason for the delay?	(Alain Trudeau) No, it is quite normal to be delayed if it rains for many days. A delay had already been indicated to us following the drilling for the sewer pipe under the viaduct, but we had asked the contractor to accelerate the work in order to make up for this delay. Unfortunately, the contractor was unable to do this, due to the rain.
Did you change the lights at the intersection of Girouard and Upper-Lachine Road?	(Michel Therrien) We installed a pedestrian light at this intersection.
Are you planning to change the lights at the intersection of Sherbrooke and Girouard?	(Michel Therrien) I will have to check whether there is a request for this.
(Nasar Omar) I received a notice that water would be shut off, but it was not. Then, on the following Saturday, the water was cut without any notice. Saturday is the busiest day of the week for my business. What was that all about?	(Alain Trudeau) Recently, there were 3-4-5 problems with the water system. When there is a leak in the area, the entire system is affected. The water system is old in the area and under too much demand when there are leaks. These leaks therefore trigger other incidents and result in the water having to be cut unexpectedly. This is why you were not advised about certain shutdowns to the water system. (Pierre Major) We remind you that the work being

	done by the City of Montreal does not involve the aqueduct system but rather the sewer system. These shutdowns are therefore outside of our control.
(Derek Robertson) Traffic at the Décarie/de Maisonneuve intersection should be monitored by the police. I'd ask that you look into the possibility of cancelling parking tickets given on Décarie Boulevard as a goodwill gesture. Communications with citizens should be improved.	(Alain Trudeau) We have noted this suggestion.
(Peter McQueen) I'd like to know whether the rail line construction will indeed start this summer. There are rumours that this work might be postponed until next year. What work is being planned for this fall?	(Alain Trudeau) The rumours are false. (Pierre Tessier) We remind you that the purpose of this committee is to discuss the work planned for the month ahead only.
(Peter McQueen) I've noticed that the pavement is damaged at the corner of Décarie and de Maisonneuve near the Phase 1 work area. Is it possible to repair the hole?	(Sébastien Deshaies) This is the result of excavation work done following a break in the water main. Because the borough is responsible for this work, city workers should repair the pavement. (Michel Therrien) We are already aware of this hole, and the repair will be done shortly.
(Louise Fournier) I've noticed that the pavement on Vendôme Avenue is damaged due to the number of trucks using this street. Is it possible to install speed bumps?	(Michel Therrien) Traffic calming measures are planned for your street.
(Steven Jass) I lost 30 minutes at the corner of Décarie/Côte-Saint-Luc because the lights were not synchronized. The flashing green is not long enough, and only three cars have a chance to turn. Can this be looked at and improvements made?	(Nathalie Rheault) We are currently working with the Ministère des Transports du Québec to make changes to this traffic light. The MTQ experts have conducted studies over the past few weeks in order to find a solution to this problem. However, the City has no jurisdiction over this light. It falls under the responsibility of the MTQ.
(Phil Bergeron-Burns) There is also traffic congestion at the corner of Décarie and de Maisonneuve. Can we expect improvements soon?	(Alain Trudeau) Our traffic engineering teams are aware of this situation, and a study has been done to find solutions to improve traffic in this area. The goal is to give more time to motorists travelling east or west. This should all be in place by this Friday.
(Maureen Kiely) I feel you should position permanent flaggers at this	(Alain Trudeau) We are taking note of this.

intersection, particularly during rush hours.	
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Glen Campus construction update

Charles Chebl presented the current status of the construction work:

Access to the site along the rail line has been open since the end of March. Excavation work is still being carried out, and the trucks are still carrying backfill such as sand to the site.

Installation of piles is advancing rapidly in the various sections:

Block E - D - Finished.

Block C - Delayed due to rain but should be finished this week.

Block B - Between 100 and 150 piles remain to be driven. This should be finished in May.

Block A - Begun - the caissons are done.

Bunker (between Blocks D and E) - Still to do.

A 9th crane has been installed at the site. Concrete work is underway for the foundations, walls and slabs, notably for Blocks E and D. These activities will be carried out at a number of locations on the site during May. A 10th crane will be installed at the end of May near Block A.

There are currently 450 workers on the site daily. Added to this number are 225 managers.

A number of measures have been put in place by the MUHC to reduce the impact of the work on the lives of citizens and business people. Also, a system has been installed to clean the wheels of the trucks as they leave the site in order to keep the streets in the neighbourhood as clean as possible. An e-mail has also been sent to employees to encourage them to do business with merchants in the area.

Discussion period: Glen Campus construction

ISSUE	ANSWER
(Donna Allen) Are you doing pile work on Saturdays?	(Charles Chebl) Yes, due to the delays caused by the rain, the crews are working on weekday evenings and Saturdays.
(Dereck Robertson) I congratulate you on the good work.	
(Domenico D'Alesio) I'd like to know how the workers get to the site.	(Charles Chebl) They arrive by car, train, métro and bus.
(Domenico D'Alesio) Once 2,000 employees start working at the site daily, how do you plan to deal with the congestion problems when they arrive each day?	(Charles Chebl) We are currently studying this to determine how best to avoid congestion in the area. There is no easy solution. People will arrive via métro or bus or will have to find parking, but we are very conscious of this situation.
(Louise Fournier) Is there no shuttle	(Charles Chebl) There is indeed a shuttle for the

on the site for the workers to make it easier for them to get in and out? Will the asphaltting be done soon?	workers. Once the road has been paved, it will be easier for the workers to come in by foot.
(Louise Fournier) I find it unacceptable that pile work is done on Saturdays.	(Charles Chebl) We understand the inconvenience of this work to nearby residents, but we need to make up for the delays taken due to the rain.
(Wanda Potrykus) The pile work seems to be going on and on. We are not seeing the end of it. Can you give us an end date for this work?	(Charles Chebl) It is difficult to give an exact end date for the pile work. The ground is unpredictable. Some days, we can drive 20 piles and the next day only 5. However, we expect to finish Blocks A and B by the end of June and Block D during August.
(Peter McQueen) How are negotiations going to access the site from Westmount?	(Pierre Major) Unfortunately, there have been no developments in this area. At the last Good Neighbourly Relations Committee meeting, I mentioned that the minister of Municipal Affairs was aware of this situation. I also asked for a meeting with the executive director of Westmount. For now, there is no change.
(Peter McQueen) I know that the implementation of a shuttle system for workers is a good thing, but don't some workers want to park on the site to have access to the tools they keep in their cars?	(Charles Chebl) No, not really. Most companies have installed construction trailers, and the workers can store their tools in these trailers. So they do not necessarily have any materials they need to bring onto the site.
(Peter McQueen) I know that the pile work is inconvenient for residents. Will Blocks F and G also require pile driving?	(Charles Chebl) There are no piles for blocks F and G, but there will be some pile work in July-August (for one month only) to install approximately 100 piles in what will eventually be the Cancer Centre.
(Peter McQueen) Is there still a plan to build a second access between the metro and the MUHC (tunnel)?	(Charles Chebl) We are currently in discussions with the AMT and STM to reach an agreement on the construction of functional accesses. No decisions have been made yet.
(Nick Patulli) When will construction of the Shriners Hospital begin?	(Charles Chebl) There is no fixed date yet, as this work is not part of the current contract.
(Dereck Robertson) We know that more than 1,800 workers will be	(Charles Chebl) Yes, in fact this is how shifts are already planned. There is no congestion when

coming to the site daily at one point. Have you thought about staggering the start times for the shifts to avoid everyone arriving at 6 a.m.?	workers arrive in the morning. Each trade has its own start and end times. However, we know that the parking lot on the site can accommodate 840-850 vehicles, so there will not be enough room for all of these people. We'll therefore take the necessary steps to ensure this works as it should.
(Louise Fournier) With respect to Glen Road, Dr. Bolduc is the key person in this project. Would it not be time to get the minister involved in this issue?	(Pierre Major) It is possible; the Quebec health minister is helping us in this project. There is a representative from the minister's office here this evening. We know that this situation continues to be an irritant. The owner is the MUHC, but we will re-activate the file. The objective is to get traffic moving again.
(Louise Fournier) What do you plan to do about the claims for minor damage done to homes in the area caused by the construction? Do you have a Web site with information about this problem?	(Charles Chebl) We have conducted inspections and installed a seismograph to measure the vibrations in the area, particularly on Prud'homme Street. The results showed that the highest vibration levels were registered at times when no work was being conducted on the MUHC site. We do not think the pile work caused any damage to buildings in the area. However, you can obtain information about the claims process on the MUHC Web site.
(Nasar Omar) In the morning there is nowhere to park due to the workers' cars. Can you give me a space in front of my door for my customers to park?	(Charles Chebl) I understand, but it is very difficult to control the workers when it comes to where they park their own vehicles.

Miscellaneous

(Donna Allen) Will work on the Shriners begin during construction of the MUHC or after?

(Charles Chebl) We would like to see the construction done at the same time, but many aspects remain to be finalized before this work can begin.

(Pierre Major) We have the same objective as you, which is to see the work done at the same time as the MUHC. However, the Shriners is a separate entity. We are currently negotiating the transfer of property. We hope to begin as soon as possible.

Adjournment of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at 7 pm on the MUHC site.