



GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MUHC Glen Campus: Construction and Roadwork

MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday, March 22, 2011 (7 pm to 8:30 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)
- Valérie Legris (Technical Officer, Traffic and Circulation, City of Montreal)
- Mario Duguay (Division Supervisor, Development and Operational Services, Public Works Department, City of Montreal)
- Stéphane Plante, Director, CND/NDG Borough (replacing Michel Therrien)
- Gary Bernard - STM
- Alain Dubé - MTQ
- Pierre Major (Associate Director, Facilities Development & Construction, Redevelopment Project, McGill University Health Centre)
- Wanda Potrokyus (citizen)
- Donna Allen (citizen)
- Jill Prescesky (citizen)
- Phil Bergeron-Burns (citizen)
- Luciano Michetti (citizen)
- Gail Tedstone (citizen)
- Malaka Ackaoui (citizen)
- Nick Patulli (merchant)
- Mario Santangelo (merchant)
- Nasr Omar - (merchant)
- Marie-Josée Mastromonaco, school board commissioner - 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 February 22, 2011
- Introduction of attendees - Round table
- Possibility of a public information session in the spring

Update on roadwork

Alain Trudeau presented an update on the construction and the work planned for the coming month as well as the work along Décarie Boulevard. In his presentation, he cited three different phases:

- Phase 1: Work under the rail line
- Phase 2: Installation of a 3.6-metre pipe on Décarie Boulevard
- Phase 3: St-Jacques/Décarie intersection

Phase 1: Work under the CP rail line.

Mr. Trudeau explained that the drilling under the rail line for the sewer pipe is almost finished. In three weeks, new work will begin in this area, and traffic will be diverted on the north side. Valérie Legris presented the detouring of truck traffic on the site. Next, a large hole will be excavated for the installation of pile planks. For one week, the trucks will not have access to the site via this road. A study is underway to decide how the trucks will enter via Décarie. They can access the site via St-Jacques until the pile planks are installed.

Phase 2: Installation of a 3.6-metre pipe in the centre of Décarie Boulevard.

Contractor Infrabec has filed for bankruptcy protection. The City is studying the impact of this situation on the progress of the work going forward. The company is currently working on a recovery plan that should be adopted within 30 days.

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

Work at the intersection of Décarie Boulevard and St-Jacques facing Mazda Gabriel is progressing as planned. If all goes well, the work should be finished by mid to late June.

Presentation of the traffic plan by Valérie Legris: Corner Décarie/de Maisonneuve.

A plan was drawn up to help illustrate the situation. Due to the work required at Décarie and de Maisonneuve under the CP rail line, de Maisonneuve will be reduced to one lane of traffic on either side. We realize there have been many questions about the bike path. In light of the work described, the bike path must be closed on the north side. This decision was made following a meeting with City experts, and it was determined that the bike path

would not be safe, given the reduced width of the lanes. The standard is to allow 1.5 metres to accommodate traffic.

In the initial days, there will be police presence to assure the safety of the area. Signs will be installed to indicate the detour to pedestrians. The south sidewalk on de Maisonneuve will be closed between Marlowe Avenue and Vendome Avenue. Pedestrians will be asked to cross at the light. A guard rail and fence will be installed along the street, which will make pedestrian and bicycle traffic impractical. We are asking everyone for their cooperation.

Discussion period: roadwork

ISSUE	ANSWER
Question from the floor: There is not enough time allotted for pedestrians to cross at Décarie/de Maisonneuve. Can it be extended?	Valérie Legris: I have noted this and will check. We are in the process of examining this and will try to react quickly.
Gail Tedstone: Will the police be stopping cyclists on de Maisonneuve?	Valérie Legris: The police are there to make people aware of the signage during the initial days of this phase of the work, not to punish. Everyone, pedestrians and cyclists alike, must respect the signs.
Peter McQueen: Can cyclists ride along the road like other drivers?	Valérie Legris: As part of overall road safety, cyclists and motorists alike must respect the signs. It is up to cyclists to be responsible for their own actions. If they do not respect the signs, it is at their own risk.
Phil Bergeron-Burns: What is the plan to enable cyclists to cross in order to head west?	Valérie Legris: Cyclists are being asked to collaborate by respecting the signage. There is a plan for cyclists to get through the work and head west to Upper Lachine. Upon checking with the experts, we have decided that the best option is to stay on the north side of the street.
Jill Precesky: Congratulations on the visual of the plan you have shown us. For people who want to get to St. Raymond, however, if you close the southbound lane of Addington, can pedestrians and cyclists still use this lane?	Valérie Legris: There is no room for pedestrians or cyclists. We need everyone's collaboration. Traffic will continue to flow in both directions, which is why the sidewalk is closed. People can take Upper Lachine Road.
Donna Allen: If you close the lane at de Maisonneuve, will pedestrians be able to get by? Why not do what was done at Complexe Desjardins?	Valérie Legris: Pedestrians must cross at the lights and there will be signs to guide them. This is also why we will have police presence at the beginning. We looked at the Desjardins option, but if we do that, we'll only have one direction on de Maisonneuve, and there are buses, metro and the train involved, which is why we rejected the option for the two month period.
Phil Bergeron-Burns: How long will this work take, and is two months an accurate estimate?	Alain Trudeau - Yes, two months is accurate. Valérie Legris, Yes, because this is what has been stipulated in the agreement with the contractor;

	if it takes less time, so much the better.
Peter McQueen: If it is two months, why not do this work in August when there are fewer students in town and people are on vacation?	Alain Trudeau: Reminded Mr. McQueen that the work must be done for the CP viaduct. This phase of work is a prerequisite to other phases. Work such as this must be done sequentially to avoid delays.
Phil Bergeron-Burns: What are the lane dimensions on Upper Lachine? Would they be safe for cyclists?	Valérie Legris: I don't have that information with me, but we must have a minimum of 7 metres. We have only assessed the area where the work is being done. Otherwise we would have to make a big detour for cyclists, which experience tells us they would not have taken. The safest plan was to close the bicycle path in this area.
Jill Prescesky: Regarding Girouard, when will the pedestrian crossing lights be installed at Upper Lachine/Girouard and St-Jacques/Girouard? You've been promising them for a long time.	Stéphane Plante: I assure you that we are looking at the issue for both Upper Lachine/Girouard and Girouard/St-Jacques, and we are trying to act as quickly as possible. Both intersections are important and will be priorities in the coming weeks and months. We recognize that these are high-traffic areas. I hope that this will be resolved by the next meeting. This actually goes back further than the current work.
Luciano Michetti: Will the only available sidewalk near the Vendome metro station be on the north side? It's very narrow. To get to the métro, you have to cross the street. A lot of young people head to the métro.	Valérie Legris: Yes, but this sidewalk is standard in size. Pedestrians will have to use the sidewalk on the north side and cross the street to the metro. It was the best option under the circumstances and will only last for two months.
Peter McQueen: What is the blue line on the board?	Valérie Legris: It identifies optional routes for road users only. We would certainly not ask pedestrians to go all the way to Sherbrooke to come back.
Mario Santangelo: Will there be a stop sign or functioning stoplights at the corner of Prud'homme and St-Jacques? The concrete median was removed and replaced by cement blocks.	Valérie Legris: No, upon closer examination, it was found to be too dangerous. However, after conducting verifications, traffic is moving smoothly, and there has been much improvement in local traffic since the flashing red has been installed; it helps traffic flow. Signs have been installed that have improved local traffic. This is what we want, not through traffic. The trucks can make a U-turn at St-Rémi to enter the site at the St-Jacques opening. Also, the STM has not noted any detours of the buses that pass here every day.
Nick Patulli: Wants to discuss snow removal; trucks leave the site covered in mud; there are all kinds of potholes on Crowley; snow is not being cleared; and tickets are being given overnight on Crowley. It is becoming intolerable.	Stéphane Plante: We apologize for these problems and promise to do better next winter in preventing such disruptions. However, the main roads must be cleared of snow first, but your area will be treated as a priority also. We will be back next week to take care of the potholes. We will also check the parking signs in this area.

Another point is the parking on Crowley, because parking tickets are being issued to people coming to events at KoSA.

Alain Trudeau: As for the trucks, the contractor must ensure that the trucks follow the designated route and is responsible for cleaning the streets, but we are currently between seasons.

Charles Chebl: The work underway on Décarie and St-Jacques is not helping access to the site.

Stéphanie Legris: We can reinforce the directives given to the flaggers and others.

Luciano Michetti: Many drivers do not adhere to the flashing light at St-Jacques and Décarie. Would it be possible to change it back to the way it was before?

Stéphane Plante: We have noted that since the flashing light was implemented, it has helped improve the flow of traffic on St-Jacques and access to Mazda Gabriel. We will position a police officer there to ensure drivers are respecting the light.

Phil Bergeron-Burns: Is there a plan for the route of bus 105?

Gary Bernard: There are no changes planned at this time, and I've heard nothing on this subject.

Peter McQueen added that Marvin Rotrand mentioned at a borough council meeting that buses 105 and 102 would be routed via Claremont.

Valérie Legris: Traffic is fine on de Maisonneuve, so there should be no problem.

Peter McQueen: Is worried about the trucks that enter and exit the site at de Maisonneuve and Décarie. An accident could occur.

Valérie Legris: The situation has not changed, but there are two flaggers in close communication with trucks entering the site. We will also put a police officer at the intersection. Trucks must wait for the light like everyone else. The two north and south entrances are also possible for trucks. This entrance is for the construction site only.

Nasar Omar: Impossible to access his business because of the equipment for the roadwork the city is carrying out on Decarie and St-Jacques.

Valérie Legris: Will visit the site to check and get back to him.

Jill Prescesky: Do you have any suggestions to help prevent Mr. Omar from having to close his business?

Mario Santangelo - Mazda: Offered Mr. Omar his garage to work from rent-free. Mr. Omar declined the offer.

Glen Campus construction update

Mr. Chebl presented the current status of the work:

- Excavation of Blocks A, B, C and D is finished
- Installation of an 8th crane; a 9th will be installed in the coming weeks
- Opening of an access road to the site for workers
- 70% of pipes installed - 4,000 of 5,500 - current focus in on Blocks B and C

- In discussions with the MUHC for the Shriners
- Concrete pouring underway for Blocks D and E, and within a few weeks the walls will be put up
- Soon the buildings will begin to emerge from the ground
- Installation of caissons (50 for the entire project)
- Water day - an on-site activity was held to sensitize employees
- 100th anniversary - activities with the community and in the neighbourhood

Discussion period: Glen Campus construction

ISSUE	ANSWER
<p>Luciano Michetti: Is it possible to expand the St-Jacques entrance to the site so that cars do not exit onto residential streets? How many employees are currently on the site?</p> <p>It is becoming dangerous for our children, with all of these cars that take the nearby streets.</p> <p>Could speed bumps be installed on Prud'homme to slow down the cars?</p>	<p>Charles Chebl: There are more than 300 workers currently on the site and another 230 who work in the trailers.</p> <p>The piles will continue to be installed until the end of June, and in some blocks this work is finished. Block C will be finished at the end of April.</p> <p>Stéphane Plante: We will look into this issue (speed bumps).</p>
<p>Nick Patulli: Will the current employee parking lot be the permanent one?</p>	<p>Charles Chebl: No. This parking lot will only be used during the construction period. Afterwards, it will be turned into a green space. There will be two parking lots on the site - an underground one for patients and visitors, and an exterior parking garage for employees, for a total of 2,785 spots.</p>
<p>Luciano Michetti: With all of these cars on my street, could you not open up St-Jacques more to keep motorists off the residential streets?</p>	<p>Charles Chebl: We cannot change the traffic situation on Décarie due to the work, and the St-Jacques exit is only for trucks entering and exiting the site. Employees must use the entrance at Décarie and Crowley.</p>
<p>Nasar Omar: When will the St-Jacques exit reopen?</p>	<p>Alain Trudeau: At the end of June.</p> <p>Pierre Major: We will continue our discussions with the minister of municipal affairs, the health minister, and the City of Montreal in order to open the Glen Road exit for employees. This would greatly alleviate the problem.</p>
<p>Ms. Potrykus - Which block will house the Cancer Centre?</p>	<p>Charles Chebl: The Cancer Centre will be located in Block D - the largest unit, Blocks C and D, will also house the Royal Victoria and the Chest Institute.</p>
<p>Phil Bergeron-Burns: Have you</p>	<p>Charles Chebl: Yes, we encourage our employees</p>

thought of encouraging employees to use public transit?

to use public transit, and we have a shuttle that waits at the metro exit to bring them to the site. We have also negotiated an agreement with CP to open an access between the metro and the site. At Place des Arts, we estimated that 30-40% of employees used public transit.

Malaka Ackaoui: Have the homes on Prud'homme been inspected due to the high level of vibration?

Charles Chebl: Yes, we have conducted inspections near the site. We will check Prud'homme.

Malaka Ackaoui: With respect to the Glen Road exit, did you receive a petition from citizens living on Lansdowne?

Pierre Major: No, but a letter was sent to the Minister and is still under study.

Donna Allen: Can we ask that trucks not park on the sidewalks? It disrupts pedestrians.

Charles Chebl: Yes, we will look into it.

Marie-Josée Mastromonaco: Kudos to SNC for their support of the community.

Miscellaneous

Adjournment of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The dates of the upcoming meetings are posted on the MUHC and city Web sites and were already distributed.