

Volume 18 number 1

May 2010

**Turcot 375: The population is ready
The only thing missing is the political will**

A proposal for redeveloping the Turcot complex that calls for a 40-percent reduction in highway traffic (from 290,000 to 185,000 vehicles a day) was released March 25 by Pierre Brisset, an architect with the Groupe de recherche urbaine, and Pierre Gauthier, an assistant professor in the department of Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies at Concordia University, and a member of the RESO board of directors. This reduction would be made possible through an increase in the public transit offering to commuters (rail shuttle, commuter trains, reserved lanes, tramways, etc.) and a decrease in highway transit between districts.

Brisset and Gauthier are calling for the immediate reconstruction of an interchange much more modest in scale, with public transit networks, improved road connections between districts, new bike paths, the creation of a 75-hectare urban park at the foot of the Saint-Jacques cliff, and the expansion of sectors destined for real estate development. Entitled “Turcot 375,” the scenario could stand as a fitting legacy from the Québec government and the City of Montreal to mark the 375th anniversary of Montreal’s founding in 2017.

Presented at a conference of Forum Urba 2015, the proposal received the backing of a range of civil society representatives, including Florence Junca-Adenot, director of Forum Urba 2015 at UQAM’s department of urban and tourist studies, and one-time CEO of the Agence métropolitaine de transport, Coralie Deny, director general of the Conseil régional de l’environnement de Montréal (CRE-Montréal), Dr. Louis Drouin, manager of the Urban Environment and Health Sector of the Direction de la santé publique de Montréal, Geneviève Locas, spokesperson for Mobilisation Turcot, and Pierre Morrissette, director general of RESO.

Each gave their reasons for supporting the proposal. In its prioritizing of public transit and reduced road capacity, Turcot 375 jibes with world efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. It also sets out improvements in space and energy consumption, and creation of green space. With a reduction in the volume of traffic, and an urban plan that encourages walking, it would help decrease cardiovascular and respiratory disease, road trauma and risks of obesity. It would improve quality of life in the districts it ran through, and revitalize the district economically and socially.

“The scenario proposed today eases the flow of interregional transportation on the north-south axis, which is not only important for Montreal’s and the Sud-Ouest’s economic development, but cuts expropriations and nuisances for the local community to a minimum. This scenario also calls for public transit, which means that economic and urban development is better integrated into the districts of the Sud-Ouest and the city along the Lachine Canal. In short, it is a genuinely promising scenario that is very likely to win the approval of everyone in the surrounding community,” said Morrissette.

According to the above-mentioned representatives, Montrealers and the region's commuters are ready to begin the shift; the only thing missing is the political will of the Québec government to reach these eminently achievable objectives.

Details on this alternative solution can be found on the CRE-Montréal site at www.cremtl.qc.ca/turcot.

Since Turcot 375 was presented, the elected representatives of the Sud-Ouest borough and the opposition in City Hall have been joined by representatives from some 30 organizations in calling on the mayor of Montreal, Gérald Tremblay, to make his proposal on the Turcot interchange's redevelopment public.

Bringing the Sud-Ouest's priorities up to date The community is invited to have a say

RESO has begun the task of updating the Sud-Ouest's Local Action Plan for the Economy and Employment (LAPEE) for 2010-2013. As part of the process, RESO is calling on the participation and collaboration of the population and a range of socioeconomic partners, notably through its annual assembly and sectorial electoral college meetings. The latter meet on the following dates:

- Participants: May 26 from 5 pm to 8 pm
- Community and social economy: May 27 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- Culture: June 3 from 8 am to 10 am
- Businesses and self-employed workers: June 14 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm
- Healthcare and educational institutions: September (date to be confirmed)
- Unions: June 11 from 12 pm to 2 pm
- Services and the new economy: June 9 from 7 am to 9:30 am
- Manufacturers: June 11 from 11:30 to 2 pm
- Financial institutions: June 18 from 12 pm to 2 pm

An assessment of the last three years will be presented at the meetings along with a portrait of major economic and socioeconomic trends in the Sud-Ouest. The LAPEE's preliminary orientations, priorities and areas of work will also be discussed.

Already, three major axes of activity have been identified by RESO's board of directors: mobilizing and consulting local stakeholders, forging a learning and entrepreneurial community, and promoting the community's sustainable development. The strategic orientations, of which there are 14, can be divided into three main themes: workforce development (workforce development for those in and out of work, youth and cultural communities); economic development (entrepreneurship, the manufacturing sector, new economy enterprises, tourism, the cultural sector, the social economy, commercial arteries, and retention, expansion and attraction of companies); urban and territorial development (promoting the Sud-Ouest and extending its influence, structuring projects and quality of life).

RESO, in collaboration with the Sud-Ouest borough and various partners, has been developing the LAPEE since 1998, when it obtained the mandate from the Centre local de développement (CLD) for the Sud-Ouest. Since 2003, the LAPEE must also be adopted by the borough council. The document therefore belongs to the whole Sud-Ouest and, though RESO is the principal manager of the project, achieving it will depend on all of the forces involved in the district's economic and social development.

A management consultant service for social economy enterprises

Over the next four years, over 200 companies will be able to benefit from the management consultant services of a team specialized in managing social economy enterprises. A management consultant service launched at the beginning of the year by the Fonds de développement Emploi-Montréal (FDEM) will be made available to social economy enterprises.

“When we launched the pilot project in 2006, we were convinced that it met the priority requirements of Montreal’s social economy enterprises. In terms of use and customer satisfaction, the results of the pilot project greatly exceeded our expectations. This gave us the motivation we needed to repeat the experience,” said Pierre Morrissette, director general of RESO, who spoke at the launch on behalf of the Community Economic Development Corporations (CEDCs) of Montreal.

The project is the result of the joint efforts of 19 local metropolitan partners, all CEDCs or Local Development Centres (LCDs), including the LCD of Longueuil. The FDEM, which dates from 1988, is one of the oldest financing tools launched jointly by agencies for local economic development. It has contributed to the emergence of many business projects through investments or support for its partners, the CDECs.

Québec Entrepreneurship Contest Four first prizes for the Sud-Ouest

On April 8, the final round of the Québec Entrepreneurship Contest - Montréal Sud-Ouest division took place. Several entrepreneurs from a variety of sectors took part in the contest, whose goal is to nurture a new generation of Québec entrepreneurs.

To award the prizes, a number of elected representatives and key figures in entrepreneurship in the Sud-Ouest were on hand, including Benoit Dorais, mayor of the Sud-Ouest borough, Marguerite Blais, Member for Saint-Henri – Sainte-Anne, and Minister responsible for Seniors, and Pierre Morrissette, RESO Director General.

Among the first-prize winners, the following four entrepreneurs, who were accompanied in their entrepreneurial process by RESO, were stand-outs:

Services category:

Hakim Rouab, Vincent Lévesque and Joël Lavoie created Inovae, a Québec firm specializing in the development of technological solutions aimed at raising productivity and reducing companies’ environmental impact. The firm also won a prize at the contest’s regional final May 5.

Commerce category:

Fait Ici is a general store designed by Jackson Wightman and Lindsay Davis selling a panoply of exclusively Québec-made products, from dry food to children’s clothing.

Business operation, processing, production category:

Beer aficionados Pol Brisset and Geneviève Bourbeau launched the deluxe beer MTL Brand Management, whose distinctive brand evokes the City of Montréal.

Social Economy Category

Suzie Boulanger and Lucie Martineau are founders of the Cooperative Café Bistro Monk, which promotes and sells certified fair trade products, local and regional products, and affordable healthy meals.

Québec Adult Learners Week

The Sud-Ouest salutes their courage and perseverance

On March 25, the event *Apprendre ça se fête*, organized by some ten Sud-Ouest community organizations as part of Québec Adult Learners Week (QALW), highlighted the courage and perseverance of Sud-Ouest adults who had embarked on a process of education, francization, employability development and learning a trade.

During the celebration, which took place at the Centre culturel Georges-Vanier, adults shared their various experiences and created a collective art work. Certificates of recognition and grants were also awarded. The mayor of the Sud-Ouest borough, Benoit Dorais, gave a speech in which he honoured the courage, determination and contribution of people who had made the commitment to educating themselves. Dominique Olivier, director of the ICEA, which sponsors the SQAF, also spoke, stressing the fact that the event now takes place in 50 countries around the world and is set to grow.

For a number of years now, community organizations in the Sud-Ouest have been organizing this major event, which celebrates adults' commitment to a variety of educational processes. This year, the following organizations took part: Café Paradoxe, the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, the Cuisine-Atout social integration enterprise, the Formétal training company, CyberCap, the Garde-Manger pour tous, Pro-Vert Sud-Ouest, the Programme d'information sur le travail et la recherche d'emploi de Montréal (PITREM) and RESO's own employability projects and services, namely the Parent's School, CASE, Explore Action, general education at the Centre Saint-Paul, anglophone education at the James Lyng Centre, and the Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montréal.

Bonaventure District

RESO satisfied with the OCPM's report

"We are satisfied with the report by the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM) on the Bonaventure District project. It echoes concerns expressed on the need to better integrate public transit into the redevelopment project proposed by the Société du Havre de Montréal (SHM), which was the main issue raised in the memorandum we presented on January 19," said RESO Director General Pierre Morrissette.

The SHM's project involves creation of a corridor on Dalhousie St. through which 1400 buses a day would travel on their commute from Montreal's south shore to downtown. RESO has recommended an alternative scenario that calls for the closing of the Ville-Marie Tunnel's entry and exit ramps, and the integration of corridors reserved for public transit on Bonaventure Blvd. In its report, the OCPM questioned the need to maintain the Ville-Marie Expressway's entry and exit ramps and recommended that the planned Dalhousie corridor be reevaluated. Placing the issue in the context of upcoming developments – the Turcot Interchange, the light rail system (LRS) and the repairing of the Champlain Bridge –, the Office is asking that the City of Montreal develop a "real metropolitan public transit strategy."

In its memorandum, RESO also recommended that buildings in the sector with heritage value, notably the New City Gas and Baron Sports buildings, not only be protected, but enhanced. The OCPM retained proposals urging that the rich heritage of the surrounding district, Griffintown, be taken into account.

The OCPM is also questioning the suitability of the real estate development planned for Bonaventure Blvd.'s central islands: a noise level and fine particle concentration exceeding public safety norms would be highly unlikely to attract residents. Though it acknowledged that the integration of affordable social housing – a subject broached by RESO in its memorandum – is important, the OCPM considers that addressing it is premature and that quality of life aspects must be taken into consideration first.

“The scenario proposed by the SHM did not explore notions of sustainable development as much as it could have. With these recommendations, the OCPM goes farther. RESO is ready to collaborate on redefining the Bonaventure project so that one more consensual and acceptable to the community is developed,” said Morrissette.

My child's success is my business!

The Comité d'action en persévérance scolaire du Sud-Ouest de Montréal (CAPSSOM), which unites various partners from institutional and community backgrounds motivated by the success of tomorrow's adults, invited parents of the Sud-Ouest to take part in a day of workshops Saturday, March 27, at the CRCS St-Zotique. The event was aimed at bringing these parents together so that they could identify courses of action and concrete measures that would accompany their children on the path to success.

The workshops explored the following three themes: communication between the school, the home and the community; parents' involvement; and the means and resources necessary to assist children in their achievements.

The workshop discussions identified a number of possible solutions, including the possibility of meeting with teachers and encouraging effective communication with them, and access to various homework assistance tools and descriptions of the various community organizations that might offer parents support.

As a prelude to the workshops, guests were treated to a theatrical performance entitled “Le concerto de la persévérance” (The Perseverance Concerto) presented by the troupe Piperni. The day ended with a *quatre-à-sept* in the presence of Malik Shaheed and Biz from the group Loco Locass. Works created by young people in the Sud-Ouest for the “D'école vers ton avenir” contest were displayed. Launched by CAPSSOM, the contest's goal was to make students think about staying in school. Through an artistic work, the young people demonstrated how school helped them prepare for the future and realize their dreams.

News Briefs

Imperial Tobacco Foundation Donations for Sud-Ouest organizations

The Imperial Tobacco Canada Foundation recently announced that it would be offering six donations of \$20,000 each to organizations in the greater Sud-Ouest of Montreal to support innovative projects that better the lives of the district's population. For eligibility criteria and to

submit online applications (the deadline is May 30), interested NPOs in the Sud-Ouest, Lachine, LaSalle and Verdun can visit www.imperialtobaccofoundation.ca.

Griffintown: Jobs for the Sud-Ouest

After simmering on the back burner for over a year, a more modest version of the Griffintown project will see the light of day. The promoter, Devimco, will complete the project in four phases. Layout of roads will be maintained, and local shops, rather than large-scale stores, will be brought in.

The project comprises 1375 dwellings and a 150-room hotel. The City of Montreal and Devimco have also concluded a development agreement that anticipates, among other things, the construction of 206 affordable apartments and the same number of social housing units.

According to the agreement, RESO will be in charge of a local hiring and workforce training agreement so that unemployed people in the Sud-Ouest have access to the jobs generated by the commercial and hotel activities.

CJESO Summer Job Fair Maximizing hiring chances

On March 24, the Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Sud-Ouest (CJESO) of Montreal invited the young people of the district to its summer job fair to meet employers from the Sud-Ouest and Montreal in a number of industry sectors. Some 180 young people present were able to hand their CVs in person to 15 employers who came seeking to fill positions for the summer season and beyond.

Before meeting such employers as McDonald's, Loisirs Saint-Henri, the Sud-Ouest borough, Prévention Sud-Ouest, the Consortium Écho-logique, IGA, St. Columba House and Rewind Skin Care, the young people were given the chance to update their CVs with the help of CJESO job counsellors to maximize their hiring chances.

"The employers taking part in the event said they were very satisfied with the experience. And several participants told us that they landed interviews right after the fair," reported Éloïse Boulanger and Mathilde Péloquin, employment advisors at the CJESO.

MEMBERS OF THE RESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Gilles Paquette, FTQ Unions Representative and President
- Madeleine Breton, Institutions Representative (Health, Education)
- Marc Caouette, Manufacturing Companies Representative
- Édith Cyr, Social and Economy Enterprises Representative
- Claude Deveault, RESO Employees Representative
- Véronique Fournier, Sud-Ouest Municipal Elected Representative
- Pierre Gauthier, Co-opted member
- Daniel L'Africain, Retailers and Self-Employed Workers Representative
- Francis Lagacé, CSN Unions Representative
- Denis Lévesque, Saint-Henri Community Organizations Representative
- Geneviève Locas, Ville-Emard/Côte Saint-Paul Community Organizations Representative
- Igor Nérisson, Representative for Participants in RESO Activities
- Véronique Olivier, Service Industries and New Economy Representative
- Vicente Perez, Little Burgundy Community Organizations Representative

- Madeleine Poulin, Cultural Sector Representative
- Karine Triollet, Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Organizations Representative
- City Councillor for Louis-Cyr, Sud-Ouest de Montréal Borough: coming soon
- Financial Institution Representative (to be announced)

Non-voting members

- Pierre Morrissette, Managing Director
- Guy Biron, Vice President, Strategic Development
- Marguerite Blais, Member for Saint-Henri/Sainte-Anne
- Carole Vaillancourt, Centre local d'emploi (CLE) Director

RESO

1751 Richardson Street, Suite 6509

Montreal, Quebec

H3K 1G6

Tel.: 514 931-5737

Fax: 514 931-4317

Email: reso@resomtl.com

Website: www.resomtl.com

RESO Info staff

- Executive : Pierre Morrissette
- Editorial : Lucie Dufour and Sophie Legault