



Alex Montagano
2004-06-11 08:44

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cc :
Objet : Questions--Commentaires

Alex Montagano



Borough Council Meeting Jun 7 2004



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Letter for round table March 23, 2004.

Roundtable on Urban Planning

Saturday March 13, 2004

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

3200 Côte-Sainte-Catherine Road

Dear Ladies & Gentleman,

Upon receiving notice of this meeting, I decided to present my views and opinions on my neighbourhood. Living on Lacombe has made me acutely aware of the problems that afflict this borough and my views are shared by my neighbours and represent more than just myself.

The general consensus of my neighbours and I is that uncontrolled traffic in residential areas is having a negative impact on the neighbourhood in which we live. The congestion on our streets threatens the safety of our families and children, and creates both noise and air pollution. My area already has the deal with the existence of 4 major arteries: Queen Mary, Côte-des-Neiges, Côte-Ste-Catherine and the Decarie Expressway and Boulevard. In addition Lacombe and Eduoard MontPetit are developing into new thoroughfares to accommodate the growing number of automobiles transiting to facilities located in and outside the neighbourhood. These facilities include: Hospitals, Colleges, Universities, Houses of worship and primary and secondary schools.

Ultimately a choice needs to be made:

Do we create and maintain safe neighbourhoods for the citizens of the borough free from excessive dangerous automobile commuter traffic?

Or does the borough acquiesce the needs of the automobile over its citizens and families?

Several communities throughout Montreal have objected to the construction of new highway arteries. Examples are: Attempts to connect Cavendish And the Notre-Dame project. With Notre Dame, construction of a expressway much like Decarie was proposed but was dropped when it confronted local objections and then the planning committee conceded that Decarie Expressway has had a negative impact on the communities surrounding it and has led to a "decrease in property values". Interestingly enough, major repairs to the Decarie expressway and its Boulevard have yet to produce any effect, other than cosmetic, at reducing the impact that it has on the surrounding residential sectors.

No attempt was made at creating improved sound barriers, or capping the expressway to create usable spaces like we see with the Ville Marie Expressway. The universal cry from other neighbourhoods

about new construction of nearby road arteries has been NIMBY. (Not in my back Yard), well the Decarie expressway is in our backyard, and rather than the situation improving the problem is getting considerably worse. Are we to suffer because others are unwilling to share the burden of Montreal's increased automobile commuter traffic?

The choice to my neighbours and me is clear, **people & neighbourhoods come first**, and automobile transit convenience comes second. The neighbourhood has an excellent public transit network; commuters need to see it as the better option. It is in this spirit that I present to you this letter and presentation with my ideas on how to reduce traffic in my residential block. I'm sure that these ideas can be applied to other blocks/sectors of the CDN-NDG borough.

- ❑ Modify street flow to discourage commuters from transiting through residential areas like we find in Westmount, Outremount and The Town of Mount Royal. In particular switch the directions of Eduardo Mont-Petit and Lacombe at Légaré (Please see image)
- ❑ Post clear and more visible signs that state the speed limit of 40KM. Remind commuters that these are residential streets.
- ❑ As in Westmount and Outremount build road structures like flowerbeds that pinch streets and act as restraints on excessive speed.
- ❑ Add crosswalks along Lacombe & Edouard MontPetit
- ❑ Enforce Speed Limits.
- ❑ Better enforcement of the "rules of the road" in the CDN sector. Double parking, aggressive driving and the unnecessary use of car horns are rampant. In the time I lived in the CDN area I have yet to see one police cruiser enforcing the rules of the road on Avenue Lacombe.
- ❑ Broaden the definition of a truck and their residential street restrictions.
- ❑ Better enforcement of truck restrictions. Trucks are using residential streets for deliveries that are clearly not local.
- ❑ Block access to residential streets from the Decarie Boulevard with light traffic. In addition sell the land to private developers on the condition they construct commercial property that will act as sound barriers. This would be an excellent source of revenue to finance neighbourhood road improvement projects.
- ❑ Modify the taxi stand at Snowdon metro station so taxis depart into Queen Mary rather than driving their impatient clients through residential streets.
- ❑ Construction of a barrier (Preferably with trees) in the Middle of Queen Mary to prevent dangerous pedestrian Jay Walking.
- ❑ Construction of Crosswalks along Queen Mary in the style found in Toronto city.
- ❑ Force auto commuters to use Queen Mary, Côte-des-Neiges, Côte-Ste-Catherine and the Decarie Expressway and its Boulevard, streets that are clearly designed for higher volume commuter traffic.

Sincerely Yours,

Alexander A. Montagano

Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grace Borough Council

Monday June 7th, 2004

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Le Manoir

5319, avenue Notre-Dame-de-Grace

Dear Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grace Borough Council,

On March 13, 2004 I presented my city representatives, Michael Applebaum and Marvin Rotrand with a letter and presentation identifying problems and issues in my neighbourhood. In this letter & presentation I made some suggestions and recommendations that I believed would solve some of the problems confronting my community. In addition, I forwarded both the presentation and letter to my city representative by email, so that they may have an electronic copy.

The letter and presentation covered three main issues:

- Excessive commuter traffic on the streets of Ave Lacombe and Eduoard Mont-Petit.
- Trucks using Ave Lacombe and Eduoard Mont-Petit for deliveries that are clearly not local.
- General dirtiness of the streets and parks in the CDN district.

Since our last meeting I have had the chance to talk in further detail with my neighbours about issues confronting our neighbourhood. It further confirmed my view that something needs to be done to resolve these three problems listed above. This is why that this evening I present a petition to the city demanding that the city make necessary changes to significantly reduce commuter traffic in my neighbourhood. Avenue Lacombe and Boulevard Eduoard Mont-Petit are residential streets and not thoroughfares for vehicles to commute to and from Chemin Cote-des-Neiges.

At this time I'm pleased to announce that I've collected 85 signatures. I will present a larger petition after I collect back the petitions posted along Eduoard Mont-Petit and distributed among neighbours.

Ultimately a choice needs to be made:

Do we create and maintain safe neighbourhoods for the citizens of the borough free from excessive dangerous automobile commuter traffic?

Or does the borough acquiesce the needs of the automobile over its citizens and families?

As you can see there is universal support that changes need to be made. Will the city listen?

In my conversations, I discovered that some changes have been made that may have aggravated the situation. For example: Westbury, where we find the Snowdon Metro Taxi stand, was at one time one-way South, but now is one-way North, encouraging Taxis to use Lacombe to access Cote-des-Neiges. Another elderly gentlemen indicated to me that he noticed an increase level of traffic as a direct effect of construction on Cote-Saint Catherine and Decarie expressway. Commuters have identified Avenue Lacombe and Eduard Month-Petit as a convenient short cut to bypass Queen Mary and Cote-Saint-Catherine.

Some new suggestions were also proposed:

- Prevent drivers from making a right onto Avenue Lacombe from Westbury.
- Deny access to the Decarie expressway entrance from Eduoard Mont-Petit.

I understand that Marvin Rotrand's commitments for the last municipal elections were to "Reduce the speed limit in residential areas to 40 kph, and implement other traffic calming devices." I have a copy of Marvin's flyer from the last election, clearly stating this. Marvin Rotrand, can you please outline for me where you have honoured these commitments in my neighbourhood?

As a resident of this district since 1989, I can't recall any major investments by the city to directly improve the quality of life of its citizens:

- Queen Mary Road is in disrepair and no attempt has been made to improve pedestrian safety and general aesthetics to encourage people to patron local businesses.
- Decarie Expressway rips through Cote-des-Neiges like an exposed scar – no investments have been made to reduce its impact on the surrounding communities.

Garbage collection and aqueduct repairs are another example of city mismanagement. RCI does not pick up large items or construction debris. Anyone who lives in CDN understands that the area is going under renewal with several property improvement projects taken place. Then why is it that the city takes weeks, months to remove this garbage??? Why has the city not responded in an effective manner?

A gapping hole lies in Westbury, where construction is taking place. It has been like that for more than a month!! It has now filled up with water to create an eyesore but also a danger to children. Why is this work taking so long? If it can't be completed promptly, why hasn't something been done to cap the hole to reduce its negative impact on the neighbourhood?

Once again, I ask the city to respond and tell me how it going to address these issues.

Sincerely Yours,

Alexander A. Montagano

Presentation to Roundtable on urban planning issues in CDN-NDG Borough

March 13, 2004

Presented by: Alexander Montagano

Presentation Outline

- Auto Commuter Traffic: Destroyer of Neighbourhoods.
- Ideas on ways to reduce automobile commuter traffic on residential streets.
- Garbage Collection and Cleanliness of Properties and Parks.
- Ideas on improving the cleanliness of the borough.

Auto Commuter Traffic: Destroyer of Neighbourhoods.

- Increased Air & Noise pollution.
- Reduced safety for its citizens.
- Taxes local road infrastructure.
- Commuter traffic discourages development of local retail businesses that require destination based traffic.

Ideas on Ways of Reducing Commuter Traffic on Residential Streets

- Modify street flow to discourage commuters from transiting through residential areas like we find in Westmount, Outremount and The Town of Mount Royal. In particular switch the directions of Edouard Mont-Petit and Lacombe at Légaré (Please see image)
- Post clear and more visible signs that state the speed limit of 40KM. Remind commuters that these are residential streets.
- As in Westmount and Outremount build road structures like flowerbeds that pinch streets and act as restraints on excessive speed.

Ideas on Ways of Reducing Commuter Traffic on Residential Streets continued

- Add crosswalks along Lacombe & Edouard MontPetit
- Enforce Speed Limits.
- Better enforcement of the “rules of the road” in the CDN sector. Double parking, aggressive driving and the unnecessary use of car horns are rampant.
- Broaden the definition of a truck and their residential street restrictions.
- Better enforcement of truck restrictions. Trucks are using residential streets for deliveries that are clearly not local.

Ideas on Ways of Reducing Commuter Traffic on Residential Streets continued

- Block access to residential streets from the Decarie Boulevard with light traffic. In addition sell the land to private developers on the condition they construct commercial property that will act as sound barriers. This would be an excellent source of revenue to finance neighbourhood road improvement projects.
- Modify the taxi stand at Snowdon metro station so taxis depart into Queen Mary rather than driving their impatient clients through residential streets.
- Construction of a barrier (Preferably with trees) in the Middle of Queen Mary to prevent dangerous pedestrian Jay Walking.

Taxi Stand at Snowdon Metro Station



Queen Mary

Western Direction From Snowdon Metro



Eastern Direction From Snowdon Metro



Lacombe and Decarie Boulevard

Lacombe & Decarie Blvd.



Isabella Overpass.



Garbage Collection and Un-kept Properties

- Garbage contractors, RCI, are sloppy and unwilling to take time to pick garbage that falls on the ground when handled. The same holds true for recycling pick-up.
- City is doing poor job of removing large garbage items/construction debris. It has taken the city a month in some circumstances to remove debris!!
- Un-kept business, public & residential properties are ugly and have a negative impact on the citizens enjoyment of the neighbourhood.
- Dirty streets & properties: Bad for local business and takes away from shopping experience.
- Negative impact on property values.

Ideas on Improving the Cleanliness of the Borough

- Inform Borough citizens to place garbage in properly tied bags and containers designed for garbage disposal.
- Communicate with removers of garbage and recyclables to pick items dropped or spilled.(Modify contracts if need be)
- Enforce rules and regulations, like we do for illegal parking, for owners and operators of un-kept property.
- Tighten by-laws, if need be, to discourage un-kept properties.
- City & MTC needs to do a better job at cleaning its property, parks, and common spaces.

Thank-You

Alexander Montagano