

STATEMENT

Avenir des secteurs Marconi-Alexandra, Atlantic,
Beaumont, De Castelnau (PDUES)

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Who are you?

My name is Dora-Marie Goulet, I have been a resident of Parc-Extension for almost one year. Although I work in the Plateau, I am on the board of a Parc-Extension based non-profit (Meubles et monde), and I am a member of Café l'Artère, a local cooperative. I appreciate how Parc-Extension is a neighbourhood with a strong identity, but where it is also easy to get involved and to meet one's neighbours.

What are your opinions and concerns about the plan for the future of the Marconi-Beaumont district (PDUES)?

I am excited by some of what the plan has in mind in terms of increasing green space on Parc Avenue. And I can only be pleased any efforts to expand current pedestrian crossings of the railway tracks from Jean-Talon to Jarry Park. I am particularly pleased at the idea of a pedestrian and bicycle link between Ogilvy and De Castelnau, however it concerns me greatly that the link would also be open to cars. I hope that increased car access to Parc-Extension would only be done after a careful study as to potential safety risks, and with a clear plan for mitigating any such increased danger.

Also relating to traffic, I am concerned that the proposed changes and additions to bicycle paths include too many jogs. The unfortunate reality is that bikers, like everyone else, will try to get as directly as possible to their destination. If the bike path isn't conducive to that, they won't use it, which means that direct through ways will continue to be used by bikers and be more dangerous for bikers, pedestrians and motorists by extension.

I'm also concerned at the lack of clear goals regarding social housing in the PDUES. Marconi-Beaumont's neighbour, Parc-Extension, is rich in many ways, not least because of its diversity, but not generally in terms of income. Those who currently live here are already at risk of being pushed out due to the planned changes to Marconi-Beaumont. There is a need for clearer, higher goals in terms of percentage of new housing units that would be dedicated to social housing, and then there needs to be a system in place to assure accountability.

What are your suggestions and comments to improve the project?

The two things that I specifically hope will be taken into account to improve the project will be to clearly state a number of social housing units that will be mandatory in any housing development in Marconi-Beaumont, and that a system be put in place to maintain the accountability of developers.

Secondly, I hope that a bike path either along Parc or Hutchison will be included in the plan, to encourage the use of bikes as an efficient and healthy transit options and to keep routes more direct and hence safer for all travellers.