

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE DOCUMENT TITLED "PLAN DIRECTEUR VÉLO - ÉTAT DE LA SITUATION"

September 12th 2024

The document, prepared by Vélo Québec, provides a comprehensive diagnostic of the current state of cycling infrastructure and culture in Westmount. It aims to inform the development of a Bike Plan for cycling in the city.

Population and Transportation Profile

- **Demographics**: 57% of Westmount's population is between 15 and 64 years old, with a significant portion (55%) aged 40-64.
- Transportation Modes: The primary mode of transport is motor vehicles (56.6%), with cycling accounting for 3.8% of the active population's commutes.

Modal Share and Potential

- Current Modal Share: Motorized transport dominates at 85%, with active transport (walking and cycling) at 14.3%.
- **Potential for Modal Shift**: There is a significant potential to increase the share of active transport to 53.8%, particularly through the use of electric bikes to overcome the city's hilly terrain.

Geographical Context

- **Topography**: The city is divided into three sectors with varying slopes, which impact the attractiveness of cycling.
- **Barriers**: Physical barriers near the southern limit, such as the railway and highway, create challenges for connectivity.

Municipal Projects

• Ongoing and Planned Projects: Several projects are underway or planned, including the reconstruction of key avenues and the adoption of a Special Planning Programme for Westmount's Southeast area.

Cycling Network

- Existing Network: The current network is limited and primarily located on busy streets and does not connect trip generating institutions or parks. It includes a bidirectional path on De Maisonneuve, which is the only one maintained during wintertime.
- Planned Improvements: The 2019 Plan Vélo proposed new routes to improve connectivity and service to key destinations, though not all have been implemented.

Infrastructure Quality

- **Condition**: Some cycling infrastructure suffers from poor surface quality and inadequate intersection treatments, leading to safety concerns.
- Collision Data: Between 2018 and 2021, 24 collisions involving cyclists were reported, highlighting the need for improved safety measures.

Traffic Calming Measures

- Measures that aim to reduce vehicle speeds, enhance safety, and improve the comfort
 of active users.
- Interventions like speed humps, bollards, curb extensions and speed limits exist throughout the city.

Bicycle Services and Parking

- **BIXI Network**: Usage of the BIXI bike-sharing system has increased significantly, though winter stations are lacking.
- **Parking**: There is a need for more and better-located bike parking facilities, with current options often being over 90% occupied.

Cycling Culture

• **Programs and campaigns**: Various educational programs and awareness campaigns have been implemented to promote cycling.

Strengths and Weaknesses

The city has a high potential for cycling, but faces challenges such as steep slopes, limited network coverage, and insufficient bike parking. Continued efforts to enhance cycling infrastructure and culture in Westmount, addressing both physical and regulatory barriers, will allow for a more bicycle-friendly environment.