

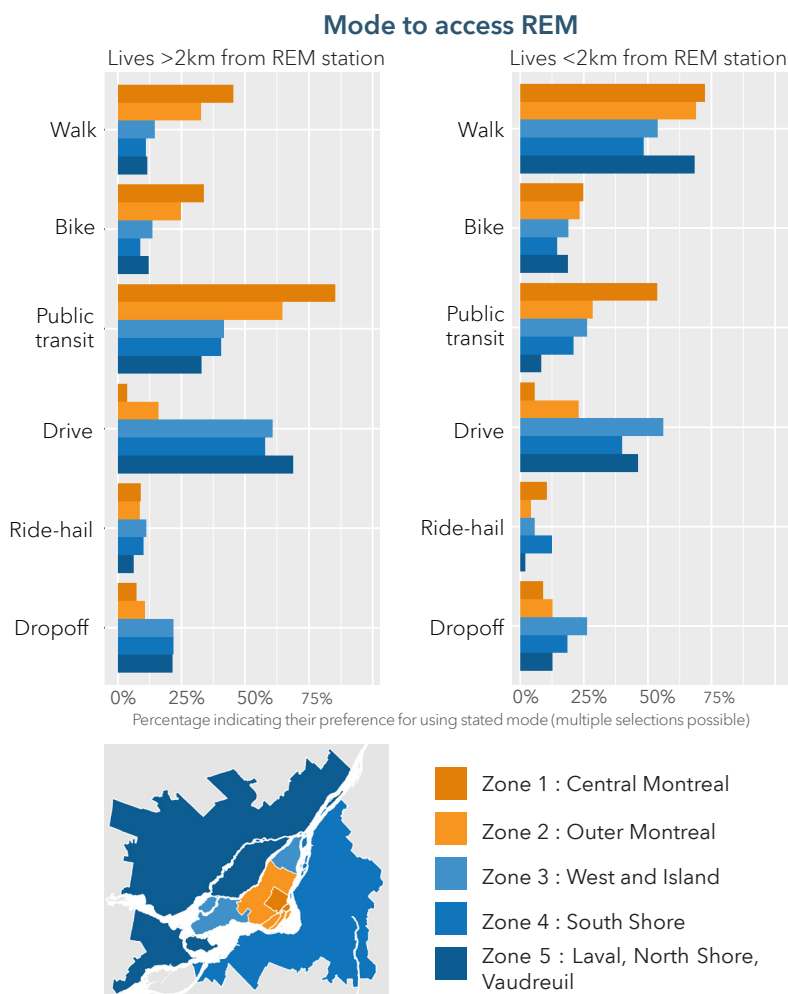
# Accessing the REM: Potential for active travel

## The Issue

The Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) is a new rapid light-rail system under construction in Montreal, with operations planned to begin in 2021. This investment presents opportunities to promote active modes of transportation and their associated health benefits. To identify these opportunities throughout the region, we conducted an analysis of the results of a survey distributed in the Fall of 2019 about the REM and its impacts on travel behaviour and well-being.

## Findings

- Across the REM network, walking is the dominant preferred mode for future REM users living within a 2km radius of a station.
- In suburban areas (Zones 3-5), driving is also a widely preferred mode for future REM users living within a 2km radius of a station.
- Future REM users living beyond 2km of a station in core urban areas (Zones 1-2) indicate that transit as their preferred mode, while those in suburban areas (Zones 3-5) prefer driving.
- Across the network, 15-25% of those who live within 2km of a REM station intend to cycle. Cycling is most popular amongst those who live beyond 2km of a station in the core urban areas (Zones 1-2).
- Future REM users who do not currently walk or bike for travel purposes are almost twice as likely to intend to drive to the REM (59% vs 33%). (not shown)



## Policy Recommendations

- » **Prioritize active transport network enhancement in the vicinity of all new REM stations, including those in the suburbs.** Our results show that there is strong demand from suburban REM users living within 2km of a station to walk to the REM.
- » **Prioritize public transit connectivity to the REM to encourage ridership,** especially for core urban stations.
- » **Prioritize cycling network connectivity and infrastructure provision (e.g. bike parking),** especially for core urban stations.