

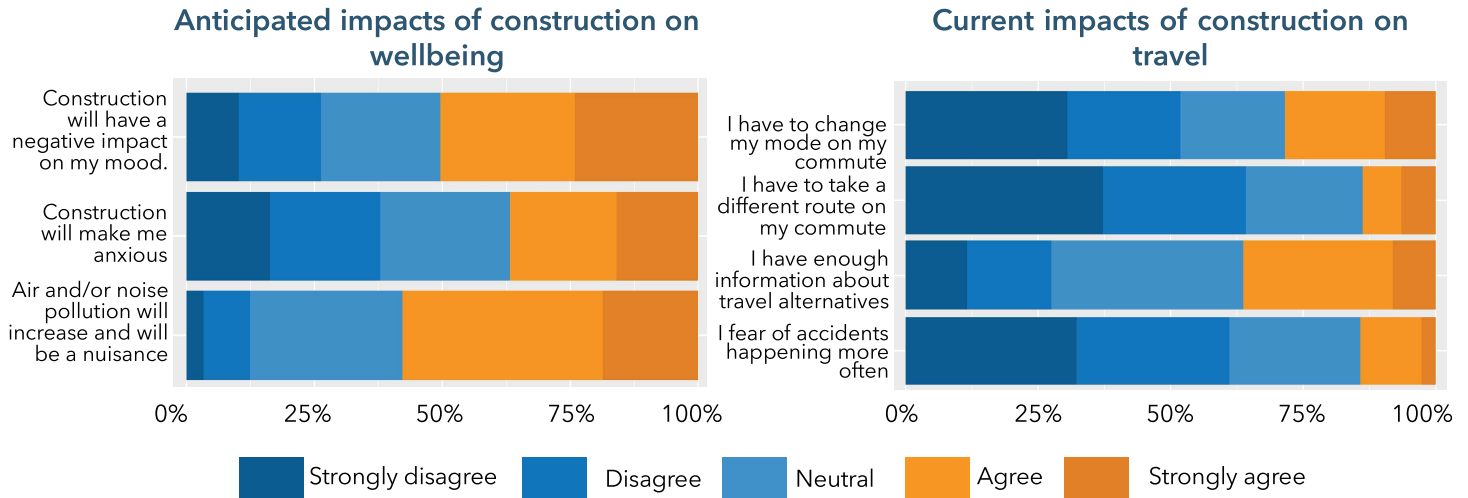
Impacts of REM construction sites

The Issue

While the REM is expected to benefit Montreal residents, there are potential disadvantages to living near REM stations while they are under construction. Construction sites affect local populations in their everyday life. For instance, commuting patterns may need to temporarily change, and air pollution and excessive noise may affect nearby residents' mood and wellbeing. A bilingual survey was conducted to examine the ongoing and anticipated impacts of the REM construction on the population living near current and future construction sites.

Findings

- More than half of respondents living close to a future REM construction site anticipate that noise and air pollution will increase due to construction and negatively affect their quality of life
- The construction's observed impact on wellbeing was less negative than anticipated, both in terms of general anxiety or stress related to forced changes in travel behavior
- REM construction activities were not particularly disruptive: most respondents did not change their route, and less than 30% of respondents indicated that they were forced to change their mode of transport because of REM construction within proximity to their homes
- Close to half the Deux-Montagne line users surveyed planned to keep using public transport despite the line suspension.



Policy Recommendations

- » Given that air pollution and excessive noise are the greatest causes of concern, **implement** measures and regulations to control for these negative consequences caused by construction sites.
- » **Design** realistic alternative routes for every mode affected by construction sites in order to minimize impacts on residents' commuting patterns.
- » **Ensure proper communication** of these measures to nearby residents.
- » **Listen** to resident's anticipated concerns and **react** accordingly.
- » This survey was conducted before COVID. It would be interesting to analyse how travel patterns changes and teleworking habits impact the residents' perception of construction sites.