# Intended REM use by gender

The Issue

The Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) is a $6.3 billion project set to transform mobility in Montreal. As a generational investment in the regional transport system, it is critical to ensure that its benefits are distributed fairly across equity-seeking groups. To this end, we compared perceptions and intended use of the REM across genders by analyzing the results of a bilingual survey with 4,148 respondents.

Findings

- **17%** more men than women* stated they would use the REM

- **20%** more men than women* agreed that the REM will be good for the Greater Montreal Area

- All respondents were more pessimistic on the REM's effect on their neighborhood than on the Greater Montreal Area

- Perceptions of the REM's effect at the neighborhood level positively related to intended use

- Those who do not intend to use the REM were twice as likely* to be very pessimistic about its effect on their neighborhood

  * Results statistically significant, chi^2 p<0.001

Once finished, the REM will be good for...
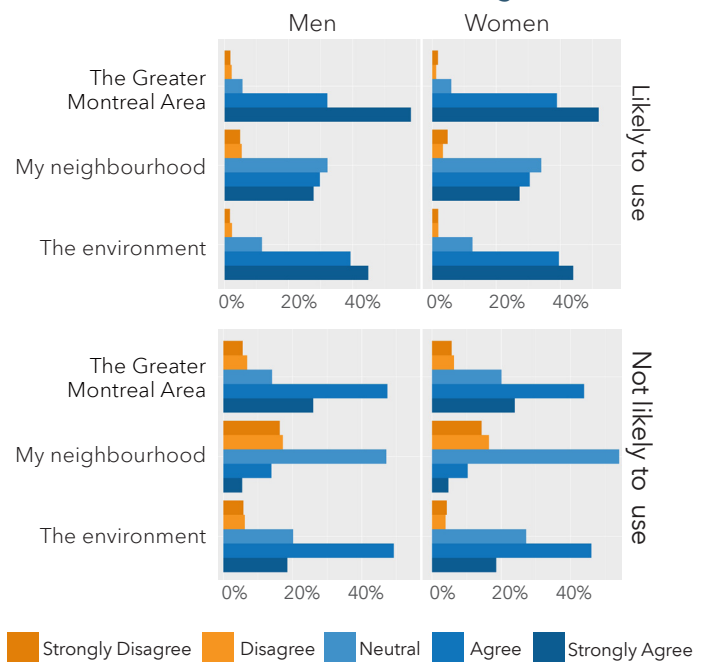
Policy Recommendations

» **Explore gender differences.** Women's different perceptions of the REM might be related to travel behavior or to concerns of the project's impact at the local level. These could also stem from differences in employment status or residential location. Unearthing what makes women less optimistic about future REM use and its impact will prevent unequal outcomes.

» **Engage at the neighborhood level.** A strong community-engagement strategy is needed to convey the benefits of the REM to the community, which will help (a) understand local needs (b) design appropriate interventions and (c) better integrate the project to the neighborhood.

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