

Intended REM use by income

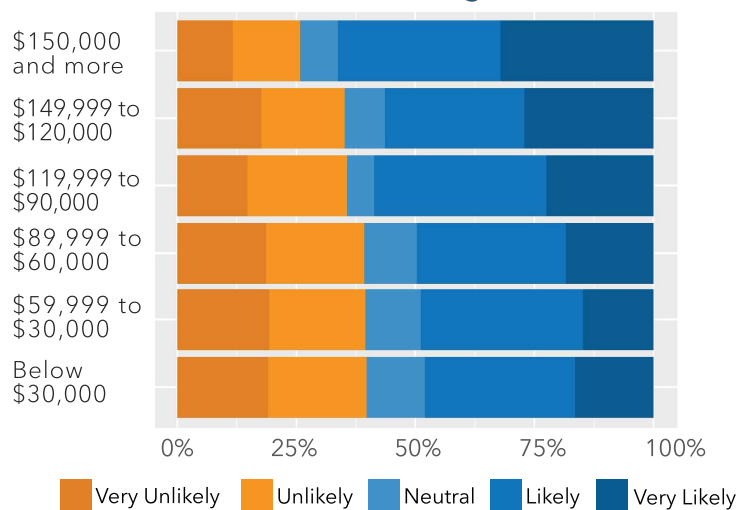
The Issue

The Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) constitutes a significant investment in Montreal's transport system. As such, it holds strong potential in terms of social equity and income redistribution. However, whether equity-seeking groups will be at the center of the REM's benefits remains uncertain. A bilingual survey of 4,148 respondents was used to delve into income-related differences in the expected use of the REM.

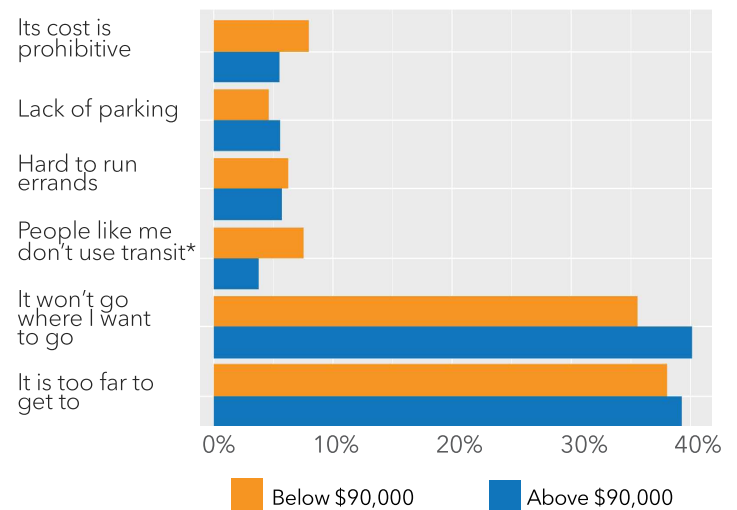
Findings

- Respondents living in households earning more than \$90,000 are more likely to use the REM
- Anticipated use is highest amongst the wealthiest cohort: 66% are likely or very likely to use the REM
- Across all incomes, main reasons for not using the REM are "it won't go where I want it to go" and "it is out of my way or too far to get to"
- Respondents from households earning less than \$90,000 are twice as likely* to say they will not use the REM because "people like me don't take the transit"
- Perceptions of the REM's expected impact on the neighborhood, the greater Montreal area and the environment do not significantly vary with income

Likelihood of using the REM



Reasons for not using the REM by income



* Statistically significant difference, $\chi^2 p < 0.01$

Policy Recommendations

- » **Invest in improving connectivity to REM stations.** Regardless of income, the REM's distance from households was found to be one of the main barriers to adoption. Improving transit service to stations and parking at stations might change perceptions of distance and increase likelihood of use.
- » **Explore identity-related barriers to using the REM.** It is essential to understand what characteristics are stopping some lower-income residents from using transit altogether.
- » **Understand other dimensions influencing travel behavior.** The results shown in this brief do not account for differences in employment status, distance to stations, or other factors that could differently affect travel behavior of lower-income individuals.