

How has the REM changed mobility in the South Shore and on Nun's Island?



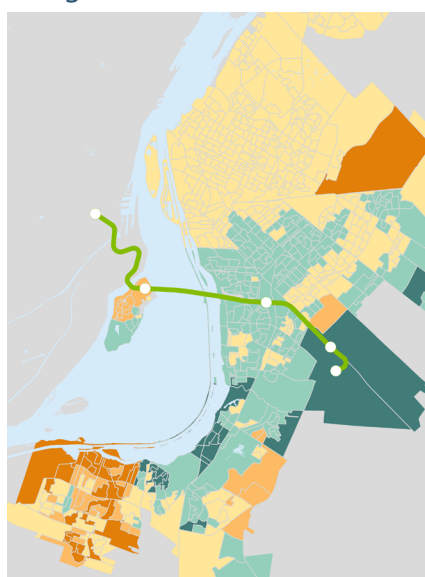
The Issue

The 1st phase of the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) opened in July 2023, creating a rapid-transit link between Montréal's South Shore suburbs and its downtown. The 3 transit agencies operating near the REM – Exo, RTL, and STM – have redesigned their networks. Buses that previously went downtown via the Champlain Bridge were replaced by a network that feeds into REM stations. To understand the impact of these changes, we calculated two accessibility metrics before and after the REM: travel time to downtown and accessibility to jobs via transit.

Findings

- Transit travel times to downtown during the AM peak improved by 2 minutes or more for 36% of residents in the South Shore or Nuns' Island (243k people). Times worsened by 2 minutes or more for 16% of residents (109k), while 49% had no material change.
- 47% of residents (321k) had their accessibility to jobs increase by 3% or more. 16% (111k) had a loss of accessibility of 3% or more, while 37% had no material change.
- Benefits were concentrated in the southern part of the South Shore, and in areas near the Panama REM station.
- Areas north of the REM, including Vieux-Longueuil, were less likely to have benefited.

Change in travel time to downtown



— REM Line

Travel time to Gare Centrale

■ 10 minutes faster or more

■ 2 to 10 minutes faster

■ No material change

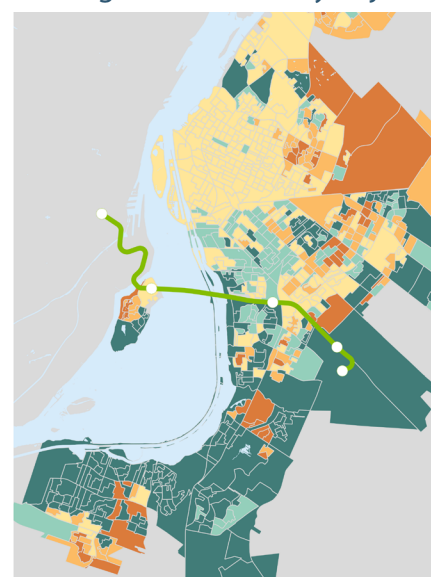
■ 2 to 5 minutes slower

■ 5 minutes slower or more



0 5 10 km

Change in accessibility to jobs



○ REM Stations

Change in accessibility in 60 mins

■ Improvement of 10% or more

■ Improvement of 3% to 10%

■ No material change

■ Reduction of 3% to 10%

■ Reduction of 10% or more

Sources: 2016 Canadian Census; GTFS data from STM, RTL, EXO and REM - May 2023 to September 2023

Policy Recommendations

- » Develop areas surrounding REM stations as TODs (Transit-Oriented Developments) to increase the number of people living close enough to the stations to benefit from them.
- » Review RTL network north of the REM to identify opportunities to reduce travel time to Panama station. Opportunities could include increasing stop spacing, establishing bus only lanes, or installing transit signal priority on new routes.