

Attn: Board of Directors of the STM; PVM-Bellechasse public consultation Commission

As a resident of Montréal within walking distance of the STM's proposed PVM-Bellechasse project, my opinion is that this project is a disaster from start to finish.

I attended all three of the the "expressing opinions" sessions and spoke at the final session on December 10th. I listened with interest as community members expressed their constellation of concerns around this project, and watched with dismay as serious issues were deflected by the Commissioners in the name of the "public consultation" "process". In my opinion, having ground rules for a public consultation is necessary; having those rules established by only one party involved (the STM) or the Commission that is hired and paid for by that party, turns this "process" into a dog-and-pony show.

As a brief re-cap of the serious concerns held by the men and women that I heard express their opinions on December 3rd, 5th and 10th:

1. Threatening the expropriation of the Ly family (which includes two elderly people) from their home of over 40 years against their will, when several other options for the site of the project exist. Not one single person (who does not work for the STM) spoke in favour of this expropriation; we are unanimously opposed. Yes, recent amendments to the Expropriation Act through Bill 22 make such an egregious act legal. That does not mean that it makes this RIGHT. Especially when it is clearly not the only option.
2. Threatening the livelihoods and investments of a great number of individuals in the area by the nature of the STM's work plan that is to span 3-4 YEARS. These individuals include small business owners, people who work from home, rental property owners, and property owners who may wish to sell before 2030. Residents of other neighbourhoods who have lived through an STM PVM construction project have described their experience as a living hell. The STM has offered no plausible evidence that anything would be different here.

3. Threatening the peace and quality of life of the community of residents by blocking or otherwise affecting the *ruelle verte* that residents (including children) use daily and have invested considerable time into establishing.
4. Threatening the physical and mental health of residents adjacent to the proposed site of the new PVM with potentially dangerous levels of air particulates and noise exposure on a constant basis. The STM's chosen site would potentially affect 18-26 people living within 30 meters of it.
5. Threatening the physical safety of the entire area by seemingly putting no serious thought into the extensive issues of traffic circulation that such a long and protracted project, at this location, will have.

I share each of these concerns, and will add to this my major concerns around TRANSPARENCY on the part of the STM.

A number of residents had to make Freedom of Information Act requests in order to address their concerns as the STM has not been forthcoming with information. Decisional rubrics obtained through this process reveal many contradictions in what they STM has been saying publicly vs discussions that have gone on behind the closed doors of bureaucracy.

Hiding and obscuring information is tantamount to lying. Likewise, using euphemisms to disguise the truth of a matter is un-transparent and disingenuous. As I addressed in my presentation on December 10th, my first suggestion is that we start to integrate some honesty into this process. Lying to each other usually leads to harm, but lying to ourselves is always destructive. Let's stop using euphemisms and start calling things by words that describe what they actually are:

- The “public consultation process” for the PVM-Bellechasse was and IS, in fact, a **performance**.
- “Expropriation”, no matter what contortions may evolve in a legal framework, IS **theft**.
- The proposed theft of the Ly family's home in the context of the PVM-Bellechasse project IS **tyranny**.

While tyrants will always try to convince you otherwise, tyranny is not something that just “happens” out of the blue. For anything to actually occur in the physical world, actions must be taken by individuals.

The theft of the Ly family’s home would not be possible if there were:

- no lawyers willing to draw up amendments in such a way as to make this theft legally possible
- no members of the Board of Directors of the STM willing to sign off on this project
- no person at the City of Montreal willing to approve this project
- no accountants willing to include the theft of the Ly family home in any project budget
- no man or woman willing to support this theft with tax dollars
- no police officers willing to forcibly remove the Ly family from their home
- no demolition crew willing to tear down the Ly family’s home
- no person willing to act as a Commissioner in a public performance that fulfills the STM’s legal requirement to proceed with the theft of a family’s home
- no person who has come to see this theft for what it is, who allows it to proceed hereafter.

Whatever the outcome of the Ly family’s duplex will be, things will continue to progress as they actually are. Therefore, it is my suggestion that we each continue to see things for what they are, speak of them as they actually are, and stand in the way whenever necessary.

For my part, I suggest that procedures relating to the theft of the Ly family’s duplex be immediately halted and permanently abandoned on the basis of social acceptability and morality.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Lisa Bobrow

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