

Allan Bayley

Sherbrooke, Qc  
J1H 0A4

September 15, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

The reason I am writing this letter is to express my absolute disapproval of the colossal scale of the proposed autoroute 410 extension is to be undertaken. I will also propose an alternative plan.

My name is Allan Bayley. I am a Mathematics professor at Champlain Regional College in the Lennoxville borough of Sherbrooke. I reside at \_\_\_\_\_ – a residence that will either be expropriated or located immediately to the south of the proposed autoroute 410 extension.

I realize and agree that something must be done to improve the local road system. For the past four years, I have travelled along most of the problem areas (from Sherbrooke to the intersection of University Boulevard and St. Catherine, rue Montée Ascot, rue Bel-Horizon, and the now named College Street hill in Lennoxville) and I have first-hand experiences of the rush-hour traffic on this route. I have also heard from my colleagues that there is a problem at the southern end of autoroute 410 where it meets University Boulevard. I am quite aware of the abundance of traffic flowing through this intersection.

However, I strongly urge you to reconsider your plans. Is there enough traffic to warrant an autoroute (four lane divided highway) from the 410 to highway 143 south of Lennoxville? As I have mentioned, I drive this route often, and know the traffic on this route – rue Montée Ascot, rue Bel-Horizon and College in particular. Yes, there are a lot of cars and some trucks during rush-hour, but I rarely experience problems; in any event, traffic during rush-hour gets heavy in all areas of Sherbrooke. During the day there is actually very little traffic on rue Bel-Horizon. Another point to be noted is that the traffic on this route is mostly local, meaning that a lot of these cars and trucks would not even be diverted by the opening of an autoroute bypass.<sup>1</sup> In fact, traffic would increase in other areas as commuters would be drawn to new access points to our autoroute system.<sup>2</sup> Surely, millions of taxpayers' dollars should not be spent on a four lane section of autoroute to slightly alleviate rush-hour traffic. Not only will this be a huge financial

---

<sup>1</sup> It was stated at the information session held at Le Hotel Delta on September 6, 2006 that the autoroute extension would not eliminate the heavy traffic from the College street hill in Lennoxville.

<sup>2</sup> It was also revealed at the information session held at Le Hotel Delta on September 6, 2006 that the autoroute extension would create 81% more traffic on Belvédère sud.

burden upon Sherbrooke residents, but also it would be a costly system to maintain, especially in the winter when it would have to be kept clear of snow.

The point I am trying to make is that at present, rue Bel-Horizon is efficiently routing the traffic between Sherbrooke and the Lennoxville borough. The problem lies in getting the 410 traffic to this route. This is the reason why I propose building a simple two-lane road connecting the southern end of the existing 410 autoroute to the end of rue Bel-Horizon where it meets ch Dunant. I believe the construction of two lanes is all that is needed since this is the same capacity as Bel-Horizon which is sufficiently handling the traffic. A two-lane road could be threaded between the two existing residential areas without creating the noise that would be associated with an autoroute.

There is no reason to spend millions of dollars to build an autoroute between the 410 autoroute to highway 108 – there isn't much traffic commuting through this route. In fact, the entire solution simply requires a Lennoxville bypass between highway 143 and highway 108 and another bypass between autoroute 410 and rue Bel-Horizon – and neither addition needs to be four-lanes wide – both highways 143 and 108 are only two lanes (and are the source and destination of most of the heavy traffic through Lennoxville), so why should a bypass between them need four-lanes?

The solution to our traffic problems does not require such a drastic and extravagant redesigning of the system. We can solve these problems using our existing infrastructure with a few minor additions.

Sincerely,

Allan Bayley