

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PILOT PROJECT - NEW ROAD SIGNALING: LEFT TURN BAN ON BOULEVARD DES ANCIENS-COMBATTANTS

SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE, AUGUST 21, 2018 – Last night, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue City Council voted in favor of banning left turns on *boulevard des Anciens-Combattants* northbound at the intersection of the ramp for Highway 20 West. The adoption of this one-year pilot project aims to relieve the village of heavy traffic during the evening rush hour in order to ensure the safety of its residents.

The decision, which is supported by the Montreal Fire Department, was taken in response to Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue administration's findings as to the daily obstruction of village streets during the end of day rush hour. The problem is particularly acute in the afternoon when a large flow of vehicles wanting to reach Highway 20 West inevitably pass through this intersection. This large influx of automobiles limits the capacity of emergency vehicles to move along the small streets of the village and thus increases response times in the event of fires, accidents or any other situation requiring rapid intervention.

"We are aware that the new measures will impact the habits of drivers who regularly use this ramp to get onto Highway 20 West. Although we are receptive to critiques, the safety of our citizens remains our first priority and leaves no room for compromise," said Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Mayor Paola Hawa. "We have also developed a comprehensive traffic plan in order to avoid moving the problem elsewhere in the village. We believe that these mitigation measures will serve to ensure the safety and quality of life of our citizens."

The new measures banning left turns on *boulevard des Anciens-Combattants* northbound at the intersection of the ramp for Highway 20 West will be in effect from Monday to Friday, between 4 pm and 6 pm, beginning September 17, 2018. This one-year pilot project will be periodically evaluated to determine its effectiveness in reducing traffic congestion within the village. Only emergency vehicles will be exempted from the new regulations.

Congestion on Highway 20 and its access roads has been a challenge for West Island commuters for a very long time. According to data collected from the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges, the region's population increased by 16.8% between 2006 and 2015. However, the area's transportation infrastructure dates back to the 1970s. In light of this, it is clear that if nothing is done, the problem can only worsen.

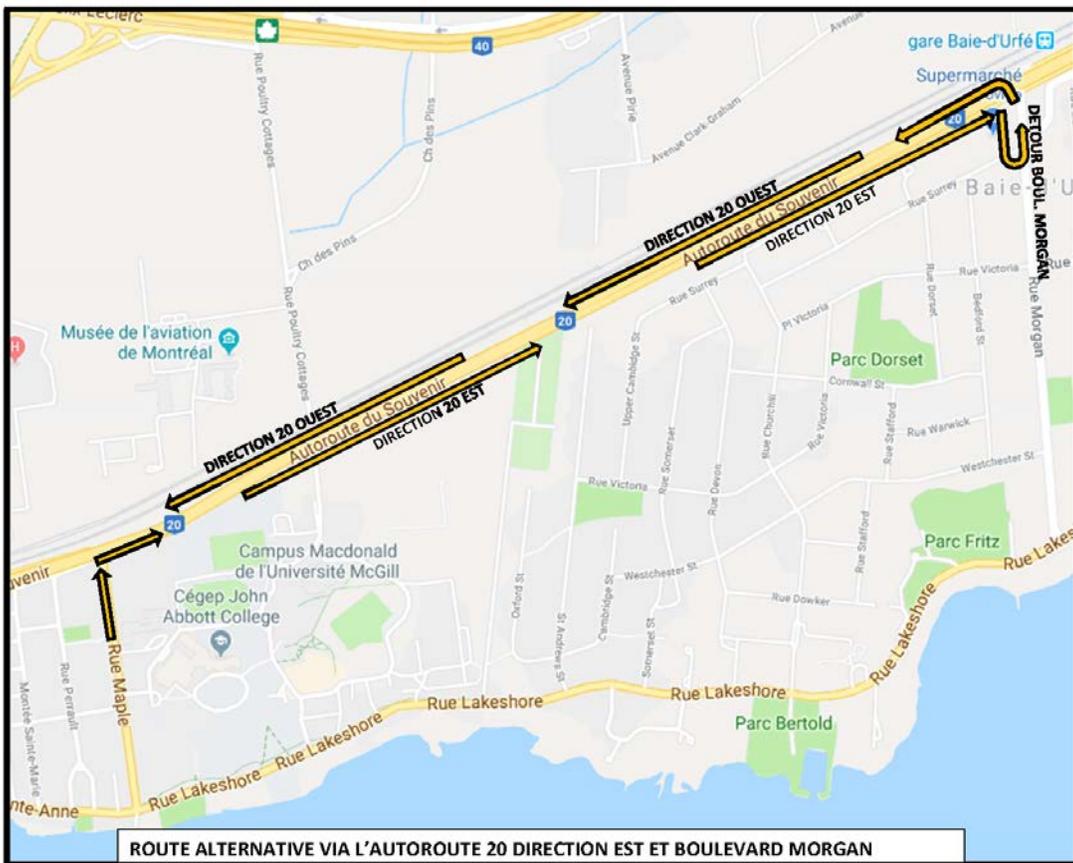
"We are convinced that our traffic congestion issues are only a symptom of a much larger problem that affects the entire region. As such, the real, permanent solution lies within the responsibility, jurisdiction and authority of the Provincial government. As a municipality, Sainte Anne de Bellevue's authority is limited to local streets in this context the short-term mitigation measures put in place seem to be the most appropriate. This being said, we invite all parties involved to work together take concrete and comprehensive measures to resolve the mobility issues on Highway 20 once and for all," concluded Mayor Hawa.

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Information:

Martin Bonhomme, ing. CPA CMA MBA
General Manager
(514) 457-6834
mbonhomme@sadb.qc.ca

Proposed alternative route for students of John Abbott College and Macdonald campus:



Proposed alternative route for the general population:

