



ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE JACQUES CARTIER BRIDGE BICYCLE PATH

MINUTES

Meeting held October 23, 2018 (6:30 p.m.)

Administrative Offices of The Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated
1225 Saint-Charles Street West, Office 500, Longueuil, QC J4K 0B9

Representatives present

VÉLO QUÉBEC

- + Bartek Komorowski

ASSOCIATION DES PIÉTONS ET CYCLISTES DU PONT JACQUES-CARTIER (APCPJC)

- + François Démontagne
- + Mike Muchnik

COALITION VÉLO MONTRÉAL

- + Daniel Lambert

SOCIÉTÉ DU PARC JEAN-DRAPEAU

- + Kilian Gerlach

SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC (SQ)

- + Gilles-Philippe Vachon
- + Aldé Pelletier

VILLE DE MONTRÉAL

- + Michel Bédard

THE JACQUES CARTIER AND CHAMPLAIN BRIDGES INCORPORATED (JCCBI)

- + Denis Jacob, Director, Operations and Maintenance
- + Pascal Villeneuve, Project Director, Construction
- + Andy Woo, Director, Planning
- + Nathalie Lessard, Director, Communications
- + Joëlle-Ann Blanchette, Advisor, Communications

Agenda

- + Call to order
- + Overview of decision and discussion
- + JCCBI's vision for the bicycle path network
- + Possible solutions
- + Next steps

Call to order

To start the meeting, everyone was welcomed and the agenda was presented.

Advisory Committee – Review of goals

- + Formalize and structure discussions about the Jacques Cartier Bridge bicycle path network with cyclist groups and partners.
- + Follow up on current issues and projects on a quarterly basis.
- + Help promote active transportation with paths that are safe, accessible and user-friendly.

Decision overview – Pilot winter maintenance project on the Jacques Cartier Bridge multipurpose path 2017-2018

- + After an analysis of the study report, JCCBI has decided not to keep the path open this winter.
- + Different snow removal options and deicing products were analyzed and tested for the pilot project.
- + No viable and safe solution was identified that would keep cyclists safe on this unique path in the winter.

Combination of factors – Pilot winter maintenance project on the multipurpose path

- + Combination of winter safety issues
 - o Complex weather conditions above the St. Lawrence River
 - o Atypical geometry of the path
 - o Risk of falling ice from the structure above
- + JCCBI will continue to work to find solutions

JCCBI's vision for the bicycle path network

- + Enhancement of the entire bicycle path network
 - o Various projects in progress to improve the bicycle paths that JCCBI operates for nearly 9 months of the year
 - Champlain Bridge Ice Control Structure (creation of rest area, fall 2017)
 - Honoré Mercier Bridge (connection of our path to MTQ network)
 - Developments being studied in the Bonaventure Expressway sector

Winter operation on the Jacques Cartier Bridge

- + Optimize schedules to increase opening times
 - o Preventive snow removal to open earlier in the spring
- + More studies to come
 - o Falling ice
 - o Atypical geometry
 - o Slab insulation
 - o % accuracy of weather forecasts
- + Discussions with transportation partners to come

Discussions on the following issues:

- + The profile of cyclists who use Montreal's bicycle path network in the winter is different from that of cyclists who use it in the summer. It was asked whether the path could be opened in the winter for more experienced users.
- + A reassessment of the acceptable risk level was requested so that the multipurpose path could eventually be open in the winter.
- + Will users be counted at the end of the season (December) to get a better idea of potential volume?
- + Could there be partial openings in winter 2018-2019 on nice days? The path will stay closed this winter.

- + One thing to consider is that cyclists who ride in the winter are equipped for the season. However, there are no regulations enforcing this (as there are for motorists), so it can't be assumed that all cyclists have the right equipment. Some safety issues pose greater risks to cyclists than to motorists (falling ice, black ice, etc.).
- + The winter closure of the only bicycle path between Montreal and the South Shore has a cost in terms of social acceptability that must be considered.
- + Studies on the impact of active transportation on health indicate that the benefits of year-round active transportation outweigh the risks of using the bicycle network in the winter. It was asked that these studies be considered in the pilot project.
- + The decision is not solely related to the issue of snow removal. Overview of the geometry of the path and its weight in the decision. It takes 8 to 10 hours to remove snow from the path, which also affects the amount of time it can be open. No viable snow-clearing solution has been found yet for section 7 (superstructure).
- + It was asked that the rate of serious accidents on the bicycle network be compared for summer vs. winter.
- + Managing speed is a problem even in the summer; speed contributes to the severity of the injury. Cyclists must continue to be made aware of this issue. The winter demographic of 15% is not representative of the population.
- + Protection against debris that falls onto the lanes (in both summer and winter) will be installed by the end of the year.
- + It was asked if the season could be extended later in December and started earlier in the spring. This is being considered, but the weather is the key factor in this decision.
- + Next steps: complementary studies to mitigate the identified residual risks.
 - o Risk of falling ice
 - o Reliability of weather conditions
 Desire to continue to work together.

Improvements made and to come

- + Slab repairs
- + Removal of 3rd chicane barrier
- + Enhancement of lighting in section 3
- + Installation of deflectors
- + New signs to come in the spring
- + "Watch out for our workers!" campaign to be repeated

Other requested improvements

- + 2nd chicane from the Longueuil side (moved due to the bulge right before)
- + Intersection of ISHP: request for an added flashing signal light at the first stop.

Possible solutions

- + Share your suggestions with us in the coming weeks

Next meeting

- + Winter 2019: An invitation will be sent to participants