

All that for this?

Back to square one, 7 years later. 7 years wasted suffering from excessive noise.

On May 17, after 7 years of waiting, the Quebec Transport Ministry (MTQ) finally gave birth to a mouse.

MTQ representatives managed the feat of presenting generalities for 30 minutes. The technical conclusions repeated those of 2010. They did not even mention the public health problem. Their cost estimate was extremely vague.

The only novelty is that instead of a concrete wall, the solution will be mineral wool covered with braided willow stems. The same presentation could very well have been made in 2010! Moreover, the anticipated noise level reduction table presented was the same as the one included in the 2010 report!

This presentation satisfies those who want to scare with the ghost of taxes not to mention our health! Booo-hooo, I'm so scared!

Let us recall here three important facts.

1- PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AGAINST EXCESSIVE NOISE

The long noise of the 20 is a public health problem.

Minister Poeti clearly recalled this in 2015: "The citizens of Beaconsfield have suffered long enough! »

1987, 2010 and 2022, this is the third time in 35 years that the MTQ has presented us with a noise barrier. THRICE! This is because the MTQ respects its own road noise policy.

This policy was inspired by studies by the World Health Organization (WHO). These studies have shown that from 65 dBA the noise level is INTOLERABLE and that residents must be protected. It is therefore a public health problem listed in its policy, but no slide from the MTQ recalled it.

MTQ statistics showed that the volume of traffic has changed little since 2010. We reminded him TWICE that the traffic and noise levels have more than doubled since the first noise study in 1987! Is this a reality camouflage operation by the MTQ?

For some citizens, the arrival of electric vehicles would make the noise barrier unnecessary. The MTQ has answered at least 3 times that more than 90% of the noise is caused by the tires on the road, not that of the engine.

Public health at the MTQ, what is that?

2- ENGINEERING, BUREAUCRATIC PRESENTATION

It was a typical presentation of MTQ engineers. Here is the solution. No discussion. No consultation of local residents, even if it was included in the call for tenders. We will talk about costs later.

This reminds me of a similar situation.

Remember the REM: a project designed by engineers without consulting the population or other authorities. They “forgot” to show us the thousands of small posts and wires that will hang along the rails (go see the reality in Brossard). It will be an effective project (we hope), not very aesthetic, and whose objective is to make a profitable private service. Forget about the public service. And when the public asks questions (ex: REM de l'Est), then the REM leaves the project.

Clearly the MTQ sees it primarily as a civil engineering project. The MTQ wants to sell us an effective project without demonstrating it to us. Its objective is to satisfy its own policies, not to meet the needs of local residents. We will talk about costs later. At the MTQ “Money is no object”

3- SIGNIFICANTLY EXAGGERATED COSTS vs \$49.54 PER YEAR

Here is the mayor's favorite scare theme: costs. The MTQ threw figures in the air without justifying them, and it even showed a variance of more or less \$10 million! That's precise! Officially, the MTQ does not want to make its report public, claiming that it contains information that could benefit future contractors. BS.

We found the braided willow wall supplier. He did not specify his proposal to the MTQ but he presented us with his official selling prices: from \$250 to \$475/m². So the calculation is simple. The cost of the installed wall = \$23.26 million! add \$10 million for landscaping and the total is \$33 million!

How does the MTQ explain the difference between this \$33 million and the "\$50-60 million" launched without justification? “We calculated in 2028 dollars!! “, “We took into account inflation for 5 years”, “We added contingency factors that we do not want to detail” WHAT? B.S.! The solution costs \$33 million today. This is the reality!

The MTQ pays 75% of this, i.e. a subsidy of \$24.75 million

The cost for the citizens of Beaconsfield is \$8.25 million.

The cost of capital spread over 6,660 residences is \$1,238 per residence, that's... \$49.54 per year. A coffee a week for 25 years!

The mayor wants to scare us with the tax increases that would entail. Let's remember the reality: over 3 years, the Agglo has increased our taxes by \$673 (forever), including \$334 only for 2022! But who supports us in challenging these tax increases?

Beaconsfield cannot afford to neglect our public health.