



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE JACQUES CARTIER BRIDGE BICYCLE PATH

### MINUTES

Meeting held Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (4:30 p.m.)

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

### Representatives present

#### VÉLO QUÉBEC

- + Marc Jolicoeur

#### 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

#### THE JACQUES CARTIER AND CHAMPLAIN BRIDGES INCORPORATED (JCCBI)

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

### Agenda

- + Call to order
- + Seasonal opening of the network
- + New signage
- + Major work in 2019
- + Next meeting

### 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.

## Seasonal opening of the bicycle and pedestrian network

- + Preventive snow removal on the multipurpose path began on March 15, 2019. Good weather is required to conduct spring maintenance on the network. JCCBI's goal is to open the multipurpose path as quickly as possible, which is why the bicycle and pedestrian network on the Jacques Cartier Bridge will be reopened in two phases. JCCBI prioritizes the opening of the multipurpose path, followed by the opening of the sidewalk in the subsequent days.
- + In the coming months, new signs will be installed at the bridge approaches and at the Île Sainte-Hélène pavilion to educate pedestrians and cyclists about safe conduct to adopt on the multipurpose path and sidewalk, to better direct users to the bridge approaches, and to indicate points of interest in the network.

## Winter operation of the bicycle and pedestrian network

- + As announced in October 2018, JCCBI cannot operate the network during the winter in the current conditions. However, JCCBI is continuing to work to find solutions. JCCBI is evaluating different options, some of which may require significant work and investment.
- + JCCBI's Research & Applications Directorate is currently conducting three complementary studies on operating the network in the winter:
  - o Weather trends: JCCBI is using weather data over the past 5 years to compare and analyze variances between forecasts and observed weather.
  - o Alternatives to deicing salts: Find alternatives that are less harmful for the infrastructure over the long term.
  - o Falling ice: Better understand the risks of falling ice to find solutions to minimize these risks.
- + Discussions are ongoing and will continue with our partners for the following three sectors:
  - o Jacques Cartier Sector
    - Cities of Longueuil, Saint-Lambert, Montréal
    - Parc Jean-Drapeau
    - St. Lawrence Seaway
    - RTL and STM
  - o Champlain Bridge Sector
    - Signature on the St. Lawrence
    - Vélo Québec
  - o Honoré Mercier Sector
    - MTQ
    - Nearby cities
    - Parks Canada
- + JCCBI would like to reinstate the RTL shuttle for winter 2019-2020 to let cyclists cross the Jacques Cartier Bridge with their bicycles throughout the winter season.

## Major work in 2019

- + Work on the Jacques Cartier Bridge:
  - o From March 17 to April 30, JCCBI will conduct excavation and repair work on the Parc Jean-Drapeau access ramp toward the South Shore, which will impact pedestrians and cyclists.
    - During this work, the access ramp will be completely closed, and users will not be able to access Parc Jean-Drapeau via the ramp. However, the multipurpose path will be accessible after the opening date of the bicycle and pedestrian network.

- During the work, pedestrians and cyclists who want to get to Parc Jean-Drapeau can do so through the Saint-Lambert locks.
- During the spring and the summer, JCCBI will conduct painting and steel work that will impact pedestrians and cyclists. There will be alternating weekend hindrances on the multipurpose path and sidewalk. A lane for bicycles and pedestrians will be maintained throughout the work.
  - At some areas, the path width will be reduced by one metre over a distance of 100 metres.
  - Complete closure of the path between Longueuil and the Île Sainte-Hélène pavilion for one weekend in July (access via the sidewalk).
  - Complete closure of the sidewalk between Montréal and the Île Sainte-Hélène pavilion (alternating with the multipurpose path).

### **Discussions on the following topics:**

- + Can the signage near the chicanes be reviewed and optimized so that it is clearer for users?
  - Directional and awareness signs will be installed this summer to make the signage clearer.
- + Would it be possible for JCCBI to open the multipurpose path occasionally over the winter when the weather allows, like Parks Canada does for the path on the Lachine Canal?
  - As announced in October 2018, JCCBI cannot operate the network during the winter in the current conditions. JCCBI is currently evaluating options to open the bicycle and pedestrian network in the winter, some of which may entail major investment and work.
  - JCCBI also wants to talk with the STM to see whether users can take bicycles on the metro during peak hours. JCCBI would also like to reinstate the RTL shuttle for winter 2019-2020, to allow cyclists to cross the Jacques Cartier Bridge with their bicycles throughout the winter season.
- + When are you planning to release the results of the three complementary studies?
  - JCCBI should receive the preliminary findings by the end of the summer.
- + What is the situation with powered scooters?
  - This summer, JCCBI is planning to carry out an awareness campaign about safe conduct to adopt on the bicycle and pedestrian network. During this campaign, JCCBI will remind users that powered scooters are prohibited on the multipurpose path. This summer, SQ cadets will be patrolling the network to educate users and will intervene as needed if they find people using powered scooters.
- + During winter snow removal operations, snow is often blown onto the multipurpose path. Is JCCBI working to resolve this problem? For the moment, this is not an issue as the path is closed in the winter. However, the problem will be addressed if the multipurpose path is open in the winter.
- + Is JCCBI planning to move the chicanes located near the lamp of section 3 (near Longueuil) to widen the crossing in this spot?
  - JCCBI recently conducted tests on this, and the results have shown that the chicane barriers in this area cannot be moved. However, one of the barriers was shortened to facilitate the passage of cyclists.
- + Why were rub rails with small-sized mesh installed on the deterrent fences near the chicanes on the multipurpose path? Would it be possible to review the design of these rub rails so that they pose less of a risk to cyclists?

- JCCBI is currently studying the possibility of installing plexiglass (or another material considered appropriate) over the rub rails near the chicanes to reduce the risk of injury to cyclists.
- + The members of the advisory committee for the Jacques Cartier Bridge bicycle path wish to be informed well in advance of work carried out on the multipurpose path so that they can propose solutions as needed.
- + Will the chicane barriers be spaced out so that cyclists can get through them more easily?
  - No. The current configuration of the chicanes meets the primary goal of slowing down users on this narrow path to keep everyone safe.
- + The pedestrian crossing at the intersection of the multipurpose path and the access ramp to Parc Jean-Drapeau toward the South Shore is still problematic for pedestrians and cyclists. Is JCCBI planning to take action to modify this intersection and reduce the risk for pedestrians and cyclists?
  - JCCBI is currently studying the entire problem at this intersection for one of these projects.
- + The committee suggested that JCCBI establish a by-law imposing a maximum speed limit so that the SQ can intervene in the case of speeding.

### **Coming improvements**

- + New signage to come in the spring on the multipurpose path and sidewalk
- + Awareness campaign on safe conduct will be run during the summer
- + Installation of protective material over the rub rails near the chicanes

### **Next meeting**

- + Fall 2019: an invitation will be sent to all participants.
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