

## City reveals plans for Ste. Catherine St. revamp

CTV Montreal

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Wider, heated sidewalks, more trees and fewer cars – Montreal has unveiled the Ste. Catherine St. of the future.

The city unveiled its plan Wednesday to revamp part of Montreal's most important street.

The city used words like “innovation,” “audacity” and “flexibility” to describe the greener, more dynamic look of the street, considered one of the longest in North America.



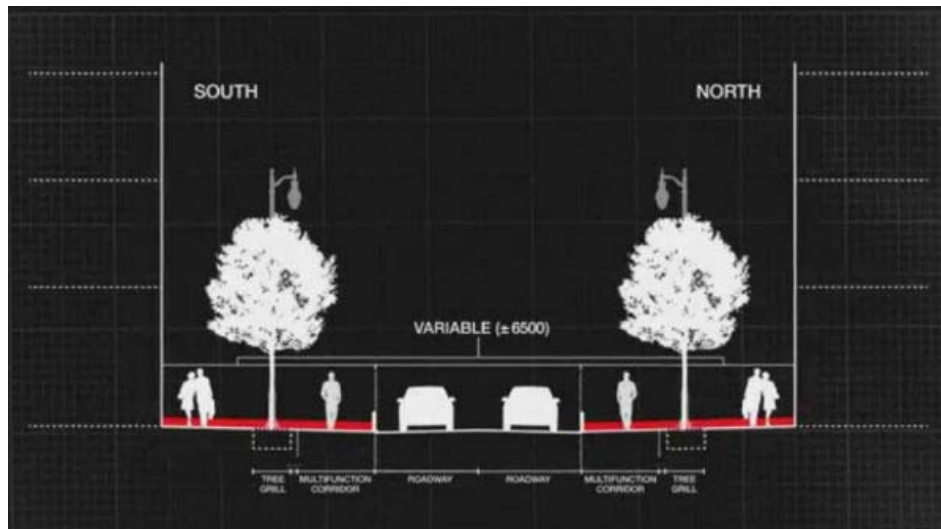
It will also mean a restructuring of the road so it can be better shared between pedestrians, bicycles, buses and cars. Parts of the street could be pedestrianized during major events and busy times of year, and reopened to two lanes at others. An extra two lanes for parking would vary as well.

The sidewalk would expand two metres further into the street.

The street would also boast seating areas, free WiFi, intelligent lighting and charging stations for electric vehicles.

The speed limit would be lowered to 30 kilometres per hour, and at least 60 parking spots would be eliminated between Aylmer and Mansfield Sts.

Mayor Denis Coderre said he would consider building underground parking or a multi-level lot to make up for the loss of parking spots.



This is the first phase of the makeover, between Bleury St. and Mansfield. The \$95 million revamp will begin next year and is set to be completed by 2019.

The city is set on redesigning everything on the 2.5 kilometres between Atwater St. and Bleury St.

The makeover stems from ideas brought forth during public consultations last year.

Major infrastructure work is scheduled to take place on the commercial street. The city said it wants to use the time as an opportunity to make improvements.

Coderre also said he wants to avoid the devastation of work and re-work that laid waste to St. Laurent Blvd.

The underground work is crucial to sewer systems and water mains, some of which date to the 1800s, and the city says if it is not done [another sinkhole](#) such as the one that swallowed a backhoe in August 2013 could happen again.



Projet Montreal leader Luc Ferrandez had concerns the city didn't go far enough in its redesign.

"We're talking to tourists about the charm of Montreal, the European charm of Montreal. With those kinds of sidewalks, you won't have terraces. They're too narrow for terraces. You won't see people having an apero or a café," he said.

Many businesses, however, feel the city's plan will boost the street's economy.

"When you can shop 12 months of the year on Ste. Catherine instead of worrying about slipping and falling on the sidewalks, the merchants are going to benefit greatly instead of having a five-month shopping season," said Stephen Leopold, chairman of real estate brokerage Immodev Real.

***For more details on the revamp, watch the City of Montreal extended video in the video player above.***

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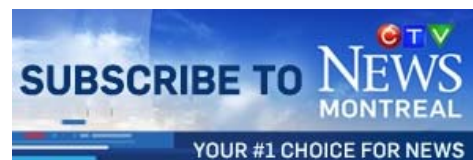


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**F1**

23 days ago

Is this some kind of sick joke ? Mayor Coderre this is not Neverland. A colossal waste of money , how is this even allowed with all the infrastructure problems we have ? They will botch this guaranteed , more problems for a city already on the decline BIG Time. Peter Pan strikes again.

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4



**ang555**

23 days ago

I grew up a few minutes from downtown. I went to restaurants, bars , movies and did all my shopping downtown. Today I avoid it completely . Why would I want to waste time looking for parking, pay for it when I can go to other areas that have parking available for free. City parking meters are a cancer to commercial areas. Laval or even the south shore has free parking. I prefer to go there.

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**CLINT**

23 days ago

...you can picture it now...it's -30° C, but people are shopping in sandals thanks to heated sidewalks. All of a sudden, a loud "WHOOOOSH" is immediately followed by a rising geyser of water some 20 meters away, signaling yet another water main rupture in Montreal's PATHETIC INFRASTRUCTURE!!!

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**THE BUGLER**

23 days ago

Indubitably destined to become another "Wonder of the World"...as in: wonder why!!!

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**ANTISEPPIETIC**

22 days ago

While some people are dreaming of toasting their toes on heated sidewalks in mid-winter, many others...like those ex-Bombardier employees who lost their jobs today are worrying about about finding their next job...in a city where the available job pool is in a steady negative decline!!!

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**ABERCORN PHIL**

22 days ago

This is all very interesting but at great expense. Here's a plan that would revitalize Montreal at savings to the tax payer...Make Montreal a language neutral zone!

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**TOMKATT**

23 days ago

The bureaucrats are idiots.....the single major issue that is killing downtown visits is a "lack of free parking". Note to city hall, make it easier and no charge parking and downtown Montreal will thrive. Keep doing what you are doing, and you'll be standing by yourselves in winter on Ste-Catherine's heated sidewalks! Never mind how taxes will be affected by heating costs.

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**Deborah Ann**

23 days ago

I will stick to the dix 30, free parking and no bridge to go over.

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**The Grand Wazoo**

23 days ago

I totally agree with this F1 fellow, Montreal is hurting. This is a city that can't build a sandbox without mafia connections. This a waste of time and tax payers dollars. Heated sidewalks? Free Wi Fi? C'mon, Mr. Corderre. Never land is right. nobody goes Down town now, do you think they will go when you take away all the parking? Very foolish idea.

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**James**

23 days ago

I'm sure it will all look very nice when it is all finished. However given our terrible record with city construction projects here I expect by the time it is finished it will have costed double what was originally estimated and will take an extra 2 years to complete.

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**I speak my mind**

23 days ago

Oh come on now! It's not heated sidewalks that will get me out in -30 temperatures to go shopping. This is getting ridiculous. Fix our crumbling infrastructure and sinking roads with this money. Safety is more important than fun lights on a bridge and heated sidewalks.

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**AndyL**

23 days ago

Love the idea. I live downtown and I am sick and tired of suburbanites complaining about what they are going to do with their cars. Suburbanites don't come downtown except to work anyways. I see more of my friends that live in Ottawa and New York than I see people who live in the west island. This will be great for people who actually live here and tourist. The rest of you enjoy your malls.

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**Rick Vaillancourt**

23 days ago

Seems like a nice place to shop and stroll its just too bad that by the time the work is actually done all the stores will have closed and parking will be impossible to pay for or find, its still nice though that someone had the time to think it up!

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**AndyL**

22 days ago

Such negativity from a whole bunch of people who probably don't even live within the city limits. I live downtown and like many other people who live downtown have gotten rid of my car (occasionally use Car2GO). Although as some else suggested I do not wear my sandal in winter but do walk the length of St-Catherine will shopping almost every weekend even in winter if not I bike or use metros.

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**Gilles Chiasson**

23 days ago

IT kinda borrows from the Projet Montreal suggestions but hold back going all the way! Had they gone total pedestrian walk way they might have joined some of the more modern design ideas found around the globe.

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