



## **Place des Montréalaises development project**

Questions from the public  
Information session march 23, 2022

On March 23, an information session about the Place des Montréalaises development project was held. The city took questions from the public during the session.

[Watch the recording of the information session \(in French\)](#)

### **Project concept**

**Q**

**Are there plans to totally cover the Ville-Marie Expressway to create more green space and reduce sound pollution?**

**A** When the expressway was covered as part of the city's 375th anniversary, a 400-metre, eight-lane stretch was left open. The provincial government does not plan to cover this remaining portion. It will also not be included in the redevelopment project of the Ville-Marie and Viger tunnels.

**Q**

**Are you considering planting flowering trees, such as Sakura cherry trees?**

**A** The trees that will be planted were chosen for their ability to be resistant to the existing and projected conditions of the site (wind, sun and dry urban conditions). The species that were chosen will not have a very pronounced period of flowering. The idea is to create a forest atmosphere for areas that are more wooded and emphasize coloured flowers on the inclined plane.

**Q**

**Have you considered a contest for a sculpture or work of public art to be integrated into the square?**

**A** The contest that was held in 2017 was not a contest to create a work of art for the site. Rather, it was an international architectural [competition](#) to define the design vision of the future Place des Montréalaises. The tribute to Montréal women put forth by the winners of the competition, which focuses on women pioneers and the victims of the Polytechnique femicide, is expressed through a vast circular mirror, a stairway encrusted with letters and a flower bouquet on the inclined plane. Without, strictly speaking, being a work of art, this three-part tribute to the women of Montréal resembles a work of art in many ways.

**Q**

**Will the mirror create a heat island?**

**A** Designers examined a number of technical and visual issues concerning the mirror. Tests were conducted to test various proposals and make sure the letters on it would be visible. No, the mirror will not create a heat island. The steel does not create a greenhouse effect the same way that a glass surface would in a building or car. As well, the large green spaces being planted as part of the project will help greatly in reducing heat islands on the site.

**Q**

**Will the mirror be designed to keep birds from flying into its surface?**

**A** Designers evaluated several different aspects of the mirror when it was being designed. They made sure that the surface of the mirror was both safe and visually pleasing. Unlike a glass surface, it won't be transparent and won't give birds the impression that they can fly through it.

**Q**

**To the west of the site, there is an opening over the Ville-Marie Expressway. Will there be a barrier to prevent suicides?**

**A** Avenue Hôtel-de-Ville will be integrated into the square and a large strip of dense vegetation will be planted at the western extremity of the site. As well, the concrete wall that currently borders the sidewalk will remain in place with the new design. On the other side of this wall, there is a ramp leading to the expressway. So there is no direct access to the expressway from the Place des Montréalaises. Further west, there are already walls with fencing on top along the expressway corridor.

**Q**

**Will the section underneath concrete be well lit in the evenings and at night?**

**A** Yes, the area underneath the inclined plane covering Rue Saint-Antoine will be

well lit and well cleared.

**Q**

**Are you planning to put up LED light sets to enhance the site at night?**

**A** There are no plans for light sets. However, the site will be very well lit, both in terms of safety and atmosphere, thanks to a lighting designer being involved with the project. Lighting will enhance key elements of the square, particularly the mirror, the staircase and the inclined plane. Most of the lighting will be LED lights.

**Q**

**Will the city plot located northeast of the intersection of Rue Viger and Rue Viger in front of the Montréal Chinese Hospital still be used?**

**A** The plot will not be used as part of the work being done on this project.

### **Activities on the Place des Montréalaises**

**Q**

**Will there be a 24-hour public market on the Place des Montréalaises like the ones at the Mont-Royal and Côte-des-Neiges metro stations?**

**A** The multipurpose area has space for a small event-based or temporary market. To make sure operations and activities run smoothly on site, the borough will be in charge of handling on-site activities.

**Q**

**What will the space be like in the wintertime (accessibility, paths and snow clearing)?**

**A** A preliminary snow removal plan has been developed, taking into account the constraints of loading and traffic. Several paths on the square will be cleared of snow. As well, the borough will occasionally hold winter activities on the square.

### **Communication**

**Q**

**Will we be informed of nighttime construction?**

**A** Notices to residents will be distributed to keep you informed of all street closings and nighttime construction periods.

**Q**

**Will there be a ceremony for the site opening when construction is complete?**

**A** This point will be determined at the end of the project. If a ceremony is planned, you will be informed.

## **Express Bike Network (EBN)**

**Q**

**Will projected Express Bike Network paths be built on Rue Saint-Antoine and Avenue Viger at the same time as construction taking place on the Place des Montréalaises ?**

**A** To minimize the impacts of construction on residents and traffic, the decision was made that construction work on the EBN between Boulevard Saint-Laurent and Rue Saint-Denis would not take place at the same time as work being done on the Place des Montréalaises. However, EBN construction should begin this fall between Boulevard Saint-Laurent and Square Victoria. Current bike paths on Rue Viger and Rue Saint-Antoine will remain operational while construction is ongoing.

## **Traffic**

**Q**

**Were studies conducted about closing the expressway entrance ramps on Avenue Viger and Rue Saint-Antoine?**

**A** A number of studies were conducted in the area. Closing expressway entrance ramps is not under consideration.

**Q**

**Would it be possible to include signs directing visitors to Chinatown?**

**A** Temporary signage for the whole Champ-de-Mars area includes directional signs that mention Chinatown and other landmarks.

**Q**

**Will the design allow for reopening the Sanguinet ramp if traffic and pedestrian safety at the crossroads of Rue Saint-Antoine/Rue Berri and Rue Saint-Antoine/Rue Saint-Hubert become problematic?**

**A** No. The design is permanent. Long term, reopening this ramp is not under consideration.