



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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Highway 20 Bypass Mayor Guy Pilon calls again on Minister Bonnardel

Vaudreuil-Dorion, March 18, 2022 – Guy Pilon, Mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion, was pleased with the announcement that Highway 50 will be widened over a distance of 96 km. In his opinion, this is good news for the Outaouais and Laurentian regions as it could be a prelude to the announcement of the start of construction on the Highway 20 bypass in the urban area of Harwood Boulevard. He made sure to share these thoughts in a letter to François Bonnardel, Minister of Transport (MTQ).

"The government is taking into account all of our arguments in favour of the bypass to justify the widening of Highway 50. He considers this highway to be a privileged commercial link between Ontario and Quebec. The Vaudreuil-Dorion region, even more than the Outaouais region, is THE link for trade and transit between Quebec and Ontario. About 75% of transactions between these two provinces and the United States pass through Vaudreuil-Dorion," he explains. In his letter, he points out that road transport fluidity is reduced by the presence of traffic lights. The MTQ is even considering adding a new traffic light to this crucial section further to a request made by the Sûreté du Québec, turning it into a safety issue.

The issue of road safety is incidentally one of Quebec's justifications for the Highway 50 project. "The parallel could not be greater," says Mayor Pilon. "In Vaudreuil-Dorion, we are experiencing the same type of concerns: the current section of Highway 20 cuts across a living environment where there is a school, pedestrian crossings and a residential area. It is also close to stores and senior homes".

According to the mayor, all Quebec has been able to see that transportation in the region, and therefore all trade across Eastern Canada, finds itself in a precarious situation due to the configuration of Highway 20. The emergency closure of the Île-aux-Tourtes bridge in May 2021 resulted in the urban boulevard of Highway 20 in Vaudreuil-Dorion becoming the alternative for motorists and truckers. People in the region, he recalls, simply no longer had access to major Montreal hospitals because of a lack of resilience in the local highway network. "We are therefore constantly only one serious accident away from a major tragedy.", reads the letter sent to the minister.

«In his speech, Mathieu Lacombe, Member of Parliament for Papineau in the Outaouais region, said he was pleased with the implementation of the project after three years of work. For our part, we have been working for 60 years to extract Highway 20 from an urban area. So where's the problem!» exclaimed the mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

In closing, the mayor wanted to remind everyone that about 16,000 motorists use Highway 50 daily, while nearly 50,000 use the urban section of Highway 20.