

Traffic and Community Safety

In winter 2024 the **Traffic Safety Committee** was been renamed the **Community Safety Committee** as it handles both traffic safety and community safety/ crime.

INDEX

1. **Speeding & speed bumps** [Details](#)
 - Speeding on Westminster.
 - Speed bump criteria.
 - Different size speed bumps.
 - Speed bump requests [Details](#)
2. **Crime** [Details](#)
 - Motel St Jacques closes
 - Porch-pirates
 - Incidents
 - Statistics
3. **Westminster & Sherbrooke: train crossing and crosswalks** [Details](#)
4. **Trucks on Avon** [Details](#)
5. **Bicycle safety** [Details](#)
6. **Studies & reports** [Details](#)
7. **Miscellaneous** [Details](#)

1. Speeding & speed bumps

Speeding on Westminster.

Note: Our Public Security Officers cannot give tickets for speeding or stop sign infractions.

From the **Montreal West Residents Facebook page October, 08, 2024**: “Has anyone else noticed emergency vehicles flying through intersections and around corners without sirens on?? We (and our dog) narrowly avoided being hit by a police car coming around the corner on Brock (heading north) and turning onto fielding as we were crossing Brock. They had lights on, but there is a hedge and there were also cars so we could not see them until we were already in the street and they were beginning to turn. **Have seen fire trucks going through the Westminster/Parkside intersection at high speeds without sirens as well....** That's 2 blocks from a school!!!”

At the **June, 2023 Council meeting** (September, 2023 Informer) **Councillor Small-Pennefather** informed that the Traffic and Safety Committee is continually looking at ways to promote safety and one of its members is the Community Liaison officer from PDQ 9. She added that it is very important to report moving violations to the SPVM and this can be done on their website. She also explained that *speed bumps cannot be installed to slow speeding on Westminster since it is used by buses with no seat belts as well as fire trucks and emergency vehicles.* [Editor's note: Since the beginning of June 2024 buses have been travelling the length of Brock and Ballantyne North from Sherbrooke to Fielding without consequence.]

The constant complaints of vehicles speeding in the Town took on a new twist a resident reported that on at least two occasions, it was police cars, with no lights flashing, that were speeding. **Mayor Masella** responded that having a police station so close to the Town had some advantages, but at the same time, if the speeding was not related to duty, it was something he could discuss with the commandant of Station 9. (**November, 2021 Council meeting** -- February, 2022 Informer)

Speed bump criteria

- **August, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s>
(video 59:56) Speed and volume of traffic obtained from a Doppler radar study, whether it's a major or minor street. “There has to be some kind of empirical evidence.”
(video 53:19) “It does help us (the Town) when complaints are officially launched.” The SPVM site has an online form to report speeding. A link can be provided by **Councillor Small-Pennefather.**
- **April, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUK>
(video 47:20) “We did see that there was a threshold on Sheraton that was above what is considered to be safe in terms of speed and there's a whole mathematical equation around that.”

[Back to the top](#)

- **September, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFpcBAxjSKc&t=1342s>
Councillor Small-Pennefather pointed out (video 29:40) the following criteria: There must be a legal amount of space between speed bumps, there can't be one in front of someone's driveway.

Whack-a-mole: Councillor Small-Pennefather observed (13:53) at the June, 2024 Council meeting that: “When we take an action (traffic calming) in one part of the Town it causes an issue in another part of the Town or on another street ...”

Different size speed bumps

- From the Town's minutes of the **November, 2017 Council meeting:** <https://montreal-west.ca/en/our-town/town-council/public-meetings/>
A resident asked if there is a standard size for speed bumps. **Mayor Masella** said *it is not a case of one-size-fits-all. Some streets may need more aggressive ones than others.* The Town will get an engineer's evaluation in that respect and will try to standardize, but it is believed that variations are acceptable and can be justified.
[Editor's comment: The objective of a speed bump is to slow down traffic. Does having different-sized speed bumps mean we want traffic to be slowed down by different amounts? Isn't the objective 30 km/hr?]

Speed bump requests

Radcliffe:

- **September, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFpcBAxjSKc&t=1342s>
A resident (video 27:44) drew attention to speeding on Radcliffe and made a plea for a speed bump noting the following speed bumps on other streets: Ballantyne (8), Brock (9), Strathearn (6). **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (29:15) said that Radcliffe is in the queue and once a study is conducted it will be brought to the Community Safety Committee. She pointed out (29:40) that the discrepancy in the number of speed bumps – 6, 8, 9 – was due to the criteria that there must be a legal amount of space between speed bumps, and we can't have one in front of someone's driveway. *The resident observed (30:38) that there had been data collected on Radcliffe prior to Covid. "Do I have to get a petition ..."*
- **August, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s>
“Why are there no speed bumps on Radcliffe because Radcliffe is like a drag strip? And nobody stops at the stop signs. There's been a few near accidents.” **Councillor Small-Pennefather:** (video 53:19) noted that another resident had complained about problems in that area. *"It does help us when complaints are officially launched."*
- **June, 2024 Council meeting:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44
Are there “any plans to put a speed bump on Radcliffe as motorists fly through the stop signs?” **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (video 22:54) replied that the request for a speed bump will be brought to the Community Safety Committee and a Doppler radar could be installed to monitor speed and volume of vehicles. She will put it on the agenda of the Community Safety Committee.

[Back to the top](#)

Westover:

- **August, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s>
A resident noted that CSL, Hampstead, and NDG are installing speedbumps “everywhere”, and wondered why we aren't installing any. **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (59:56) pointed out that certain criteria – such as volume of traffic and whether it's on a major or minor street – have to be met before a speed bump can be installed.”

Sheraton:

- **April, 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk>
A resident queried (video 44:44) about the status of a security report focusing on enhancing our city's safety measures including road safety which was to be commissioned in 2022. **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (45:44) replied that the Community Safety Committee focused a lot of their time and effort **on finding a safety plan for Westminster which has been submitted to council with recommendations.** Westminster was considered the most problematic area of the Town. “There isn't a report that's available, there is something that I've given into council with regards to looking at some of the recommendations that we've made.” (video 47:20) “We did see that there was a threshold on Sheraton that was above what is considered to be safe in terms of speed and there's a whole mathematical equation around that. We can look at speed bumps and other measures.”

Garden Road:

- **June, 2024 Council meeting:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44
“On an interim basis, can Garden be made one-way in opposite directions on either side of Ballantyne so people won't cut through?” An earlier traffic study indicated that a speed bump couldn't be installed as the blocks are too short. The possibility of a Doppler radar study was mentioned.

[Back to the top](#)

Ballantyne North

- **Council meeting minutes April to November 2020.** <https://montreal-west.ca/en/our-town/town-council/public-meetings/>

Four requests for a speed bump on Ballantyne N just above Sherbrooke -- including a petition -- were made from April to November, 2020. This is a heavily travelled street as vehicles bypass the Westminster-Sherbrooke intersection. Instead, the Town installed a pair of bollards which the resident noted "do not have any impact on traffic, except on careful drivers."

2. Crime

- **Motel St Jacques closed. August Council meeting video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOC&t=4647s>

Councillor Small-Pennefather announced (video 34:51) that the SPVM on June 28 raided and seized the infamous Motel St Jacques. A number of crimes in the Town were generated by individuals residing there. *The site of the motel was responsible for 25% of all arrest warrants issued for NDG, Hampstead, CSL, and MoWest.*

Also from The Gazette article, URL below, "The number of calls to police from the motel rose to 126 in 2020 from 66 in 2019, police said in a court document, and has risen yearly since then, reaching 177 in 2023. Police have been called to the motel 94 times this year."

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/prosecutors-seize-n-d-g-motel-after-overdoses-say-owner-benefited-from-drug-sex-trafficking>

- **Porch-pirates. Councillor Small-Pennefather** was interviewed on CTV Montreal news (January 6, 2024) about high rate of porch-piracy in Montreal West. <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/porch-pirates-a-daily-problem-in-montreal-west-1.6714555>

[Back to the top](#)

- **Incidents**

September, 2023 Council meeting – November, 2023 Informer: **Councillor Small-Pennefather** reported a number of events which took place in the Town over the past month. Police are investigating an altercation between two groups of youths that took place on Broughton during which shots were fired. A suspicious looking bag, containing passports, ID cards, and some witchcraft books was discovered, and a back pack was stolen from the Town Hall. One individual has been arrested and residents are warned to report any suspicious activity they may observe to the police.

The **Town of Montreal West Residents Facebook page**: has had numerous postings concerning stolen cars and car break-ins.

Town of Montreal West Residents Facebook page: April 22, 2024: Burglar caught on Fenwick in early morning who broke into shed and stole bicycle.

Town of Montreal West Residents Facebook page: April 20, 2024: Burglar smashed back window to gain entry into house on Brock North between 6 – 9:30 PM. Trashed place and stole jewelry.

May, 2024 Informer Page 17: Two wallets stolen from unattended handbags in Westminster restaurant.

- **Crime statistics.**

April 2024 Council meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk>

Three residents asked (video 53:47) if it was "possible to release list a more detailed monthly list of vandalism, break-ins, stolen vehicles so that citizens can have a better idea what Town streets are being targeted, what times of day, the MO of the perpetrators. It would be easier for citizens to protect their properties if they know what's going on. Is there any data to see how we compare with other municipalities? We used to get a report of monthly crime statistics." **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (55:18) explained that Montreal West, CSL, Hampstead and NDG now have amalgamated statistics. The SPVM is not able to provide Montreal West data. Interestingly, as far as these crimes are concerned, she noted that if one of our Public Security Officers sees something happening they'll assess the situation, but *most likely they'll call 911 because they're unarmed and it's not part of their mandate!!* She also noted that only 3 residents showed up last year to an information session with the SPVM.

[Back to the top](#)

3. Westminster & Sherbrooke: train crossing and crosswalks

Aggressive speeding & road rage

- **April 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk>

An NDG resident spoke (video 1:03:19) of the dangers at the crossing due to cars going through stop signs, or aggressively speeding across the tracks with road rage. Stop signs aren't illuminated. **Mayor Masella** (1:03:43) agreed observing that we have a lot of measures in place which should be handling it, but people aren't respecting the safety designs that are in place. However, because of the death that occurred there recently *there will be an inquest and perhaps the coroner will come up with some recommendations that haven't been thought of, or some other ideas to try to improve the safety of that intersection.*

Crosswalks on either side of the tracks.

- **September, 2022 Council meeting**, November, 2022, Informer: Problems for pedestrians using the crosswalk at Sherbrooke and Westminster continue to be reported at Council meetings. *Traffic engineers have been asked for possible solutions and it has been determined that there are none presently.* A long-term plan, involving the cooperation of CP, is required for a reconfiguration of the whole area.

[Back to the top](#)

Crossing tracks on east side

- **March 2024 Council meeting** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmAQ5boX3yE>

A resident (video 32:04) felt that the Town is not very pedestrian friendly. To get to Pharmaprix from Brock S. he has to use 2 crosswalks to avoid crossing the tracks on the east side. **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (33:20) replied that the Community Safety Committee is looking at a number of interventions on Westminster. "The east side where you can no longer cross the tracks was done by Exo, that wasn't a Town intervention."

4. Trucks on Avon & Ronald Drive – Waiting for Godot 1

- **August, 2024 meeting video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s> (1:23:57). Montreal West is still waiting for Lachine truck route plan.
- **October, 2022 Council meeting** -- December, 2022, Informer: A truck route is still awaiting Lachine's approval before police can enforce any more restrictions on traffic on Avon road.
- **October, 2021 Council meeting** -- December, 2021, Informer: The oft-repeated complaint about the many trucks using Avon can be resolved only when the Quebec government approves the trucking plan submitted by the Town and it becomes law. The hold-up is because all the surrounding municipalities must first give their approval to this plan and Lachine has not yet done so. Either the plan must be modified to suit Lachine or the Town must find another way to surmount the obstacles.
- **March, 2021 Council meeting** -- April-May, 2021, Informer: Large transport trucks rumbling along Brock South and Ronald Drive, especially at night, prompted a resident to ask if there are any restrictions the Town can impose on this traffic. The mayor explained that only the SPVM can enforce regulations involving moving violations. However, the Town does have restrictions on the types of trucks going through the area. Public Security can investigate further if they are informed of the distinguishing letter (F or L) on the licence plate of the truck. **[Editor's note:** But Public Security has no authority to fine these trucks.]

[Back to the top](#)

5. Bicycle safety

Bicycles on Westminster sidewalks

- **May 2024 Council meeting video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlVmCS1OsNI>

A resident noted (video 49:53) that he had seen whole families riding together on sidewalks. What can be done? **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (50:04) replied that it is only the SPVM that can enforce the bylaw. They do have a seat on our Community Safety Committee. She hopes to have a sensitivity campaign [did this occur?] She suggests using another street [Strathearn], or walk bikes when on sidewalk.

- **October, 2022, Council meeting** -- December, 2022, Informer
The province as well as the Town has regulations prohibiting bikes from being ridden on sidewalks for the safety of pedestrians. As the Mayor stated, while the **creation of bike paths within the Town** has been considered several times, he still feels a larger and wider consultation and coordination is desirable before the best plan for Montreal West can be developed.

[Back to the top](#)

Bike paths in Montreal West

- **October, 2023, Council meeting** -- December, 2023, Informer: **Waiting for Godot 2**
A member of the **bike safety committee** asked **why it is taking so long for the Town to install a bike path** in its territory. He said that this committee is preparing statistics on the number of dangerous incidents involving school children on bicycles, particularly in the area around the train station. **Councillor Ulin** explained there is a bike committee in the Town examining this issue and they are presently waiting for news from the Agglomeration committee for its recommendations concerning how Montreal West's plans can be incorporated into a city-wide plan. **Unfortunately, these recommendations have been in abeyance for almost five years.** The Town would also have to seek guidance from some professionals on the implementation and safety issues involved.
- **September, 2022, Council meeting** -- November, 2022, Informer:
Although possibilities for these internal bike paths have been discussed in the past, the mayor feels that it would not necessarily be the most efficient way to plan. The idea would be best looked at as part of the holistic plan being developed by the Agglomeration Council even though that plan is moving very slowly.

[Back to the top](#)

August, 2022, Council meeting

- It was suggested that a **bike path connecting the present path at the end of Brock South to the Falaise Saint-Jacques and beyond would be desirable.** The Agglomeration Council is in charge of developing bike paths on the Island although progress in that area is slow, the mayor will put the idea forward. More information was requested about the plan for a bike path to be built within Hydro-Quebec's Green Line, but no further information is available,

BIXI in Montreal West?

- **April, 2022, Council meeting** -- June, 2022, Informer:
The mayor explained that he doesn't know if there are any **plans to install a BIXI at the train station** during the Sherbrooke development since all of that takes place on the NDG side. He understands the cost to buy a BIXI station is quite expensive (??\$25,000?? Per year??), but when he meets with the mayor of NDG he will see if they have any plans to do so. [**Editor's note:** As of September, 2024 there is now a BIXI stand at Sherbrooke and Patricia – opposite Subway.]

[Back to the top](#)

6. Studies & reports

It would be useful if these studies and reports were made public:

- **Westminster safety plan. April 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk>
A resident queried (video 44:44) about the status of a security report focusing on enhancing our city's safety measures including road safety which was to be commissioned in 2022. **Councillor Small-Pennefather** (45:44) replied that the Community Safety Committee focused a lot of their time and effort **on finding a safety plan for Westminster which has been submitted to council with recommendations.**
- **Westminster crossing study.** Traffic engineers have been asked for possible solutions and it has been determined that there are none presently. [Was this verbal, or written?] (**September, 2022 Council meeting** – November, 2022 Informer)
- **Traffic study on Brock S. May 2024 Council meeting video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIVmCS1OsNI>
Councillor Small-Pennefather announced (video 1:43) that the Town is currently conducting a traffic study on Brock S. in response to speeding.
- **Garden road traffic study**
June 2024 Council meeting video: (11:17) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44
- **Radcliffe speed bump study -- Misplaced/ abandoned?**
September, 2024 Council meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFpcBAxjSKc&t=1342s>
A resident observed (video 30:38) that there had been data collected on Radcliffe prior to Covid.
- **Sheraton traffic study. Councillor Small-Pennefather** replied that there was a traffic study conducted on Sheraton in 2021, and an earlier study on Banstead. **April 2024 Council meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk> (video 44:44)
- [Back to the top](#)

- **Potential Doppler radar study and request for a speed bump on Radcliffe.** (video 22:23)
June 2024 Council meeting video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44
- **Street Light Master Plan.** During other business, it was announced that the long-awaited Street Light Master Plan for the Town has been approved. (November, 2022, Informer – **September, 2022 Council meeting**)
- **Related to the Street Light Master Plan: Poor lighting on Brock S. & Ballantyne S.** A feeling of safety after dark is being hindered by inadequate lighting on Brock South. The mayor explained that a study is in progress to evaluate all lighting solutions in the Town and it will be a useful guide to remedy situations such as this one. However, *additional lamp posts can only be added when the street is undergoing reconstruction.* (April, 2022, Informer – **February, 2022 Council meeting**)

[Back to the top](#)

7. Miscellaneous

Staircase between Courtney and Ronald Drive.

- **October, 2021 Council meeting** -- December, 2021, Informer
The proposal to provide lighting for the steps from Ronald Drive (to Courtney?) may be considered.
- **November, 2020 Council meeting** -- January-February, 2021, Informer
The question of why the Town has stopped clearing the stairs in winter between Courtney and Ronald Drive was brought up again and this time by multiple people. The mayor explained, once again, that those stairs have not been cleared of snow by the Town for decades. The steep stairs are considered very dangerous in the winter and, to prevent accidents, the Town had installed a fence at the top and the bottom with a sign stating the stairs were closed during the winter. The mayor expressed willingness to co-operate in a discussion with the appropriate people concerning what solution to this situation could be implemented and maintained.

Fence on Davies park.

- **June 2024 Council meeting video:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44
A resident asked (video 24:13) if a fence could be installed along the Westminster side of Davies park to stop small children from running onto the street. **Councillor Feeney** replied that there are no plans to install a fence.

Dog attacks.

- **June 2023, Council meeting** -- September, 2023 Informer
Councillor Small-Pennefather reported a dog attack that happened in Montreal West. She warned that there is a provincial regulation that has been in place for almost three years obliging doctors and veterinarians to report such incidents, that goes beyond municipal regulations. The law goes as far as euthanizing a dog if it has harmed a person or another animal.

[Back to the top](#)