

TRANSLATION

Project to improve the road network in Vaudreuil-Dorion

THE BAPE WILL INFORM THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 20, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.

Québec, February 20, 2007 – The Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement (BAPE) will hold an information session on the *Project to improve the road network in Vaudreuil-Dorion by the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion*. This session, in which the proponent and the ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs will participate, will be hosted by a representative of the BAPE and will be held on **Tuesday, March 20th, starting at 7:30 p.m., at Salle Très-Sainte-Trinité (church basement) located at 145, boulevard Saint-Charles in Vaudreuil-Dorion**. The purpose of the information session is to allow citizens to obtain information about the project, the environmental impact assessment and review procedure, the public consultation process, as well as the role of the BAPE. This information session falls under the mandate that Claude Béchar, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, has entrusted to the BAPE. The latter must make available to the public the impact study and the entire file pertaining to the project. The public information and consultation period begins today, February 20th, and will end on Friday, April 6, 2007.

It is during this 45-day period that any citizen, group, municipality or organization can submit an application for a public hearing to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks. As the case may be, a commission of the BAPE could be put in charge of examining the project and consulting the public on this subject.

WHERE CAN THE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION BE CONSULTED?

Citizens can learn more about the project by consulting the impact study prepared by the proponent and the other documents describing the project and, among other things, its repercussions on the environment. Starting today and until Friday, April 6, 2007, these documents may be consulted at the BAPE office in Québec City, at the Central Library of Université du Québec à Montréal as well as on the website of the BAPE at the following address: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca under the heading “Mandats en cours”. The entire file is also available at the **Vaudreuil-Dorion municipal library located at 51, avenue Jeannotte in Vaudreuil-Dorion**.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CITIZENS?

Citizens are invited to examine the file, to act as experts in their community by underscoring the issues related to the project, to ask questions during the information session and to record their comments in the registers opened for this purpose at the consultation centres.

WHAT RIGHTS DO CITIZENS HAVE?

Any person, group, organization or municipality wishing to receive additional information or clarifications, to obtain the opinion of experts on the project or to make known their opinion and their position regarding the project can apply for a public hearing during the public information and consultation period. This application must be submitted in writing not later than **Friday, April 6, 2007**, to Claude Béchar, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 30^e étage, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7. Applicants must indicate the reasons for their application and their interest in the environment affected by the project.

THE PROJECT

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is planning to build three separate road infrastructures within the city's perimeter. The project would consist of broadening to four lanes Rue Félix-Leclerc, over a distance of about 2 km, as well as Boulevard de la Cité des Jeunes, over a distance of about 1.5 km, between Autoroute 540 and the Canadian Pacific railway line. In addition, Avenue André-Chartrand would be extended in a new four-lane north-south axis over a length of about 2 km between Boulevard de la Cité des Jeunes and Route Harwood. This infrastructure would have three main structures, namely a bridge just over 20 m in length to cross Quinchien River and two railway bridges to cross the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railway corridors. The project also provides for the laying out of two bicycle paths on the sides of Boulevard de la Cité des Jeunes and of Avenue André-Chartrand.

The City estimates the project's construction cost to be about \$32 million and anticipates the entry into service of Rue Félix-Leclerc for 2007-2008, that of Boulevard de la Cité des Jeunes for 2012, and that of Avenue André-Chartrand for 2016.

The repercussions anticipated by the proponent and the mitigation measures proposed in the impact study

During the construction period, the work could adversely affect noise levels, the quality of the ambient air as well as traffic conditions. Common mitigation measures would be implemented by the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion to reduce the repercussions of the work on the quality of life of residents. The carrying out of the project would also lead to the acquisition or relocation of approximately four buildings and of a surface area of about 7.4 ha of land, affecting some fifteen properties. In this regard, the City would pay financial compensation to the owners of the buildings and the lands affected. As for the natural environment, the course of Dorion Stream would be altered and Quinchien River would be crossed by Avenue André-Chartrand. The planned bridge would not encroach on the fish habitat. However, the effect of the work would be to temporarily increase the quantity of suspended particulates in the surface water and to accentuate the erosion process in riparian zones. Soil stabilization work would be carried out in the most sensitive sectors as the construction work unfolds.

During the operating period, an increase in noise levels is expected, particularly near Avenue André-Chartrand. Noise control structures would be set up inside the central road island in the Jardins Dorion sector. The winter upkeep of roads using ice melters would lead to an increase in suspended particulates in wetlands and aquatic environments. To help mitigate this increase, the City would give priority, among other things, to a fast drainage system to the storm sewer network. As for air quality, exhaust gases and the raising of dust attributable to the passage of vehicles would lead to an increase in concentrations of air pollutants.

Finally, according to the impact study, the project would make it possible to improve traffic and the safety of the users of the municipal road network, to ensure a more fluid service at the Vaudreuil regional station, to provide better access to the city's commercial hubs, and to promote interaction between them.

Persons wishing to obtain more information can consult the documents submitted or get in touch with Catherine Roberge, at the following number: 418 643-7447 or, toll-free, at 1 800 463-4732 extension 531 or by e-mail at the following address: vaudreuil-dorion@bape.gouv.qc.ca.