

September 13, 2009

To Whom it May Concern;

This is a letter of concern is addressed particularly to Jacques Gagnon, Michel Boivin and the ministry of transport as a whole, however it is also of relevance to both local and national press as well as the various interested communities of Montreal. I am a local artist living and working in Griffintown, a neighborhood of particular historical significance to which I am both personally and politically invested in its future. As a resident of a neighborhood in which I see great potential, I participate in the planning of projects such as the creation of a cultural corridor, which intends to link Griffintown to the Old Port and bring attention to the many treasures of the neighborhood. I further value the neighborhood as a safe and peaceful territory that is affordable and receptive to artists.

As a practicing artist I am familiar with current climate of the rising construction of condos, and it is not uncommon for artists to encounter the need to move further and further from the city center in search of affordable studio space. Griffintown is indeed one of the few remaining communities that is readily accessible to the core of Montreal, and also remains feasible to maintain a studio space. I am therefore incredibly concerned by the current transport plan to build the Dalhousie bus corridor, which intends to send 1400 buses a day through the heart of Griffintown, effectively condemning the historical building of which I and other artists are tenants. I find it unfortunate that the cultural base which marks a major contribution to the a name and face that Montreal is internationally recognized for, is not considered as a community at stake in the planning and development of the city s urban architecture.

Aside from this tragedy, the Dalhousie bus corridor would further isolate Griffintown from its surrounding neighborhoods, prohibit the development of community projects, and further drive out the current residents who have attempted to call Griffintown their home. As a citizen who travels by foot and values a decent air quality and soundscape, I urge the city to rethink the proposed vision, and to include in the process of planning a component of communication with the residents, landowners, and local businesses of the area.

Sincerely,

Fiona Annis