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Feasibility study

AERIAL TRAMWAY IN LAVAL!

Laval, November 22, 2011 — The Société de transport de Laval (STL) announced its intention, today, to carry out a feasibility study to determine whether it would be appropriate to put an aerial tramway into service on its territory. Ville de Laval, Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) and Hydro-Québec all support this decision.

A number of major cities in the world—New York, Portland, Lisbon, Singapore, Medellín and Rio de Janeiro and soon London, as well, to name a few—are already successfully operating cable car transportation systems.

Powered by electricity, an aerial tramway ranks among the technologies to which these metropolises are resorting, as aerial trams have proven to be an advantageous urban transit solution.

Time- and money-saving option

During a press conference, Laval Mayor Gilles Vaillancourt said he was delighted with this initiative. "The metro continues to be an ideal option for us to structure public transit in Laval's downtown area," added the Mayor. "However, it takes a lot of time to build and Laval is developing so quickly. An aerial tramway could rapidly meet needs, without having to set up any heavy infrastructures. And at a fraction of the price—approximately \$20 to \$25 million per kilometre, compared to \$200 million for the metro."

Jean-Jacques Beldié, STL's Chairman of the Board, pointed out that this project is yet another of the measures that already form part of the sustainable mobility plan adopted by municipal authorities last June and is in keeping with the objective of reducing—within the next twenty years—50% of the greenhouse gas emissions per capita produced by transporting Laval residents. "Besides, an aerial tramway will make it easier to implement *ÉvoluCité*, the Sustainable Urban Planning Policy, that Laval has adopted in order to promote the emergence of denser, multi-purpose, user-friendly neighbourhoods served by efficient public transit systems," explained Mr. Beldié.



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"The AMT is joining in this study in order to contribute toward the emergence of innovative projects promoting energy efficiency and an increase in the role played by sources of renewable energy in operating public transit systems. Such projects are in line with the AMT's will to electrify mass transit operations in order to reduce its dependency on gasoline and keep its greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum in the Greater Montréal area. The avant-garde Clic carpooling program is a wonderful example of this. In addition to being the outcome of collaborative efforts between the STL, the AMT and their partners, it is an original initiative, full of promise for the future, that is aimed at using of multi-modal, sustainable, integrated transportation in line with eco-responsible practices," mentioned Michel Veilleux, Vice-President, Planning and Innovations at the AMT.

A fully-electric means of transportation

"Remaining true to its strategic plan, Hydro-Québec is pursuing its involvement in the electrification of public transit by supporting the Laval aerial tramway feasibility study," mentioned Chantal Guimont, Hydro-Québec's Director, Electric Vehicle Energy Systems. "By making its clean, renewable energy available to electromobility projects in this way, Hydro-Québec is playing an active part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Montmorency station

And lastly, Pierre Giard, the STL's General Manager, stated that the aerial tram route would run from Montmorency station northbound to serve major areas of interest. "The route, the capacity of the cars and the frequency of service will be subject to an in-depth examination," he commented.

The STL, facts and figures

- The STL operates over 20-million runs annually.
- The STL has rolled out its *STLSynchro* system, which informs transit users, in real time, about bus schedules and progress along the routes.
- The overhaul of its bus network, made necessary by the extension of the metro to Laval, gave rise to a 32% increase in service, faster trips, more direct bus routes and a greater frequency of buses outside rush hours, on evenings and weekends.



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- The STL has also joined forces with the Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique, Communauto and the Carpooling Network, to promote sustainable transportation in Laval.
- All vehicles on its fleet use biodiesel B5.
- The STL is registered on Twitter and has its own page on Facebook, where it announces service notices.
- The STL offers riders the opportunity to register on My STL in order to receive notices on the bus routes that they usually take.
- Since the roll-out, in 2009, of its vehicle scheduling control system, the STL's on-time performance rates continue to improve, and to date, it has succeeded in achieving rates of over 92%.
- The STL has received a number of awards of distinction, including one from the AQTR in 2010: the Grand Prix for excellence in mass transit, positioning it as an outstanding corporation.
- In 2011, the STL was honoured with the AQTR's general public communication award for its *Smog Alert* program.

— 30 —

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