

Westmount Earth Hour 2018

Walking and bicycling are the two most eco-friendly forms of urban transportation. Increasing the modal share of active transportation can do more to reduce GHG than electrification of cars or increasing public transport, both of which require large public expense.

The Westmount Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists was founded in order to promote active transportation within our city. In order to encourage more walking and cycling in Westmount both must feel safer than they do now. This can be accomplished by.

- 1. Engineering Building infrastructure that encourages active transportation
- 2. Education Teaching safe road behaviour
- 3. Enforcement Discouraging unsafe behaviour

Engineering Westmount streets to encourage walking.





Standard intersection, corner of Lansdowne and Sherbrooke. Not inviting for pedestrians.

An inviting pedestrian intersection, Notre Dame in St Henri has clear markings and elevated roadway.

Westmount, 2% of trips are made by bicycles, Amstelveen, 50% of trips are made by bicycles.



Westmount. At this time few of the streets have bicycle paths.



Amstelveen, a municipality within metropolitan Amsterdam. All the major streets have bicycle paths.

Engineering Westmount streets safe for pedestrians and cyclists

All the major streets should have bicycle paths. Cars and bicycles shared the same road on Toronto's Bloor Street until 2016. Separating the two made that street safer and shows what can be done in Westmount as well.



Sherbrooke Street. Cars and bicycles still mix together, discouraging cycling. Timid cyclists are encouraged to use sidewalks.



Bloor Street. Space for cars, bicycles and pedestrians clearly defined. Safer for everyone

Education

Safe behaviour can be encouraged by education, but it is less effective than starting with good engineering.



Cycling education courses being taught in Westmount.



Westmount children after taking course, but the photo shows that parents still feel it is unsafe.

Enforcement

Unsafe practices such as night cycling without lights need to be discouraged.



Presently we estimate that only 60% of night time cyclists in Westmount have lights.



Westmount Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists would like to see enforcement bring up this number up to around 80%.

