

Light rail plans imperilled: activists

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Construction on or near the old Doney spur railway line in Pointe Claire could threaten the proposed creation of a rapid transit train linking the West Island to downtown, the Green Coalition warns.

Green Coalition officials said the land that was once used for the Doney spur line, near the corner of St. Jean Blvd. and the Trans-Canada Highway, where a Home Depot store is now under construction, is the keystone for the creation of a light rail or ultra-light transit line.

"But construction of the Home Depot's new big-box store is under way and the massive structure is being built across the right-of-way of the Doney spur," Sylvia Oljemark, a spokesperson for the Green Coalition, said last week, adding that part of the Doney spur was sold by CN three years ago to the shopping mall where the new Home Depot will be located.

Oljemark said the Doney spur stretched west from the Deux Montagnes commuter rail line in St. Laurent, then along the Trans-Canada Highway as far as Stillview Ave. near the Lakeshore General Hospital.