

RE: "A St. Henri Coalition wants Quebec to look again at its \$1.5-billion plan to rebuild the highway interchange. They foresee more of the same: more cars, more pollution; Greening the Turcot", Max Harrold, The Gazette, Mon., Dec. 8, 2008, P.A4.

Dear Editor,

A highway tunnel at the Turcot does not make it green.

A tunnel would just hide the cars and shift the pollution elsewhere.

Similar promises of tax revenues for reclaimed land abounded when

Boston's Big Dig, (Central Artery and Third Harbor Tunnel) was being sold to the public.

Because of construction costs, mismanagement, inferior construction materials, corruption and unrealistic expectations for Boston's Central Artery Tunnel Project, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority is facing ruination with a \$US2.2 billion debt. So far it has cost the State of Massachusetts and the US federal government an astounding \$US22 billion.

This has put Boston's plans for improved transit and a North Station-South Station link in peril. (See:

<http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/Patrick-says-toll-hikes-almost-certain-/1226614351.html>,

http://www.boston.com/news/traffic/bigdig/articles/2008/07/17/big_digs_red_ink_engulfs_state/)

The tunnel's structural integrity is also in question.

In 2006, several unhinged concrete ceiling panels crushed a female motorist to death.

(See: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/07/12/national/main1795818.shtml>)

Quebec and Montreal would more likely see the colour red for decades to come should Mobilisation Turcot's dream become reality. We do not need another Big Owe.

A similar project would bankrupt Montreal as it has bankrupted Boston and delay greener more energy efficient projects as a tram-train from Downtown to Dorval and the West Island.

A true green plan would eliminate the Ville Marie Highway altogether, replace it with high frequency light rail and intercity high speed rail, encourage transit oriented development and restore the St. Jacques Escarpment and St. Pierre River.

Yours Sincerely,

Avrom David Shtern,
Cote Saint Luc, QC