

MAILBOX:

RE: "No one has a problem with plan for light rail line", The Gazette, West Island, March 13, 2008.

Dear Editor,

It is heartening that West Islanders may finally get improved service on the Lakeshore. However, the Doney Spur should not be regarded as an "also ran" and then forgotten once an improved CPR line is officially designated as the favoured route to the airport.

Many secondary railway lines like the Doney are constantly under threat of discontinuance and disappearance and must be conserved for future light rail use. The Doney in particular can fill a need that the other two West Island commuter services cannot. The Dorion-Rigaud line serves the Southern flank of the West Island and the Two Mountains line serves only parts of St. Laurent and Eastern Pierrefonds-Roxboro. Both routes also have many off-island passengers.

According to the latest Statistics Canada figures only 17% use public transit north of Highway 40. This is not surprising since bus service is theadbare and the commuter rail that exists is packed to the rafters. Also there have been many disastrous accounts of delays and cancellations of AMT and MTC service recently.

The AMT has set aside monies to study the potential of the Doney in its capital works plan. One hopes that once the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Airport/ Lakeshore Tram-Train shuttle proves itself as an effective way to induce motorists back to transit, West Island mayors, the West Island CLD and the Montreal Agglomeration will see the environmental benefits of surface metro like service on the Doney Spur.

Yours Sincerely,
Avrom David Shtern,
Green Coalition, Transportation Issues,
Cote Saint Luc, QC,