



Westmounters: Make BMW
mean Bus, Metro, Walk!

Description

In Westmount you're never far from a bus or metro stop

By **Tony Moffat**

With downtown only 5 km away from Westmount on average, it seems close enough. However, who takes the 40 minutes to walk this every workday? While an ever-growing number cycle it in 5-10 minutes each way and some take public transportation, I suspect that the vast majority still use their personal cars.

Such mileage can add up, with both financial and environmental consequences. For the 200 working days in the year, that daily commute by private car makes a total of 2000 km, corresponding to just over a half metric ton of CO2 for an average car at a cost just for gasoline of about \$300; the actual cost is about triple that (i.e. just under \$1000), allowing for maintenance and depreciation – but not allowing for the considerable damage done to the environment, which can be many factors worse.

You can use an Opus card any time and go anywhere any number of times in Montreal! And by doing so you will considerably reduce your carbon footprint...

The cost of a monthly [Opus card](#) pass with the STM is \$86.50, so \$1038 per year. This is similar to the basic cost of a car, but just for one return car trip downtown on workdays. You can use an Opus card any time and go anywhere any number of times in Montreal! And by doing so you will considerably reduce your carbon footprint (even more once electric buses become the norm, like the Metro), plus enjoy having someone else drive you while you relax and read or daydream, stress-free and without the hassle of maybe having to deal with an accident. It may take you a little longer but think of the exercise you'll get while minimizing your impact on the environment.

And you're never very far away on foot from public transport in Westmount – see accompanying map, which shows the principal bus routes and nearby Metro stations. Plus you can easily find out to the nearest minute when buses pass at any stop, either on-line with a computer or a smartphone. It takes me 5 minutes to walk to or from my nearest bus stop in upper Westmount and sometimes I even take the 12 minutes to walk to Queen Mary to catch bus 51.



Click image to access the complete STM system map

There's no good excuse anymore to drive. Use active transportation: Anywhere in Westmount, you're never far from a bus or Metro stop.

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of our own Galaxy.

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