

Moving Around on the Streets or Riding the STM

Your experiences on the bus, metro and on the roads

Most Montrealers use public transportation on a regular basis. As a public transit user, what are your rights and responsibilities? Also, what are the consequences if you don't respect the rules and regulations of the *Société de transport de Montréal* (STM)? Can you hitchhike in the city?

Keep reading to find out the answers to these questions and more...

What is jaywalking? What can happen if I get caught?

Jaywalking is a term commonly used to describe the act of walking across a street in undesignated areas at undesignated times. You are only supposed to cross streets at the corners of the streets or at the crosswalks.

If you are at an intersection with traffic lights you must wait for a green light or a pedestrian crossing signal. You have to respect traffic signs and signals at all times, even if there seems to be no danger. If you are caught jaywalking you can be fined by a police officer.

These signs exist to ensure your safety and that of other individuals using the roadway. Not respecting them could endanger yourself and others. Please use roads and pathways responsibly. In certain situations, you may be required to follow the directions given by police

Is it legal to hitchhike?

In Québec, it is not illegal to hitchhike. What is prohibited is the act of "standing on the roadway" to solicit transportation and asking for transportation in places where "passing is prohibited." Essentially, it is forbidden to solicit rides on highways and motorways. Pedestrians are not permitted to enter or stay on the highway shoulder in Québec. You will see signs posted on this highways prohibiting use of the highway by pedestrians.

If you decide to hitchhike, please be alert and be safe.

What are my duties as a public transport user?

As an STM user you are obligated to follow the rules and regulations set out by the ***Société de transport de Montréal***. These rules were established to ensure users' safety as well as outline behaviour expected to ensure the smooth operation of the STM. Service users should not:

- Obstruct or hinder the free movement of people
- Endanger the safety of people or rolling stock
- Put their feet on a bench, seat or place any object or substance that may soil it
- Refuse to follow instructions given by an STM agent
- Slow down or interrupt the work of an STM employee

- Have any concealed or illegal weapons on their person including knives, machetes or any similar objects without a reasonable excuse.
- Without prior authorization, consume or have a container holding an open alcoholic drink or beverage
- Make, affix or engrave an inscription, drawing, graffiti, tag, sticker or any other figure on STM property
- Sit down or slide on the handrails or the adjacent sides of an escalator or make any other inappropriate use of it
- Unless with prior authorization, or in cases of emergency, be present or circulate after STM's hours of operation

Can I be fined by the STM? What can I be fined for?

If you fail to respect the rules and regulations of the STM you can be fined by police or metro security.

You can find for the following offences:

- Holding the doors of a metro train open for someone (\$150 - \$500 fine)
- Getting on a bus or metro train without paying for a metro pass (\$150 - \$500 fine)
- Riding a bicycle, rollerblades or skateboard while in a metro station (\$75 + cost of damages)
- Using a laser pointer on a bus or in the metro \$(75 + cost of damages)
- Delaying a metro train (\$150+ cost of damages)
- Holding onto the exterior of an STM vehicle (\$150 + cost of damages)
- Walking on the metro train tracks (\$500 +cost of damages)
- Littering in the metro station or on a bus (\$100+ cost of damages)

If you would like to further your knowledge about offenses that you can be fined for, please consult the STM bylaws.

Can the STM security hold me for questioning?

If you break any of the rules or regulations of the STM an STM agent is permitted by law to stop you and ask for your name, address and date of birth. You will be issued a ticket defining your offence as well as the monetary fine you are to pay.

If you refuse to provide your personal information, the metro security can detain and hold you for questioning. If you are caught committing a criminal act, STM agents can arrest you and hold you in their custody until the police arrive.

What is the difference between being in detention and being under arrest?

You are considered to be in detention when an agent has not noted the commission of a criminal offence. Detention is made only for investigative purposes. In such a case, the police officer or agent simply wants to know more about a situation. Essentially, a detention is:

- of a short duration
- not to be disadvantageous to the person being stopped
- not obligatory and every individual has the right to know the reasons for his detention.

Although it is not legally required to cooperate during a detention, we are morally obligated by law to collaborate with peace officers so as to ensure the functioning of society.

On the other hand, you are considered to be under arrest when you are deprived of your liberty. An STM agent can arrest you if you commit a criminal offence. However, STM agents are must hand you over to police officers.

Note that: STM agents do not have the same powers as police officers. They are not police officers. STM agents hold the same powers as citizens, like you. All citizens have the power to make a citizen's arrest from the law.

Do I have to answer the STM Inspector's questions?

Yes, you are morally obligated to answer an STM inspector's questions because, depending on the circumstance, refusal to do so can constitute an obstruction of the inspectors' work. You could be issued a statement of offence or even be charged with obstructing a public official under the *Criminal Code*. If you continue to refuse to identify yourself, you could be arrested. Don't try to be slick--you can be charged for an offence if you:

- Give false information to an STM agent
- Try to stop agents from arresting someone
- Refuse to identify yourself after an infraction

What if I am only 15? Can STM inspectors arrest me or give me a ticket for an infraction?

If you are over 14 years of age an STM agent can issue you a ticket for an infraction. If you are younger, they have the power by law to obtain your personal information so that they can notify your parents of your offence and charge them.

An STM agent can arrest anybody over 12 years old.

Do I need a STM reduced fare ID card with me when I buy a reduced fare ticket?

Yes, you need to have your STM card with you at all times. You can only benefit from your reduced fare if you have proof, in the form of your STM card. Even if you look much younger than a 16 year old, you need your STM ID card.

Only the STM ID is valid for identification; a Medicare card, driver's license or student ID will not do. Without proper identification, you must IMMEDIATELY pay the regular fare.

If you get on a bus or metro without a proper ID card or fail to pay the fare, you could be fined.

If the bus is full and I have a monthly pass can I get on using the back doors?

No, unless the bus driver gives you permission.

Can I jump the turnstiles of the metro station if I have my monthly pass?

No, you must swipe your STM card or pay--unless an STM authority gives you permission to use the metro or bus without presenting your card or paying a fare.

What happens if I touch the large bars covered with yellow insulation on the track level

Keep off train tracks at all times. Respect the safety line on the platform edge in the metro as it exists for your protection. Walk in areas specifically created for the public. If you go to prohibited areas, you will be putting yourself in serious danger.

The train tracks transmit a lot of electricity. Do not listen to myths about how rubber shoes or watches will save you from any electric shock; touching these bars can kill you.

Can the STM take away my right to travel on public transportation?

No the ***Société de Transport de Montréal*** cannot take away your right to travel on public transportation.

If you violate any of the rules imposed by the STM you can be fined or even have the police involved. However, unless you have been shown to pose a security threat to STM officials or people around you, your right to use public transportation cannot legally be suspended or taken away.

If your right to use public transportation has been suspended or taken away, you may file a complaint and demand that your right to travel be reinstated.