

## Lesson Plan 4: Closer to Home: Bit by bit via Public Transit

Montréal's public transit system and pedestrian-friendly streets can take you almost any and everywhere in the city. Or you can hop on a BIXI public bike to explore some of the city's over 750 kilometres of bike paths. As a public transit user, you should know your rights and responsibilities. Also, it is important to be aware of the consequences, if you fail to respect the rules and regulations of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), Montreal's transportation agency.

### Topic 1: Traffic Rules for Pedestrians

As pedestrians, you must obey the following rules:

- When there is an intersection or crosswalk nearby, pedestrians must use it<sup>1</sup>.
- If there is no intersection or crosswalk, pedestrians must yield to vehicles before crossing<sup>2</sup>.
- Be alert. Avoid taking unnecessary risks.
- When there is a flashing pedestrian walk signal and a countdown, pedestrians can enter the roadway only if they are able to reach the other sidewalk or the safety zone before the orange hand appears<sup>3</sup>. A pedestrian who does not think there is time to get all the way across should wait for the next walk signal<sup>4</sup>.
- For a flashing walk sign without a countdown, pedestrians who are already crossing should hurry across to the other sidewalk or safety zone<sup>5</sup>. Pedestrians who are not yet on the crosswalk should wait for the next walk signal<sup>6</sup>.
- Wherever there are pedestrians crossing signals, pedestrians must obey them<sup>7</sup>.

Pedestrians must obey pedestrian lights<sup>8</sup>. They take priority over all other traffic control devices<sup>9</sup>.

### Pedestrian Lights

**CROSS:** Look both ways. Watch out for vehicles that are turning. Cross.

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<sup>1</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 450.

<sup>2</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 447.

<sup>3</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(5).

<sup>4</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(5).

<sup>5</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(4).

<sup>6</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(4).

<sup>7</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(1).

<sup>8</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444.

<sup>9</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 445 a contrario.

**WARNING:** Flashing orange hand. If you have already started to cross, complete your crossing<sup>10</sup>. If the hand is flashing and there is no countdown timer, you must not start crossing the street<sup>11</sup>.

**STOP:** When the solid red hand is displayed, do not cross<sup>12</sup>. Fine: \$15<sup>13</sup>

**COUNTDOWN:** See how much time is left. Only cross if you have enough time to get to the other sidewalk. If the countdown is at zero, do not cross<sup>14</sup>.

## **Pedestrians crossing the Street**

- When there is an intersection or a pedestrian crosswalk nearby, you must only cross the street at these places<sup>15</sup>.
- If there are no clearly identified intersections or crosswalks nearby, you must yield to vehicles and cyclists before crossing<sup>16</sup>.
- As a pedestrian, you are required to cross perpendicular to the road, whether you are crossing at an intersection or mid-block<sup>17</sup>.
- You are not allowed to cross a street diagonally, unless otherwise authorized by a sign<sup>18</sup>.

**Note:** When you cross diagonally, motorists will only see you at the last moment when they are turning at an intersection.

## **Absolutely No Texting-and- Crossing**

Nowadays distracted walking is becoming a very big problem, because too many drivers are distracted, too. You need your senses about you to avoid accidents.

## **Jaywalking**

Jaywalking occurs when a pedestrian walks in or crosses a roadway that has traffic, other than at a suitable crossing point, or otherwise in disregard of traffic rules. Jaywalking means that a person has crossed a street where a crosswalk and/or traffic light is available without using either for assistance. Jaywalking can be dangerous for yourself as well as other people you are sharing the road with, such as cars and cyclists. To ensure the safety of everyone, pedestrians

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<sup>10</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(5).

<sup>11</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(4).

<sup>12</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(3) a fortiori.

<sup>13</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 505.

<sup>14</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(5).

<sup>15</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 450.

<sup>16</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 447.

<sup>17</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 451.

<sup>18</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 451.

must obey pedestrian lights<sup>19</sup> and should always cross perpendicular to the road<sup>20</sup>, failure to do so can result in a \$15 to \$30 fine given by the SPVM<sup>21</sup>.

**Note:** Jaywalking is not in the Criminal Code and is not considered a criminal offence in Canada.

## Topic 2: Traffic Rules for Cyclists

Montreal is on the path map when it comes to the most bike-friendly cities around the world. According to the Copenhagenize Index, a ranking that calls itself “the most comprehensive and holistic ranking of bicycle-friendly cities on planet earth,” Montreal is the 18th best biking city in the world. When it comes to road safety and cycling being aware of your surroundings is key.

### Cycling Safety Regulation in Montreal

- Ride on the right hand side of the road and with traffic<sup>22</sup>.
- You must ride as close as possible to the curb or the right side of the roadway, taking into account the condition of the road and the risk of dooring<sup>23</sup>.
- Unless otherwise posted, you must ride in the same direction as the traffic<sup>24</sup>.
- It is prohibited to ride between contiguous lanes unless the lane on the right is a mandatory right turn lane, and you are going straight ahead. Fine: \$80

### Left Turn

Two types of left turns are allowed:

- Like a vehicle, cyclists move into the left of the intersection and make their turn.
- Like pedestrians, cyclists make a box turn left. This is the safest way to turn on a busy road.

### Illegal Turn

At a red light, cyclists cannot turn their bike to the left to face the green light and cross the intersection because they will be riding against the flow of traffic<sup>25</sup>.

If you turn your bike to the left at a one-way street, you will also be committing an infraction because you will not be riding on the right hand side of the roadway<sup>26</sup>.

### Pedestrian Lights and Cyclists

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<sup>19</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 444(1).

<sup>20</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 451.

<sup>21</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 505.

<sup>22</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487.

<sup>23</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487.

<sup>24</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487.

<sup>25</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487 et 488.

<sup>26</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487(1)-(2).

Since April 18, 2019, unless otherwise indicated, at a red light, cyclists may move ahead if the white walking signal is displayed<sup>27</sup>.

They must stop before moving ahead. They must also yield to pedestrians<sup>28</sup>.

Failure to stop and yield to pedestrians is an infraction<sup>29</sup>.

Fine: \$80<sup>30</sup>

### **Right Turn on a Red Light**

Cyclists cannot turn right on a red light on the Island of Montréal<sup>31</sup>.

### **Riding on the Sidewalk**

Cyclists cannot ride on the sidewalk, unless otherwise authorized by a sign. Cyclist must then:

- Ride at a reasonable and prudent speed,
- Cyclists must yield to pedestrians<sup>32</sup>.

### **Traffic Lights and Cyclists**

Cyclists must obey bicycle traffic control lights<sup>33</sup>. They take priority over all other traffic control devices.

If the bicycle traffic light is red and the traffic light is green, you cannot proceed.

### **Riding in the Reserved Bus Lane**

Cyclists cannot ride in a reserved bus lane, unless otherwise authorized by a sign<sup>34</sup>. Because they are required to ride on the right side of the road<sup>35</sup> and cannot move between two rows of vehicles travelling in contiguous lanes, cyclists must use a parallel street.

### **Cell Phone and Earphones**

Cyclists cannot wear any earphones<sup>36</sup>. All cyclists are prohibited from using:

- A cellular phone or any other portable device designed to transmit or receive information or for entertainment purposes<sup>37</sup>
- Or use a display screen, except when mounted on the bicycle; and it only displays information relevant to riding the bike or related to operating its usual equipment<sup>38</sup> (e.g. GPS).

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<sup>27</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 359(3).

<sup>28</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 408 et 409.

<sup>29</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 504.

<sup>30</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 504.

<sup>31</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 359.1(2); *Règlement sur la désignation du territoire des municipalités où le virage à droite à un feu rouge est interdit*, RLRQ c C-242, r 91, art 1.

<sup>32</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 492.1.

<sup>33</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 488.

<sup>34</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 488.

<sup>35</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487(1).

<sup>36</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 443.2(1).

<sup>37</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 443.1.

<sup>38</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 443.1 para (2)a).

## **Cycle Path**

Cycle paths are physically separated from other lanes of traffic by a concrete or green mall, delineators, bollards, etc., or on a site separate from the roadway. Whenever you want to ride a bike remember:

- Wear a helmet.
- Be visible.
- Have lights and reflectors on your bike and wear reflective clothing.
- Keep your bike in good running order.

## **Bixi Rules and Regulations**

Bixi should be used the same way as any regular bikes on the road. Cyclists using Bixi are expected to follow the rules and safety codes listed under the *Highway and Safety Code of Québec*, such as riding in the direction of traffic<sup>39</sup> and signaling other cars and pedestrians of your intentions<sup>40</sup>. Failure to follow these rules and obligations while riding a bike can result in a fine ranging between 80\$ to 100\$<sup>41</sup>, depending on the offence. In case of doubts, all safety measures and obligations can be found on the Bixi website and more thorough information is provided by *Vélo Québec* and the SAAQ :

- <https://bixi.com/en/bixi-safety-guide-10-tips-to-keep-in-mind>
- <https://www.velo.qc.ca/en/toolkits/regles-de-conduite-a-velo/>
- <https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/road-safety/modes-transportation/bicycle/what-the-law-says/>

## **Topic 3: Taking Taxi, Uber and other rides**

### **Youth and taking private commercial transport (Taxi, uber, cap)**

In general, youths are allowed to use private commercial transports under certain conditions. When using Uber, minors must be accompanied by an adult 18 year of age or older. Uber drivers may request a piece of ID and decline rides if they suspect the rider to be underage<sup>42</sup>. There is no law prohibiting a minor from riding a taxi alone. It is in fact the taxi driver's responsibility to make sure passengers under 16 are using seatbelt properly. However, note that once they turn 14 years old , youths can also be fined and have demerit points entered on their driving record if they're not using their seatbelt<sup>43</sup>, as required by the law.

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<sup>39</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 487(1).

<sup>40</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 490.

<sup>41</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 504.

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<https://help.uber.com/driving-and-delivering/article/commandes-de-passagers-mineurs?nodeId=43b84de6-758b-489e-b088-7ee69c749ccd>

<sup>43</sup> *Code de la sécurité routière*, RLRQ c C-242, art 396.

## Is it legal to hitchhike?

In Québec, it is not illegal to hitchhike. However, it is illegal to hitchhike in Québec on highways, and as the posted signs note, it is illegal for a pedestrian to stand on the side of a highway<sup>44</sup>. If you are caught doing this the fine is about \$15-\$30. But if you do happen upon a police officer, they are more likely to give you a ride off the highway and to the nearest entrance ramp for your safety, than hand you a fine.

Things to remember about hitchhiking in Québec:

- Always be aware of your own safety. People may seem like they have good intentions but you should stay alert to any odd behaviors. Get out of a vehicle as soon as you can without alerting the driver of your fears if you are uncomfortable
- Make sure you tell someone where you are, and where you are going. This way, if something happens there will be someone who can help to locate you.
- Keep your cell phone charged, so you can contact someone if you need to. Hitchhiking in Québec can be dangerous because drivers aren't always aware of people on the side of roads.
- Keep your eye out, and be very careful when standing at a road's edge.

## Topic 4: Riding the STM

### What are your 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 <sup>45</sup>
- Endanger the safety of people or rolling stock<sup>46</sup>
- Put their feet on a bench, seat or place any object or substance that may soil it<sup>47</sup>
- Refuse to follow instructions given by an STM agent<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Code de la sécurité routière, RLRQ c C-242, art 448.

<sup>45</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 a).

<sup>46</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 b).

<sup>47</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 d).

<sup>48</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 f).

- Slow down or interrupt the work of an STM employee<sup>49</sup>
- Have any concealed or illegal weapons on their person including knives, machetes or any similar objects without a reasonable excuse<sup>50</sup>
- Without prior authorization, consume or have a container holding an open alcoholic drink or beverage<sup>51</sup>
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- Make, affix or engrave an inscription, drawing, graffiti, tag, sticker or any other figure on STM property<sup>52</sup>
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- Sit down or slide on the handrails or the adjacent sides of an escalator or make any other inappropriate use of it<sup>53</sup>
- Unless with prior authorization, or in cases of emergency, be present or circulate after STM's hours of operation<sup>54</sup>

### **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<sup>55</sup>.

You can find for the following offences:

- Holding the doors of a metro train open for someone (\$150 - \$500 fine)<sup>56</sup>
- Getting on a bus or metro train without paying for a metro pass (\$150 - \$500 fine)<sup>57</sup>
- Riding a bicycle, rollerblades or skateboard while in a metro station (\$75 + cost of damages)<sup>58</sup>
- Using a laser pointer on a bus or in the metro \$(75 + cost of damages)<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 h).

<sup>50</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 j).

<sup>51</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 g).

<sup>52</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 6 b).

<sup>53</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 10 c).

<sup>54</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 10 d).

<sup>55</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 25-33.

<sup>56</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 11 a) et 28.

<sup>57</sup> Règlement concernant les conditions au regard de la possession et de l'utilisation de tout titre de transport pour les services de transport offerts par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-105, art 6, 57 et 62.

<sup>58</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 21 a) et 26.

<sup>59</sup> Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 4 k) et 26.

- Delaying a metro train (\$150+ cost of damages)<sup>60</sup>
- Holding onto the exterior of an STM vehicle (\$150 + cost of damages)<sup>61</sup>
- Walking on the metro train tracks (\$500 +cost of damages)<sup>62</sup>
- Littering in the metro station or on a bus (\$100+ cost of damages)<sup>63</sup>

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

### **What happens if the STM security officer questions you?**

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<sup>64</sup>. 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.

### **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*<sup>65</sup>. 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

### **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

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<sup>60</sup> *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-036, art 11 a) et 28.

<sup>61</sup> *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-036, art 11 c) et 28.

<sup>62</sup> *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-036, art 11 b) et 31.

<sup>63</sup> *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-036, art 6 a) et 27.

<sup>64</sup> *Règlement concernant les conditions au regard de la possession et de l'utilisation de tout titre de transport pour les services de transport offerts par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-105, art 75; *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal*, R-036, art 39.

<sup>65</sup> *Code criminel*, LRC, (1985) ch C-46, art 129 a).



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.

**Note that:** STM agents do not have the same powers as police officers. Although STM agents can conduct arrest, they are not police officers which means that their role is limited to incidents occurring on public transit and surrounding neighborhoods. STM agents hold the same powers as citizens, like you. While all citizens have the power to make a citizen's arrest under the law, STM officers generally have had better training on how to conduct a safe and legal arrest. If you are to conduct a citizen's arrest, make sure to consider the risk factors and to contact the police as soon as possible.

### **What is the fare ticket for me and how do I buy a reduced fare ticket?**

The STM offers a vast range of fare tickets depending on your needs. Passengers can purchase as little as 1 solo trip to a full monthly pass<sup>66</sup>, which are all transferable between métro and bus line<sup>67</sup>.

To benefit from a reduced fare, youths aged between 6 to 17 years old must have a registered photo ID OPUS card. For example, youths can purchase a single trip for the price of 2.50\$ or a monthly pass for 53\$ if needed. Once they turn 18, youths can still benefit from those reduced fares as long as they are full-time students at the time of their purchase<sup>68</sup>.

### **Can I get in the bus from the backdoor under any circumstances ?**

No, unless the bus driver gives you permission<sup>69</sup>.

### **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

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<sup>66</sup> *Règlement concernant les conditions au regard de la possession et de l'utilisation de tout titre de transport pour les services de transport offerts par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-105, art 19.*

<sup>67</sup> *Règlement concernant les conditions au regard de la possession et de l'utilisation de tout titre de transport pour les services de transport offerts par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-105, art 15-17.*

<sup>68</sup> *Règlement concernant les conditions au regard de la possession et de l'utilisation de tout titre de transport pour les services de transport offerts par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-105, art 43-53.*

<sup>69</sup> *Règlement concernant les normes de sécurité et de comportement des personnes dans le matériel roulant et les immeubles exploités par ou pour la Société de transport de Montréal, R-036, art 12 b).*

use the metro or bus without presenting your card or paying a fare.

**What happens if I get close to the third rail ( an electricity isolated track covered with yellow)?**

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.

Stay away from 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. If you drop an item on the track, regardless of its value, do not attempt to retrieve it! Instead, notify an STM employee as soon as possible.

**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.