



Figure 1: Eastern Section Cut of Mackay Street and De Maisonneuve Street

# PUT THE CORE IN CONCORDIA

## Solutions to Unify Concordia's Downtown Campus



Figure 2: Logos of Interventions

### Statement of the Problem

The Concordia Sir-George-Williams Campus, situated in the heart of Downtown Montreal, currently issues a lack of accessible and sustainable spaces supported by mobility, productivity, and conviviality. Indeed, sector two of the campus, located between Sherbrooke and Saint-Catherine, was interpreted with direct observations, brainstorm-sketching, and photographic analysis. Our team found that this area would benefit from a multidisciplinary approach, including hard design, soft design, sustainability, community engagement, accessibility, and mobility. Through comprehensive, unifying, and cohesive interventions, sector two will result in a more sustainable and efficient mobility hub, including more opportunities for social encounters. Through our design and conceptualization, we aim to put the core in Concordia.

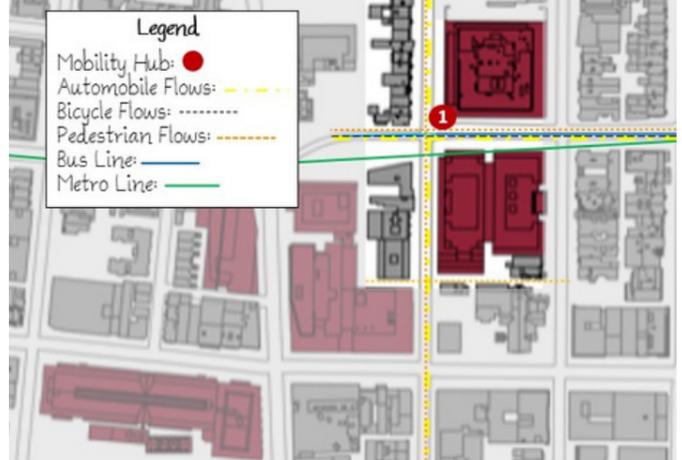


Figure 3: Satellite Map of Sector Two

### Accessibility and Mobility

Sector two's mobility node will be located at the intersection of Mackay and De Maisonneuve. Mackay Street, between Sherbrooke and Saint-Catherine, will be semi-pedestrian and will serve primarily to patrons. The street will incorporate pinch points for pedestrians who will be protected from automobiles by illuminated bollards. Traffic will flow; however, the speed limit will be heavily reduced<sup>3</sup>. On the corner of De Maisonneuve and Mackay, there will be a container and glass structure with a green roof. It will serve primarily as an electric bike rack; an overhang will be attached and serve as a bus stop. The bike rack will go underground, maximizing storage and security.

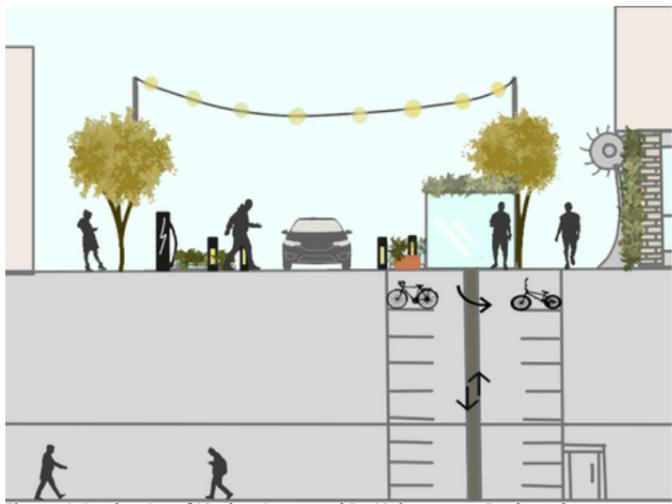


Figure 4: Section Cut of Mackay Street and De Maisonneuve Boulevard

### Hard Design

To increase unification, grey and salmon rectangular-shaped pavers will surface the Sir George William Campus's one-level streets. The pavers will increase the unification of the site as the colors tie with the institution's identity. The unique matter will delineate Concordia from the downtown, recognizing a different space. As previously mentioned, on Mackay Street, the sidewalk will be modified to include pinch points, which will increase space for people to lounge and hang around. Illuminated bollards will be set on the peaks of the pinch points to protect individuals from vehicles. As a result, both pedestrians and automobiles will be accommodated for access and security.



Figure 5: Perspective View of Art Mural

### Soft Design

On Mackay Street and in alleyways, string lights will swing between buildings to increase visibility and security. Here, people will be welcomed to a sitting area occupied by wooden benches adequate for the fluctuating Canadian climate. Being flexible, the seats can be swapped in the event of deterioration. To support four-season use of the space, approaching colder weather, a fire pit secured with a surrounding metal grid will be installed. In this space, people will be able to sit and enjoy themselves all year round. Finally, in alleyways and on selected walls of the institution's buildings, artists could share their creativity through art shows and murals, enhancing community engagement.

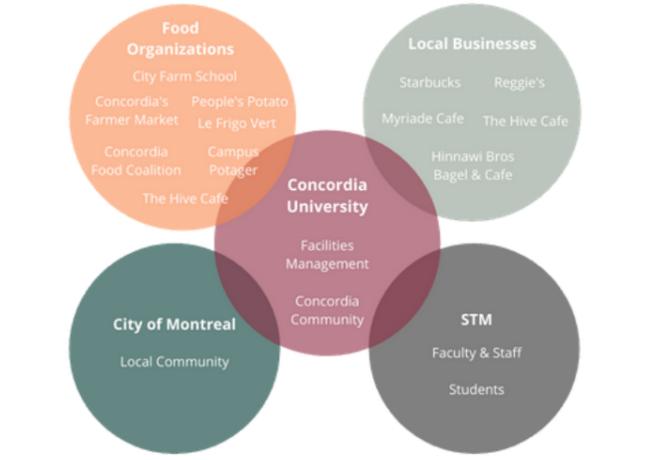


Figure 6: Diagram of Stakeholders, Actors and Representative Voices

### Community Engagement

Mackay Street will include fruit picking off of trees for passing pedestrians, Campus food preparation, and/or local food banks. Indeed, serviceberry trees, for instance, could be suitably grown as it is a native plant of Canada, which has three seasons of interest. Other examples include cherry trees, pear trees, and plum trees. Rest assured, volunteers of the Concordia Food Coalition can handle maintenance and pickup. Lastly, a board composed of stakeholders, effective actors, and representative voices will overlook the projects in sector two. Members of this board can include, for instance, food organizations, local businesses, the City of Montreal, the STM, Concordia, and others.



Figure 7: One-Point Perspective of Mobility Hub

### Sustainability

Sustainability will be considered through the addition of trees, green walls, and plants. The greenery will provide additional biodiversity in the city<sup>2</sup>. Biodiversity supports urban agriculture, contributes to food security, nutrition, and livelihoods, as well as reduces carbon footprints and food miles<sup>2</sup>. The greenery will also address noise and air pollution, resulting in a better environment for individuals. Furthermore, Mackay Street will also support sustainable modes of transportation as reserved parking and charging stations will serve car-sharing and electric vehicles. As a result, the Concordia Campus will support lasting alternatives for its city and its creatures.



Figure 8: Overview of Mackay Street

References  
<sup>1</sup>Alexander, C., Ishikawa, S., Silverstein, M., Jacobson, M., Fiksdahl-King, I., Angel, Schlomo. (1977). A Pattern of Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction. Oxford University Press.  
<sup>2</sup>Convention on Biological Diversity (2008) "Agricultural Biodiversity: Why is it Important?" UN Environment Program <https://www.cbd.int/agro/importance.shtml>  
<sup>3</sup>Whyte, H. W. (Director) (1980). The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces. Municipal Art Society of New York.

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