

Drawing the Commute: Application of Drawing and Sketch Maps on the Mental Image and Perception of Commutes in Montréal

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This thesis aims to uncover perceptual differences between a commuter's understanding of their commute path and reality. Previous literature on perceptions of the urban environment primarily focus on the city as a whole, rather than focusing down upon the experience of the commute. In the research, I had participants draw and explain their commute. After a total of 30 surveys were collected, I coded the interviews and drawings. The main findings upon the analysis was a highly path-based understanding of commutes. Additional common elements were greenery along the route, buildings, and traffic lights. Also, distinctions between transport modes included pedestrians being more focused on their surroundings, cyclists being more preoccupied with safety, and transit riders more occupied with reliability. Participants of all types considered speed the most important, with most choosing the most direct route. This study contributes to the literature by offering a focused look at the commute instead of the more common broad perspective normally used in cognitive mapping research.

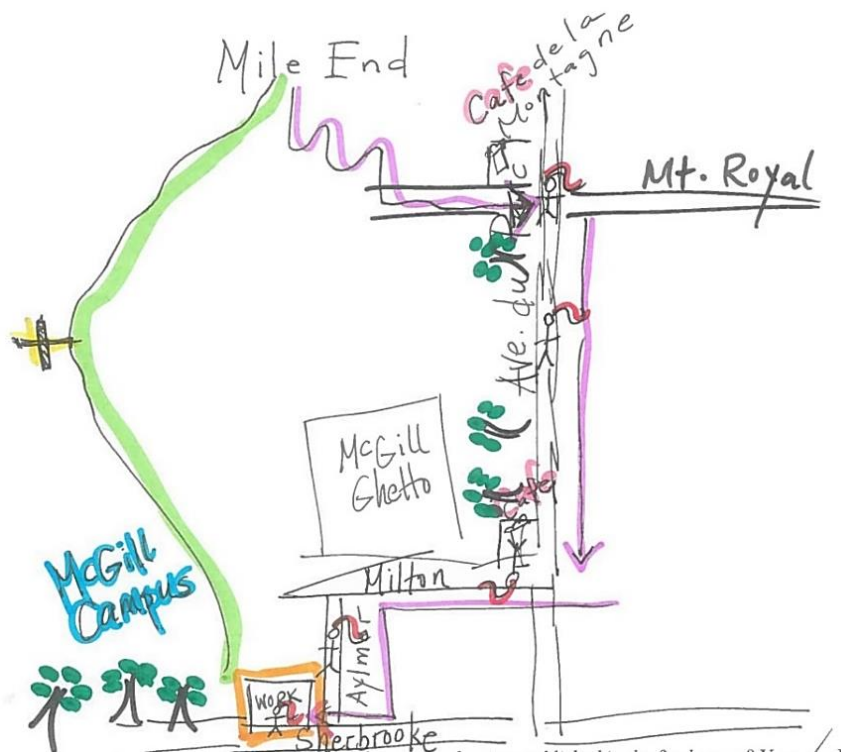


Figure: Commute drawing by participant 160803