

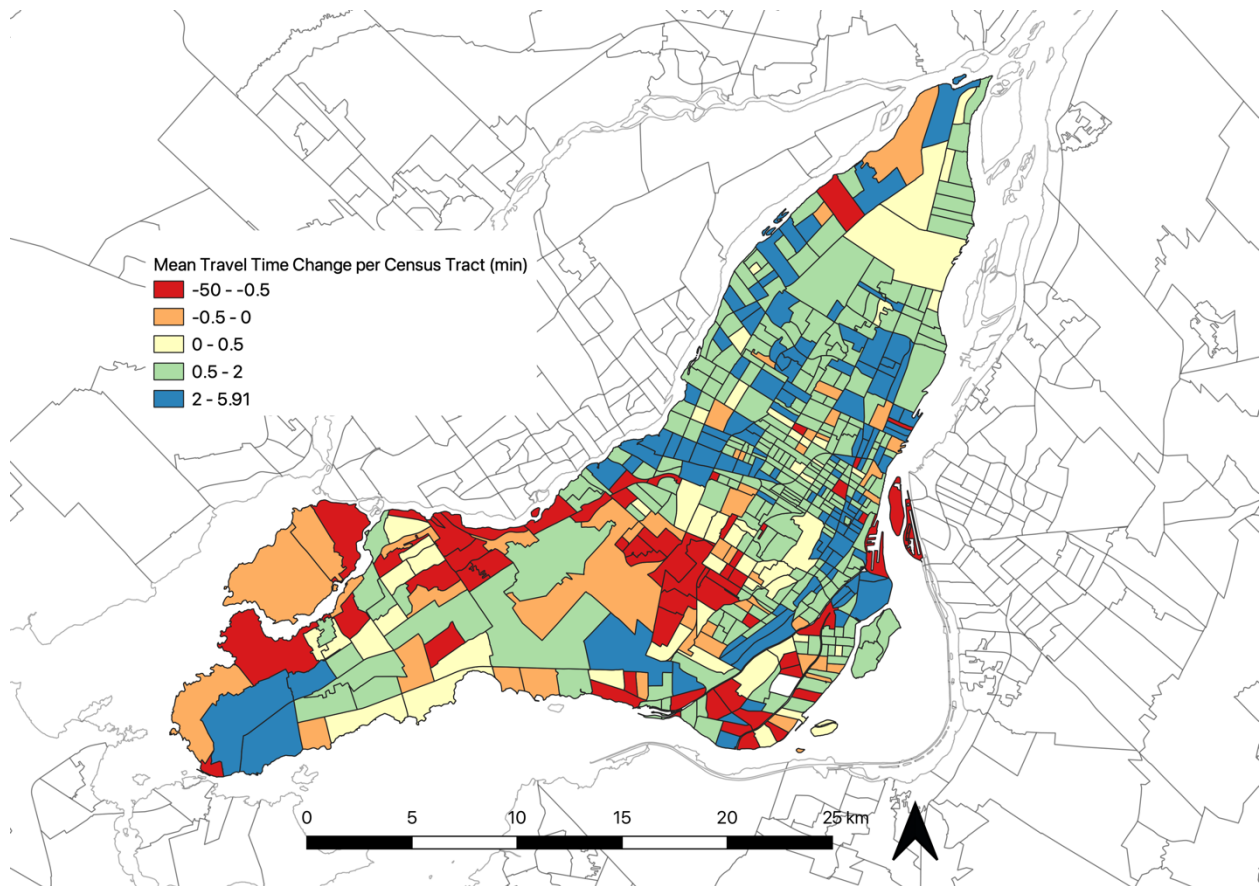
A Statistical Assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic's Effect on Travel Times on Montreal's Public Transit

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In this thesis project, I look at the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected travel times on the Société de Transport de Montréal (STM). As a result of the pandemic, many societal processes have been severely affected, including transportation. The pandemic largely reduced public transit ridership rates, and in turn, transportation authorities responded with service adjustments. I used public transit data from the STM to analyze travel time change over distinct periods during the pandemic. In addition to this, I incorporated an equity and justice component to my research and looked specifically at travel time change for two vulnerable groups: frontline workers, and low-income groups. I found that travel times did change during the pandemic, with large increases most observable by August 2021. As society exits the pandemic, continuing to monitor its lasting effect on personal travel and commuting is vital in future transportation research.



Map showing Mean Travel Time Difference between February 2020 and August 2021 for Total Workers by Census Tract Destinations (Source: Designed by author)

