

Lived Experiences of Transport Poverty in a Montreal Suburb: A Case Study of Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu

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Access to adequate transportation and mobility is crucial to one's life. However, not everyone has access to adequate transportation within their financial means, leaving them transport poor. This research investigates the lived experiences of people living in transport poverty within Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu, a suburb of Montreal. Using semi-structured interviews, I give a qualitative account of the consequences and coping mechanisms used to live with transport poverty as well as its impact on people's risk of social exclusion and on well-being. I conclude that people living with transport poverty struggle with a variety of difficulties, mainly surrounding affordability and transit services resulting in forgone trips, reduced spending, lost time, and forced car ownership. Travel behaviours used to cope included planning ahead, trip grouping, and using other modes. I found that transport poverty has large impacts on social exclusion but mixed impacts on well-being.

Key Findings

Transportation Difficulties	Consequences of Transport Poverty	Travel Behaviours Used to Cope	Impact on Social Exclusion and Well-Being
Affordability (cars, transit, & taxis)	Forgone Trips & Missed Opportunities	Planning Ahead	Reduced Access to Social Network
Scheduling	Reduced Spending	Cycling & Walking	Impact on Relationships
Bus Route	Lost Time	Trip Grouping	Stress
Long Travel	Forced Car Ownership	Lifts	Fatigue
		Taxis	