

100 AKL AUK

109 HAM HMB

112 GIG RDJ

102 LIS LBN

105 STL STL

111 YY CCGA

110 YUL MTL

YUL MTL

20 km spectrum

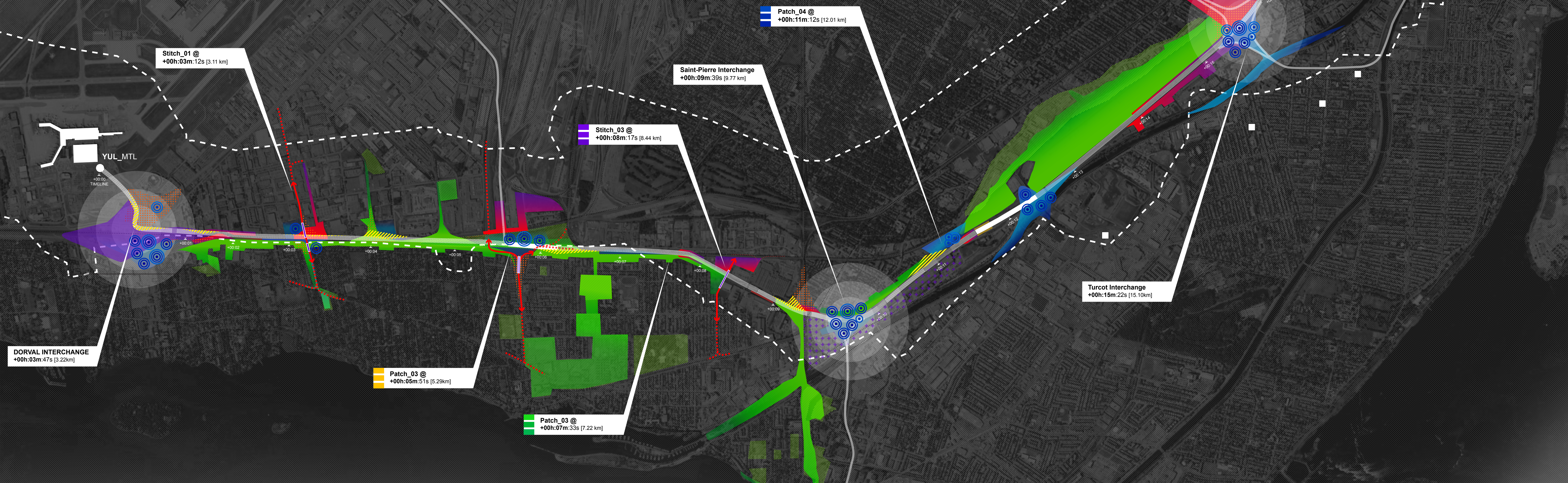
Given the hyper connectivity of 21st century transportation infrastructure, most cities are first encountered and experienced in the route - by rail, bus, subway, taxi, or car - between a city's major airport and its downtown. For some major cities, this distance can range from as little as 5km to as much as 45km. This is the space of urban anticipation. It is a flickering preview or sampling of what is to come, and what is to be experienced. Comparing the World's Airports ranked by passenger traffic, Montreal ranked number 110 with 12.2 million passengers annually. It is a 20km route from Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport to Old Montreal. And like most other routes, it is a highway corridor as familiar as any place. There is currently little to make this gateway remarkable or distinct to MTL. Similarly, the route is effective in dividing the city, and effective in slowing off biodiversity.

20km Spectrum embraces three key observations of what a revised route could offer: 1) the need for establishing biodiversity tolerant spaces, 2) the opportunity of linking disconnected social contexts and 3) the potential of introducing new sensorial events along the gateway. These observations produced an analysis of the site that establishes three site typologies, which we have categorized as patches, stitches, and liners. Patches are swathes of land that are underutilized - whether they be infill sites or slivers of unused space adjacent to the highway or vacant building stock. Stitches are physical infrastructures reknitting disconnected city neighbourhoods - through various types of overpasses or tunnels. Liners are resurfacing interventions that invite colour and unique illumination into an otherwise uniform gray experience, and encourage awareness of the highway's shifting experience - being elevated above the city, below a network of overpasses or submerged in a tunnel. These site typologies are augmented with physical, biological, and social infrastructures.

The project proposes to augment the existing corridor, not overhaul it. Augmentation occurs through emphasizing latent opportunities along the gateway route in terms of ecology, social, transport, and experiential. Adjacent underutilized land is conceived as part of the new highway infrastructure, progressively thickening the experience and performance of the corridor. For instance, select zones of the corridor that involve colour graphics and landscape management are "adopted" and envisioned in collaboration with local schools, to encourage a caretaker appreciation of the sites, particularly when stitches and patches enable mobility across the corridor, reconnecting otherwise severed neighbourhoods.

The blue to orange spectrum corresponds to ecosystem interventions such as snow and rain collection and remediation, species crossings and habitats and reinforcement of existing and endangered plant ecologies. The orange to red spectrum demarcates signage and information regarding the intersecting systems of mobility on the site, such as location of overpasses, areas to slow down, and zones of animal crossings.

20km Spectrum is envisaged as an incremental design strategy, allowing nodes of infrastructure, program and ecological reinforcement to be added as resources become available. The gateway corridor transforms from the gray asphalt landscape it is so often elsewhere, into a spectrum of experiences highlighting local urban character, climate, and biodiversity. 20km Spectrum offers the opportunity to imagine highway infrastructure as multi-valent, rich in experience and integrated into its surrounding context.



Existing Green Space | Proposed Green Spectrum Intervention | Proposed Red to Purple Spectrum Intervention | Proposed Blue Spectrum Intervention | Proposed Red to Orange Intervention | Proposed Yellow Spectrum Intervention | Proposed Vertical Stormwater Management | Proposed Infrastructural Stitch

