**WHAT IS SMOG?** Smog is formed mainly by combustion of the fuel used by vehicles. It is a fog comprised of air pollutants containing primarily oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and hydrocarbons. Though the public in general appreciates the value of using an environmentally friendly means of transportation such as walking, cycling or public transit, automobiles are by far the most popular mode of travel... as well as the most polluting since they produce the same amount of GHGs as a bus? Smog is created mainly by combustion of the fuel used by vehicles. It is a fog primarily of ozone that collects at ground level, and is formed by the interaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that react when exposed to sunlight.

**WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)?**

**A BREATHE OF FRESH AIR PLEASE:** In Canada alone, close to 4,000 premature deaths due to respiratory diseases and ischemic heart disease are caused each year by exposure to air pollution. Light vehicles account for nearly 90% of vehicle-related emissions of GHGs, excluding light trucks. The transportation sector represents 38% of the total amount of GHGs emitted into the atmosphere by all means of transportation such as walking, cycling or public transit, automobiles are by far the most polluting since they produce the same amount of GHGs as a bus? **Buses that are more fuel efficient and pollution less** The STO is currently running a fleet with very low floor buses that are much more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly. Regular engine maintenance, installation of catalytic converters on existing buses and the BramTrain training program are additional activities that help to reduce pollution emissions to create a healthier environment.

**THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT OR OTHER FORMS OF GREEN TRANSPORTATION IS ONE OF THE BEST SOLUTIONS FOR SLOWING DOWN CLIMATE CHANGE AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES SET BY CANADA AS PART OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.**

**WHAT IS IN TOWN, WITHOUT MY CAR?** It is sometimes hard for motorists to trade their vehicles for the bus. To allow citizens to try this means of transportation, every year the STO encourages the public to participate in special days organized to promote a cleaner environment for transit, on “Clean Air Day” and “In Town, Without My Car” day. In 2005, the STO gave riders a chance to invite someone else to use the entire system for free. Not only does this activity help to promote good living habits, it also encourages more use of public transit, thereby reducing the number of polluting vehicles on our roads.

**RECREATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT** = BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE !

**THE STO SUPPORTS “IN TOWN, WITHOUT MY CAR” DAY AND “CLEAN AIR DAY”** It is sometimes hard for motorists to trade their vehicles for the bus. To allow citizens to try this means of transportation, every year the STO encourages the public to participate in special days organized to promote a cleaner environment for transit, on “Clean Air Day” and “In Town, Without My Car” day. The STO gave riders a chance to invite someone else to use the entire system for free. Not only does this activity help to promote good living habits, it also encourages more use of public transit, thereby reducing the number of polluting vehicles on our roads.

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**WORKING TOWARDS A CLEANER FUTURE TOGETHER** To promote and increase bus use, the Société de transport de l’Outaouais (STO) regularly highlights various activities to encourage residents to choose public transit.

The increase in ridership that the STO has seen over the last 10 years, which reached 16 million trips in 2004, means that every year, more than 626 fewer vehicles on the roads are not entered into the air.

**APPEALING PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Every year, various improvements are made to the service, to the STO’s infrastructures. By increasing appeal of public transit, the potential ridership can be increased, and with it, the beneficial effect on the quality of our environment.

- More than 20 kilometres of reserved lanes to offer better service, especially during rush hours, thereby reducing traffic congestion.
- More than 500 reserved spots for the+ bus, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of public transit.
- Bicycle path along the corridor will help to encourage the public to take advantage of a green means of transportation.

**Rapibus**

The Rapibus rapid transit system with its exclusive right-of-way that the STO plans to implement in the near future will use existing railway rights-of-way linking the City of Gatineau from east to west. The STO anticipates that this infrastructure will increase daily ridership to 21,600 passengers by 2017. This will lead to a decrease in the number of vehicles on our roads, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. Furthermore, a uniformed bicycle path along the corridor will help to encourage the public to take advantage of a green means of transportation.

**Hybrid buses : from dream to reality**

Selected by Transport Canada, the STO’s experimental project with electric-diesel hybrid buses conducted jointly with the Société de transport de Montréal could soon be implemented. Since this technology results in fuel savings, it helps to safeguard a healthier environment that aligns with the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol.

**ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSIT**

Public transit reduces the use of cars per individual and also traffic congestion. Public transit is considered an investment, since it is a major contributor to economic growth. In terms of the environment, public transit is the major economic activity, namely through its major impacts on the quality of life and the visibility of a city, and also the quality of the environment. It has a major impact on the quality of life in the city and the visualization of a city. Because the costs related to public transit are lower than the costs related to private transportation, the STO encourages greater use of public transit through its experimental project of hybrid and electric-diesel hybrid buses.

The proximity of public transit service increases real estate values. Public transit reduces a pollution, accidents, fuel consumption and the space used on roads.

To find out more about the STO visit the Web site at www.sto.ca or contact us at 1-800-363-3607 or 1-770-3242.

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