

January 22, 2024

## Québec Roadmap: Towards a New Urban Project (2022-2024)

**COLLABORATIVE NETWORK (priority thematic):** *Pacified mobility: Street planning and sharing between different users and mobility modes.*

**Pilot city:** *Quebec City (Canada)*

### Action Plan (Pilot city proposal)

#### Introduction

The aim of the Collaborative Networks is to create a space for reflection and discussion, enabling constructive dialogue around a common thematic. It is within this framework that OWHC member cities can learn from each other and create a common, shared culture.

The work they produce will form the basic material for the Cordoba Symposium (September 2024).

#### Concept et objectifs

Quebec City's historic district is an ecosystem made up of different functions that give it a special status. It has many functions that must coexist: a historic district recognized as a world heritage site, a place of residence, a place of work, a place of business, a place of education and a highly popular tourist destination. Citizens feel that their living environment is being altered by this cohabitation. The number of residents has fallen by several hundred in recent years, and surveys have shown the difficulty of attracting new permanent residents to this part of the city. This decline has a direct impact on the presence of local services, as the critical mass to support businesses catering to local customers is insufficient. Heavy traffic (tourist buses in particular) and the lack of parking spaces are sometimes mentioned as irritants for residents.

With a view to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the OWHC (Cordoba 2024), the Collaborative Network has the following objectives:

- Reflect collectively on ways of easing traffic congestion while preserving essential tourist transport services.
- Gather as much information as possible from the experiences and knowledge of participating cities
- Identify problematics and propose possible solutions.
- Develop concrete objectives and orientations for an action plan to be implemented starting in the summer of 2025.



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## Presentation of the thematic's challenges

The Priority Thematic piloted by the City of Québec concerns the balance between the residential and tourist functions of a city's historic sector, with a view to easing traffic congestion, particularly for tourist buses. Whether transporting tourists to their hotels, providing guided tours or driving tourists who wish to visit the historic sector, many tourist buses navigate its narrow streets, with the accompanying constraints of noise, congestion and visual impact. These irritants are often mentioned by Old Québec residents. Exploring the approaches underway in other World Heritage cities can inspire Québec City to find solutions to the challenges of this cohabitation, and see how it can reduce bus flows while preserving the attractiveness of the destination.

## Schedule and calendar

The work of the Collaborative Network will take the form of thematic virtual exchange meetings:

2 virtual 2-hour work meetings will be organized in **February (on the 20th, from 8am to 10am, Québec time)** and March 2024.

A debriefing meeting will be held before the Cordoba congress.

- The first meeting will enable Québec City to present the objectives and results of a first traffic calming pilot project that took place in the summer of 2023, and to explain the working objectives of the Québec Roadmap (a document summarizing the pilot project and the objectives of the Québec Roadmap will be sent to participants prior to this meeting).
- The second meeting will enable participating cities to share their experience and knowledge of tourist bus management in historic areas, and to explore possible solutions.