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## Montreal port truckers can tap app for terminal wait times

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Trucks enter the Port of Montreal, which hopes to reduce congestion and turn times via the collection and distribution of real-time truck traffic data.

Drayage drivers serving the Port of Montreal can track terminal wait times via a new app aimed at improving gate fluidity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Trucking PORTal application relies on Bluetooth, radio-frequency identification, and license plate readers to measure truck locations and turn times within the port's terminals with the ultimate goal of reducing trucker wait times. Shippers and truckers can view the data in real time, enabling them to make adjustments to things such as their route into the port or their pick-up time on the fly as needed.

The app, which includes traffic data of local roads, is available in both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store and it also has a desktop version accessible [here \(https://portmtltrucks.com/\)](https://portmtltrucks.com/).

"The Port of Montreal is among the first ports in the world to offer its road transport partners an advanced real-time information system on truck traffic on its territory. We are constantly working to improve freight mobility, which is our trademark, and reduce our environmental footprint," Montreal Port Authority President and CEO Sylvie Vachon said in a statement.

The application — funded via C\$1.3 million from Transport Canada — uses a combination of Bluetooth and Radio-Frequency Identification technologies and licence plate readers.

Truck traffic and turn time tracking have been adopted to various degrees at a number of North American ports, including Los Angeles, Long Beach, New York-New Jersey, Virginia, and Vancouver.

Most ports rely on a system that only tracks the time a truck spends inside a terminal. Some shippers and truckers say using this metric to determine how long it takes a truck to complete a pickup or dropoff is incomplete because it does not account for the lines they must often wait in outside the port to enter a terminal.

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Terminal operators say that measuring outside the terminal gates would result in skewed data on account of the many truck drivers who line up hours before a terminal opens in the hopes of being the first inside.

The Port of Virginia in March 2015 became [the first](http://www.joc.com/port-news/us-ports/port-virginia/virginia-port-aims-grab-market-share-hinterland-reach_20161003.html) US port to collect "expanded" turn time data that includes the time trucks spend waiting outside the terminal gates. Vancouver was the first North American adopter of such a system and the largest Canadian port also measures and shares with truckers conventional terminal gate turn times.

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