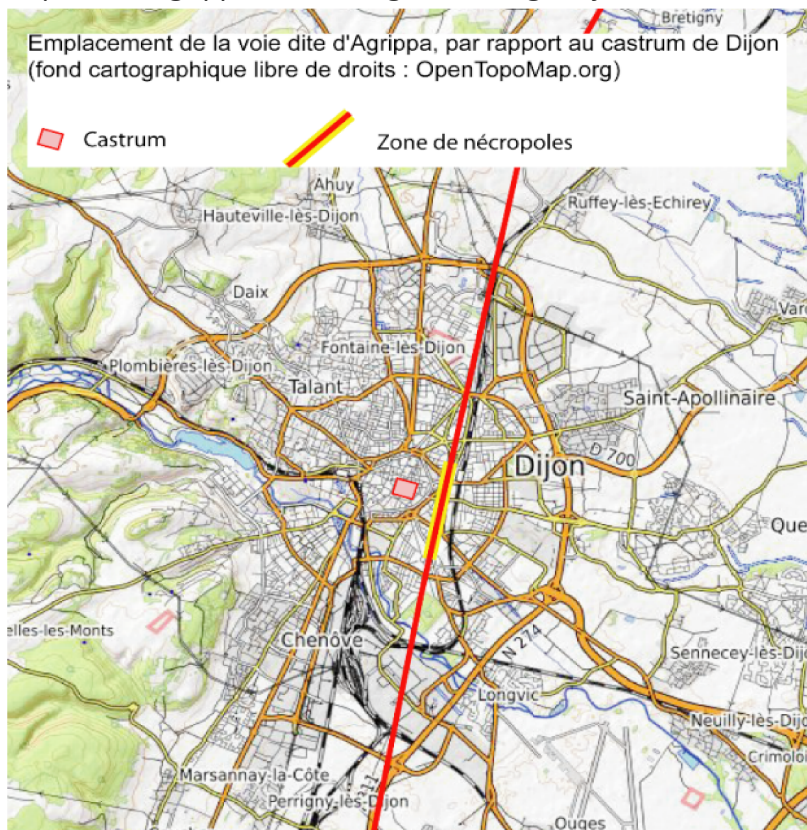


The Roman road

Map of the Agrippa road that goes through Dijon :



This stretch of the Roman road is part of the old main road that went from the Mediterranean towards Germany, via Lyon, Chalon-sur-Saône, Langres and Trier. **It was one of the main routes going from the north to the south of conquered Gaul.** The road, which is commonly known as the “**Agrippa road**” in the south and north of Dijon, is covered by farms or by the Departmental Route (RD 974). The road did not go through Dijon’s *castrum* (Gallo-Roman city), but rather followed it in the east, surrounded by the principal cemeteries.

Parc de la Colombière is the only place where the “hedgheg” can be seen : stones that were vertically laid into the ground and made up the foundation of the typical Roman road.

At the time of the Romans, chariots did not circulate on these stones, but on layers of gravel, sand and lime mortar, which made a smooth and comfortable surface. These layers covering the ‘hedgheg’ have been surveyed, documented and conserved in several places such as Longvic and Norges.

Excavations led by Dijon archaeologist, Gabriel Gremaud, in June 1955 unearthed the stretch of road that is visible in Parc de la Colombière. As the excavation was not filled, the ‘hedgheg’ was still clearly visible and showcased in 1988, though it experienced considerable deterioration due to subsequent bad weather (moss, weeds, loosened and broken stones).

Participatory budgeting allocates money to District Committees

Since 2008, the members of nine District Committees have benefited from participatory budgeting. An investment budget of €360,000 is annually added and voted to the budget, representing €40,000 per District Committee each year.

Formerly, only District Committee members could submit a project. Since 2015, all inhabitants of Dijon can propose projects that benefit from participatory budgeting, whose process has been dematerialised. This regional budget is indeed a way to make decisions participatory. In addition, it goes beyond dealing with individual issues and moves towards those of the general interest. As such, District Committee members are able to take action in favour of projects or micro projects. They rank the projects and oversee their implementation through specific work groups.

Participatory budgeting fosters renewed dialogue with and trust of inhabitants who have true 'power' to act directly. The participatory budgeting process is also a way to highlight that the time needed to carry out a project is not always that of the inhabitants. Moreover, participatory budgeting supports inter-community work among the various entities of the city. In short, participatory budgeting modernises local democracy while revitalising District Committees, which are at the heart of the process.

Restoration of the Roman road through participatory budgeting

The visible part of the Roman road of Parc de la Colombière was cleaned by volunteers in March 2017 thanks to the initiative of the 'Friends of the Pathway' (Les Amis des Allées), the support of the Chevreul-Parc District Committee members, the volunteers of the 'Big Pathways (Grands Chemins) association, and under the supervision of the Regional Department of Archaeology of the DRAC Bourgogne-Franche Comté.

After receiving authorisation from the Regional Historical Monuments Conservation (intervention on historical monuments), work to reinforce the road was envisaged and then abandoned as it would have quickly destroyed the existing road or have required it to be completely replaced. The Chevreul-Parc District Committee members therefore chose to :

- 1) Leave the 'hedgehog' as is and clean it every year until it is inevitably lost,
- 2) within the framework of 2017 and 2018's participatory budgeting, to put aside the sum of €8,000 for diverse embellishment work :
 - Reseal the existing posts and repaint the fence.
 - Create a surface to reconstruct the Roman road hedgehog, with a District inhabitant led participatory worksite.
 - Install a pedagogical sign briefly presenting the Roman road and inviting visitors to read the present, more detailed information.