

# Viva might get more fed cash: McCallum

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Federal Minister of National Revenue and Markham MP John McCallum told a business group Thursday he will try to obtain additional funding for Viva, the new York Region rapid transit system.

The region, province and federal government each committed \$50 million to the \$150 million system.

While Mr. McCallum told a Markham Board of Trade luncheon attended by about 200 the federal government has one third of the cost of Viva, he said he would work towards securing an addi-

*The first of Viva's 119 stations and stops was unveiled Friday.*

*See story on page 9.*

tional \$7 million.

The money would be used for engineering studies for the project's second phase, he said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. McCallum met with York Regional chairperson Bill Fisch to discuss Viva.

The bus system will link the urban centres of Markham, Rich-

mond Hill, Vaughan, Aurora and Newmarket along four major transportation corridors, including Hwy. 7 and Yonge Street. York Region Transit buses will link with the system.

In addition, Viva will connect with Toronto and its subway system, GO Transit and transit systems in Peel Region and, eventually, Durham Region.

The first of Viva's 119 stations and stops was unveiled Friday at Allstate Parkway and Hwy. 7 in Markham.

Traffic snarls are common in York's south end, Mr. McCallum

pointed out.

"The type of traffic we are now experiencing in the region is becoming problematic for business owners and could come to hamper growth," he said.

Viva, complete with 85 buses, begins operations in the fall.

"It will give residents the option of high speed, convenient, comfortable and safe transportation instead of just their car," Mr. McCallum said.

Traffic congestion has been a pet peeve for the board of trade. It has advocated improved transit and roads as solutions.



JOHN MCCALLUM: Markham MP trying to get \$7 million more for Viva, York Region's rapid transit system.

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