



If ridership on Viva drops, the number of buses and routes can be scaled back, regional councillor says.

Klees asks minister for Viva money

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Ms Turner said.

"The region cannot attack a \$1.6-billion transportation project," Ms Turner said.

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees asked Ontario Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar about the funding in the legislature Thursday.

Mr. Takhar cited the province's investment of \$800 million for transit across the province, as well as gas tax

money given to municipalities but stopped short of committing specific funding for the second phase of Viva.

Phase two construction was to start next year with it being finished by late 2007 or early 2008.

Even if phase two is never built, implementing the first phase has not been a waste, said Regional Councillor Tony Van Bynen, a member of the region's transit committee.

"Commuters will have to ask themselves, do I want to be in this congestion sitting in my car and using my own gas

or reading a newspaper?" Mr. Van Bynen said.

"I still think there are gains to having this system."

But there are other options, he stressed.

If ridership on Viva drops, the number of buses and routes can be scaled back, Mr. Van Bynen said.

For Ms Turner, however, the second phase is imperative.

"I am frustrated (the funding) hasn't happened yet. But it has to happen."

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