



In The House Of Commons

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

December 6, 2007

Mrs. Susan Kadis (Thornhill, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, could the member for Richmond Hill explain why it is so critically important that the federal government invest in much needed mass transit infrastructure like the extension of the Yonge Street subway north to Highway 7, Langstaff, for growing communities like Thornhill and Richmond Hill?

Hon. Bryon Wilfert:

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the members from York region on this side of the House have been very supportive of this project.

In 2004 the federal government of the day, a Liberal government, along with the province of Ontario and the municipalities supported a wide-ranging GTA transit proposal. Unfortunately, the Conservative government does not like to see things happen. It does not like to see success, and that proposal was basically mothballed.

The province of Ontario earlier in June of this year announced support for the extension of the subway to Richmond Hill.

I want to point out that we on this side of the House have written to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport as well. We want to see this project go forward. There is absolutely no reason that it should not. We need the partnership. That is why the federal government's participation is critical. Given the cost of infrastructure, it is important that the federal government come to the table. As I said earlier, the Conservatives do not understand it and that is why they are lagging behind.

The residents of York region and particularly south York region are very anxious to see this go ahead. On this side of the House we will continue to push the government on this very fundamental issue, which I am sure, with the right amount of pushing, we may get.

The Minister of Finance is in the House. We hope he will respond accordingly in very short order.