

# New leg of transitway actually slows bus trips

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BY PATRICK DARE

Additions to Ottawa's bus transitway system are supposed to make commuting faster, not slower. But the recent completion of a transitway section at Bayshore is having the opposite effect.

Starting this month, express buses from Kanata on their way downtown are getting off the Queensway at Holly Acres Road to transfer to a new section of the transitway

between Bayshore and Pinecrest Road. At Bayshore transit station they are getting delayed in traffic line-ups with local buses.

Kanata North Councillor Marianne Wilkinson says riders are seeing delays of five to 10 minutes, enough to make them start talking about carpooling instead of riding transit. She says the problem is that the western leg of the transitway system is being built in sections, so the tran-

sit vehicles don't see significantly improved travel times.

"People are very frustrated with that. It's making people late for work," said Kanata South Councillor Peggy Felton. Transit committee chairman Alex Cullen acknowledges the problem and says the transit company may have to allow express buses to stay on the Queensway at certain times when that route is not congested, rather than travelling on the transitway.

"It's a work in progress," said Cullen, noting that the Bayshore section of the transitway was a \$45-million project. Cullen says the utility of the transitway to residents of the west side will become clear in the years to come as the Queensway becomes more and more crowded.

Wilkinson says she will be meeting with Transpo's senior planner on Thursday and hopes to have a resolution to the problem arranged soon. On the city's east side, OC Transpo's changes in service are also causing some upset. Orleans Councillor Bob Monette says Transpo has fixed some problems with overcrowded buses by adding more 60-foot vehicles. But he says riders can't understand why crowded express buses from Orleans are now stopping at Place d'Orléans shopping centre when there is no room for more passengers and there are other No. 95 buses that could carry people downtown. Monette says OC Transpo has promised to look into it.