In the past several years, federal and provincial funding has made our transit infrastructure projects possible. Knowing that funding is available allows new projects to be planned and built. There are many stages to each project, including planning and public consultation, procurement of a contractor, and preliminary utility work before construction begins. Having funding commitments in place ahead of time for all of these stages is truly appreciated.

We’ve made great progress on transit in York Region, with 36% of the funded Bus Rapid Transit projects [rapidways] completed, and a transit service facility and park and ride lot in service. We’re continuing to connect York Region with rapidways on Yonge Street in Newmarket and Richmond Hill, and on Highway 7, Bathurst and Centre Streets in Vaughan. Major connection points will also include new bus terminals in Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and eastern Markham.

There are more projects to come, to meet the needs of a growing region in an age of new transportation and mobility choices. It’s exciting to see York Region’s plans for a connected transportation network coming to life, and we welcome the opportunity to continue working together toward a bright future for transit.
In June, the Province of Ontario announced $55 million in funding to advance the design and engineering for the Yonge Subway Extension [YSE].

This 7.4-kilometre, five-station extension from Finch to Highway 7 in Richmond Hill is York Region’s top transit priority, and we’re committed to working with Metrolinx, TTC and the City of Toronto to move this project forward.

Once it receives full funding, the YSE will provide a lasting economic stimulus, bring 31,000 jobs and reduce greenhouse gases and traffic congestion with 2,500 fewer bus trips per day on Yonge Street.

We’re seeking $35 million from the federal government’s Public Transit Infrastructure Fund. Combined with the $55 million committed in June from the Province of Ontario, the project engineering will move forward enough to allow construction to begin quickly once the full $4 billion in project funding is received.

For more information about the YSE, visit vivanext.com/yonge-subway-extension.

gaining fast

In 2015, Viva travel times along the Highway 7 East rapidway were up to 42% faster than travelling in mixed traffic, and collisions in this area were reduced by 25%. On Davis Drive, average weekday YRT and Viva ridership increased by 39% between February 2015 and February 2016, with 61% of customers using the new Viva Yellow route. During the same timeframe, travel times were reduced by up to 33% compared to pre-rapidway service.

Follow us on Twitter. Like us on Facebook. Read our blog. Go to vivanext.com.
To build a seamless transit system in York Region, we need places to connect, and that’s where terminals come in. We’re building two new terminals in York Region — the Cornell Terminal in Markham, and the SmartREIT Terminal-Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in Vaughan.

**Cornell Terminal** will be a two-minute walk from Markham-Stouffville Hospital in the Cornell community, with 11 bus bays for YRT and Viva. The building will feature modern architecture and sustainable, cyclist and pedestrian-friendly design.

**SmartREIT Terminal-Vaughan Metropolitan Centre** will be just north of Highway 7 and east of Jane Street — a short walk via an underground connection to Viva or TTC at the bus station and subway station on Highway 7. This terminal will feature attractive architecture, accessible design and nine YRT bus bays.

Both terminal projects are funded by the federal, provincial and regional governments. Construction contracts will be awarded later this year, and the terminals are expected to open by the end of 2017.

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**making connections**

**Vaughan Metropolitan Centre**

In the transit hub of Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, the rapidway along Highway 7 will connect customers to TTC subway and to a YRT bus terminal, just west of Jane Street. This key growth area in Vaughan will have rapid transit at the doorsteps of new places to live, work, shop and dine on Highway 7.

**Highway 7 West [Pine Valley]**

Along Highway 7 from Highway 400 to Bruce Street in Vaughan, work is just getting started with utility relocation. Once the rapidway is complete, this vibrant centre for retail, dining and entertainment will be connected to the rest of York Region with fast, reliable transit, bike lanes and an attractive streetscape.

**Bathurst & Centre**

From Centre Street to Yonge Street via the existing Viva route on Centre and Bathurst, surveying and testing have been underway and work will continue with utility relocation for the next several months.

**Richmond Hill**

On Yonge Street in Richmond Hill from Highway 7 to 19th/Gamble, rapidway construction is getting started with utility relocation for the next year. This section of Yonge Street is the central artery of York Region and one of the busiest areas for shopping, dining, living and working. The Yonge Street rapidway will connect customers to the future Yonge Subway Extension from Finch Station to Richmond Hill Terminal at Highway 7.
LEED Silver certification

The Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility in Richmond Hill has received LEED Silver certification. Energy efficient and ‘green’ features, such as a rainwater collection system and reflective white ‘cool’ roof, were included in the design of this transit service facility to achieve this certification from the Canada Green Building Council.

award-winning communications

VivaNext received an award for National Corporate Leadership in Communications from the Canadian Urban Transit Association, for our business support program campaigns in 2015. These campaigns provided tools to business owners and supported businesses in rapidway construction areas by using social media, print ads and grass-roots contests to encourage people to ShopDavis, Shop7 and ShopYonge.