VivaNext is designing and building an integral component of York Region’s growth plan that has already started to transform the look and feel of the Region’s Centres and Corridors. New rapidways are open on Davis Drive in Newmarket and Highway 7 in Markham. In Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, rapidways are under construction. The final result will be a user-friendly rapid transit network that integrates end-to-end journeys. This means residents, commuters and visitors will have transit options to get around.

Being centrally located in York Region, Yonge Street is the spine of the GTA and was the chosen passage to build a rapidway from Savage Road/Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive. With about 18,000 riders a day on Viva Blue [from the Newmarket GO Bus Terminal to the Finch Terminal], the Yonge line is the busiest north-south route in the Region. The Yonge Street rapidway will accommodate existing and future riders as growth along the Yonge line continues.
The installation of hydro poles on Yonge in Newmarket is a major milestone of the bus rapidway project.

look way up there

The installation of hydro poles on Yonge in Newmarket is a major milestone of the bus rapidway project. By the end of construction, about 100 hydro poles, most of which stand at 100 feet tall, will line the corridor from Savage Road/Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive. Installing these poles is no small feat, because each one weighs 20,000 pounds. All traffic has to be stopped for a short period of time in all directions while each pole is hoisted high in the air, rotated and then carefully lowered onto concrete foundations.

The pole design has a grey concrete finish and due to their foundations, do not require supportive wires.

what it means for Newmarket

The Yonge Street bus rapidway in Newmarket will reinforce strong north-south and east-west connections by linking to destinations, urban centres and various transit services, including the Hwy 7 rapidway and the future Yonge Subway Extension.

Future plans for the area include mixed-use developments that blend a lifestyle concept of housing, employment and many amenities within a close distance to each other that will be centrally located to the Yonge rapidway and other transit routes. Yonge Street is an ideal transit corridor to help manage the transportation needs of everyone who lives, shops and visits Yonge on a daily basis.
lane closures and traffic shifts

When driving through construction zones it may be confusing at times. Lane closures add a safety buffer around a work area in order to keep crews safe, and to make space for pedestrian detours around the work zone.

Building a major construction project in the middle of a busy thoroughfare requires us all to share the road for a period of time. By staging our construction, we can ensure the safety and convenience of the community and drivers while keeping our crews safe so they can get the job done.

safety first

As you drive along, please obey road markings and traffic signs posted along your route. Pedestrians should always be sure to look both ways and pay attention to your surroundings. Blue vivaNext signs are also used in certain areas to provide additional directions for pedestrians and transit riders. We understand the frustration of being a driver stuck in traffic too, and we’re using large digital signs on the street to let you know ahead of time about lane closures and detours, as well as providing current travel times. We hope these signs help you plan your route accordingly and help you manage your travel times.

community engagement

One of the ways we keep you informed throughout construction is by participating in local events and festivals. This summer, we participated in a number of community events to share information, answer questions and stay connected. You may have seen us out and about on several occasions at the Newmarket Farmer’s Market and annual Garlic is Great Festival. In case you missed us, the best way to stay informed about Yonge Street construction activities is to sign up for email notifications at vivanext.com/subscribe.
Rapidway construction is progressing on Yonge Street, and we thank you for continuing to support our local shops and businesses. This holiday season is the perfect time of year to check out what we have in store!

Businesses are open throughout construction, and we value your support. We have a variety of services and products, and want to help you find what you need. Shop Yonge!