We rarely think about the modern conveniences we all enjoy until we’re inconvenienced. Lane closures for road work, construction and moving heavy equipment is disruptive and very visible. But before we can build a complete street on Yonge [see page 3], with dedicated rapid transit lanes, wider sidewalks and beautiful plantings, we need to rebuild an underground world—the world of utilities.

The world of utilities is very complex and requires several specialized crews. Just like renovating your kitchen, only one type of contractor can be in any one work zone at a time, and in a particular sequence.

Each specialized crew excavates the ground, works on their utility and restores the site. This process will be repeated numerous times for every utility that is needed on Yonge. That means crews could return to the same spot many times to perform different work.

Over the course of the project, we’ll be relocating storm and sanitary sewers, water mains, gas mains, electricity and telecommunications equipment.

The time we spend replacing and updating our infrastructure is an investment in our communities and quality of life. A complete street with rapid transit will serve generations to come.
Building a rapidway is not a short-term proposition. There are a lot of things to consider in the design, planning and construction phases that involve a number of stakeholders and logistical hurdles.

We are now entering the construction phase. Here’s a snapshot of the 10 steps to completing the rapidway.

This year, you’ll start to see the transformation of Yonge unfold as we relocate utilities in preparation for road widening. You can expect to see us revisit sites along the corridor to complete the work. See our cover story for a glimpse at the underground world of utilities.

Stay informed about the construction activities on Yonge by signing up for construction bulletin emails at vivanext.com/subscribe or contact your Community Liaisons for more information.

staying connected

If you have a question or concern about the Yonge Street rapidway project, our Community Liaison team is here for you. Over the last few years, we’ve consulted the community and heard your voice at a number of events and one-on-one conversations. Your feedback has been invaluable to the design and planning of the project.

And we’re not done yet. We’re already planning another project update with an open house later this year, and to participate in a number of community events through the summer to share information, answer your questions and stay connected.

sign up for construction updates

The best way to stay informed about the Yonge Street rapidway construction activity is to sign up for email notifications at vivanext.com/subscribe.

Your Community Liaisons are available to answer questions related to the project.

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What is a complete street?

If you’re already familiar with our award-winning street design on Highway 7 East in Markham and Davis Drive in Newmarket, you’ll notice a number of features that make these corridors different from your average street.

Wider sidewalks, improved accessibility, protected turning movements, large planters for trees and shrubs, and bike lanes where possible are all part of York Region’s urban design philosophy. It’s the approach we’re using to shape the future of our communities and neighbourhoods. It’s known as a ‘complete street’, a street that is designed for everyone who uses the corridor.

This transformation is unfolding on Yonge in Richmond Hill and Newmarket this year, on one of the Region’s most important roads for transportation, commerce and entertainment—the perfect place to stop, shop and dine.

To learn more about complete streets and how they are being implemented across Canada and around the world, visit vivanext.com/completestreets.

Upcoming work on Yonge Street

Bringing this plan to life is not without its challenges. Construction is messy and disruptive with shifting lanes, lots of signage and traffic delays. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding. We’re working hard throughout the spring and summer to complete as much as possible.

To date, most of the work has been in the Newmarket section of the Yonge Street rapidway, with the relocation and installation of underground utilities. Crews will start on median removals and hydro pole relocations soon. In Richmond Hill, you will see crews installing new gas and water mains, underground hydro lines and aboveground hydro poles. Crews will be excavating areas at the side of the road resulting in noise and dust, requiring lane closures around work areas. Some activities will be planned as night work to lessen the impact to businesses and your commute.

vivanext.com
stop, shop + dine.

As construction begins, thank you for continuing to support local shops and businesses along Yonge Street. If you haven’t visited us yet, come and check out what we have.

We are open throughout construction, and offer a wide variety of products and services. We value your support, and our staff are ready to help find what you need. After all, we’re your neighbours too - Shop Yonge!