Bringing Rapid Transit to Davis Drive
The need for change – rapid transit on Davis Drive

Project overview and status update

Working with the Town of Newmarket and business owners

Next steps
As a result of rapid population and employment growth throughout the GTA, increasing traffic congestion, gridlock and greenhouse gas emissions have become top public concerns.

Continued growth will continue to put pressure on York Region roads that are already reaching capacity during peak periods.
As shown in the figure, traffic in both the eastbound and westbound directions will exceed the capacity of 1200 vehicles per hour if no changes are made. This growth in traffic will make current traffic conditions even worse, with additional delay for drivers. Increasing congestion will constrain speeds to under 30 kph in several sections along Davis Drive.
- Healthy communities depend on a thriving business sector
- Pedestrian-friendly streets and a more attractive public realm will enhance quality of life for residents, visitors and our business community

• We are regularly meeting with business owners and property managers to ensure they are aware of the project and providing background information

• Have advised the business community that we have hired a community liaison who will work with them to:
  • provide timely construction updates
  • be a single point of contact for their concerns
  • communicate to their tenants if the need arises
  • provide onsite signage and other marketing support materials
  • feature businesses on our website to help attract traffic during construction
  • coordinate meetings between project manager, owners and other parties to address individual property concerns/questions
Working together with the Mayor, Council, CAO and communications subgroup, the team is developing a holistic communication plan to include:

- Public outreach - social marketing, public events, mass emails, community polling, construction newsletter
- Community liaison specialist is a key contact and will be working with property owners, tenants, local businesses, and the general public on-street
- Community Advisory Groups – local business owners, Southlake, Chambers of Commerce
- Advertising - Advertorials in the Era Banner, public workshops, special events
- Earned Media – news release highlighting milestones
Here is the overview of the entire vivaNext project, including Davis Drive:

Originally there was a plan to widen Davis Drive – the EA was already done.

However, we were told by residents and business owners that road improvements alone would not make a difference.

We were also told that doing the road widening and construction of the rapidway as two separate projects would result in unacceptable disruptions for businesses and the community.

We are therefore speeding our process to enable both projects to happen at the same time.
We can predict the overall sequencing and timeframes for all elements except funding approval.

Assuming funding is approved by Spring 09, here is the overall critical path showing the sequencing, and general timeframes required by the major elements of work:

- Property acquisition underway now until Oct 09
- PE/design underway now until Oct 09
- Construction start Fall 09 – 15 months
- Finish – Year end 2010

The actual dates for the beginning and completion of these elements will depend on when funding is approved, and we can press the “start” button.

We are currently working with Newmarket to develop the final recommendations for the EA, and pending the completion of that process we expect the EA to be submitted to the MOE for approval.
davis drive timeline key dates

- Dec: EA submitted
- Jan: Notice of application to appropriate
- Feb/Mar: Hearing of necessity
- Apr/May: EA complete
- PCC
- Council report on expropriation
- Jun: Possession
- Jul: Construction start
- Aug: Serve notice of expropriation
- Sep: Amicable property acquisition continues and owner consultation
- Oct/Nov/Dec
refocus on the public realm

• Past dependency on the automobile has led to a car-first culture
• This means that many people drive through—as opposed to driving to—many of the districts along Highway 7 and Yonge Street
• Rapid transit gives us an opportunity to refocus our attention on a public realm that puts people first
future davis drive – artist rendering
• The transformation of the roadway median to a comfortable place for people requires an architectural response that helps to break down the scale of the right-of-way while enhancing passenger safety and security with handrails, splash walls and other protective elements.

• The vivastation canopy design is evolving to provide overhead weather protection, a sheltered waiting area and fully accessible amenities.

• Customer amenities include indoor seating areas, fare equipment, trash containers, a telephone and bicycle racks.
• We will do everything we can to minimize disruption through the various construction stages
  - Before construction begins, we will meet with property owners to review the design and engineering plans
  - Every reasonable effort will be made to minimize the duration of major construction at each property, while maintaining access
  - The construction site will be as contained as possible, will proceed in incremental road segments
  - Each phase of construction will all be completed before proceeding to the next
• In this way, there will be no gaps that leave an area unattended for long periods of time
• Advance notice of all work will be given, and any temporary changes will be clearly signed
• An on-site Communications Liaison will be available to talk with property owners and tenants and deal with any questions or concerns on the spot
• Our public communications and marketing team will be developing strategies to ensure that the public knows what is happening,
• And how they can continue to access your businesses
• Please note that road widening will happen symmetrically along both sides of the street
davis drive – george street to barbara road
davis drive – parkside drive to longford drive
davis drive – hill street to lorne avenue
davis drive (at niagara street)
davis drive – charles street to prospect street

Note: Removal of parapets and regrading at corner and house access required at funeral home. Boulevard width in front of funeral home reduced from 6 ft to 4 ft.
davis drive – paterson street to alexander road
next steps

March 26
Provincial Budget – Transit funding

April 3, 4, 5
Newmarket Home Show

May 12, 13, 14, 15
Hearing of Necessity

May 26
Public Consultation Centre

June 18
Regional Report on Expropriation
thank you.