Yonge Street - the need for reliable transportation

Yonge Street is centrally located in York Region, and is considered the economic and cultural spine of the GTA, and a main artery for the rapid transit network. That’s why the chosen passage to build a rapidway in Richmond Hill runs from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Boulevard, and again from Crosby Avenue to 19th Avenue/Gamble Road.

The Yonge Street rapidway will accommodate existing and future riders as growth along the Yonge line continues. Once completed, the Yonge Street rapidway in Richmond Hill will run 6.5 kilometres and have wider sidewalks and beautiful plantings.

These improvements to transit also bring more people together in the same area. Public transit makes this possible because it moves a higher volume of people within a confined space. An investment in public transit allows a greater number of people to travel to and from work, promoting mixed-use growth in that area.

These improvements will benefit all users: cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and transit customers. For example, since the Davis Drive rapidway opened in 2015, there has been a 62% increase in total ridership, and up to 33% travel time savings. These improvements have also led to a reduction in vehicle collisions on Davis.
It’s an exciting time to live and work in York Region. The Region is one of Ontario’s largest business communities, with more than 50,000 businesses and almost 600,000 jobs, and an average of 13,000 jobs added annually.

The Yonge bus rapidway in Richmond Hill will reinforce the strong north-south and east-west connections by linking to destinations, urban centres and various transit services, including the completed rapidways on Highway 7 and Davis Drive, and the future Yonge Subway Extension.

This investment in modernizing Yonge, adding a rapid transit service and revitalizing the infrastructure, will go a long way to making sure Yonge is built on a solid foundation that will serve the growing needs of the community for many years to come. It also enables Yonge to become an even greater destination to work, dine, relax, live and shop.
The vivaNext projects in Richmond Hill are supporting future growth, increased development and better transit connections to the GTHA.

We’re making sure that residents, businesses and new developments are provided with the necessary infrastructure to support the growing communities into the future. For example, new water main, gas main, hydro, telecommunications, welcoming streetscapes and, of course, transit, are all being built now to meet current and future demand for generations to come.

This year, crews have been installing and reconstructing underground infrastructure, which includes hydro, gas, telecommunications, and more. New or upgraded infrastructure is being completed at once in order to minimize impacts.

We know construction is messy and may look chaotic and unorganized at times. Rest assured there is a methodical approach to what needs to be done, which is carefully planned and scheduled before work begins. Scheduling among utilities is coordinated to ensure all infrastructure work can happen in different areas simultaneously along Yonge.

pedestrian safety

Some of our top priorities include pedestrian safety and ensuring residents have access to businesses.

Sidewalk closures are not always convenient, but they are important for both public and worker safety. When sidewalks have been temporarily re-routed, there will be signs showing pedestrians where they can safely access sidewalks. Signs and temporary sidewalks will make it easy to locate and access your favourite stores and other businesses during construction. For your own safety, please follow detour signs and cross at signalized intersections.

When transit stops are temporarily relocated, signs will be posted describing the new location and the easiest way to get there. Once completed, well-marked crossings, combined with audible signals, will help make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross at signalized intersections.
Your Community Liaisons are out and about in the community, meeting and talking with people all year throughout Richmond Hill. Activities include meetings with businesses, schools, resident groups, pop-up information booths, concerts in the park and other events. In case you miss them, the best way to stay informed about Yonge Street construction activities is to sign up for email notifications at vivanext.com/subscribe.

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Businesses are open throughout construction. We have a variety of services and products, and we’ll help you find what you’re looking for. After all, we’re your neighbours too – Shop Yonge!