The Yonge Street bus rapid transit project in Richmond Hill is all about connecting people and places. We’re building and improving on what’s already a key transit corridor in York Region, creating connections to completed rapidways in Newmarket, Markham and Vaughan, and the recently opened Line 1 subway extension to Vaughan.

This investment in modernizing Yonge, adding a rapidway and revitalizing infrastructure, will go a long way to making sure Yonge grows on a solid foundation for long-term prosperity.

With construction progressing, the reality of a new and improved Yonge is starting to feel a bit closer. Road widening is underway, in sections, and is scheduled to continue into next year.

By the end of the project, there will be 6.5 km of rapidway in Richmond Hill, seven-centre-lane viva stations at Bantry, 16th/Carrville, Weldrick, Major Mackenzie, Elgin Mills, Bernard and 19th/Gamble, each having two platforms [one northbound and one southbound]. There will also be one curbside station at Crosby. The final lane configuration will include dedicated left-turn lanes at every signalized intersection.
With road widening activities underway on Yonge, in some sections, traffic has been shifted to one side of Yonge. These activities included:

- Traffic lanes being shifted to make room for crews to work
- Painting new traffic lines on the road
- Maintaining two lanes in each direction during peak hours, when possible
- Removing existing pavement, curbs and sidewalks within the construction limits
- Installing new storm sewers and curbs
- Paving

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.

This year, crews have been installing and relocating underground infrastructure, which includes hydro, gas, telecommunications, and more. Scheduling among utilities is coordinated to ensure all infrastructure work can happen in different areas simultaneously.
Each vivaNext project includes improvements to infrastructure – which is necessary as the population grows – and leaves a lasting legacy. Here’s an overview of work you can expect to see taking place over the next couple of years:

- Installation of street light pole bases and street light poles
- Boulevard work, which involves a number of items, including:
  - Forming and pouring concrete to create the sidewalk base and planters, then installing precast curbs for the planters
  - Installing paver stones
  - Streetscaping – this includes installing planter boxes, planting flowers, bushes and grasses, topping up topsoil, distributing mulch and planting new trees
- Vivastation platform construction including centre medians, canopies, and more
- Paving along the project

We can do it together!

- Pay attention to posted signs in and around construction zones.
- Cross at the designated crosswalk.
- Obey the posted speed limit in construction zones.
- The value of patience.
- Safety is a shared responsibility.

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This time of year, the spirit of giving is all around.

We’d like to thank you for continuing to support your neighbourhood shops, restaurants and services along Yonge Street in Richmond Hill during construction. We invite you to come see what’s in store this holiday season.

After all, we’re your neighbours too – Shop Yonge!

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