There's a lot of activity happening this year on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, including construction of the rapidway and complete streets, with wider sidewalks, more accessibility features, attractive tree planters and bike lanes where possible. The construction project is about much more than building dedicated lanes for bus rapid transit, it’s about connecting people and places.

Buses heading south on Yonge Street will connect with the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal, which meet up with routes in Vaughan and Markham, and the future Yonge Subway Extension.

Buses headed north on Yonge will connect with the Newmarket Bus Terminal, offering connections to the Davis Drive rapidway, trains at the Newmarket GO Station, the Southlake Regional Health Centre, and will continue to Highway 404 Park & Ride. What’s the result? Increased connections across York Region.

Transit riders, residents and businesses are best served when transit works as an integrated system. A coordinated approach provides transit services that are convenient and accessible, connecting different modes of transportation and destinations for people to live, work and play in York Region.
Each vivaNext project includes improvements to infrastructure [such as water mains], which is necessary as the population grows and leaves a lasting legacy. Here’s an overview of the activities you can expect to see taking place this year:

• Construction of vivastations

• Additional traffic shifts. Crews will shift traffic to one side of Yonge in advance of road widening works, which includes:
  >> Traffic lanes being reduced and narrowed at times
  >> Two open lanes in each direction, where and when possible
  >> Removing existing pavement, curbs and sidewalks within the construction limits

• Installing new water mains, storm infrastructure and curbs

• Continuation of boulevard work, including pouring concrete and installing paver stones

We know construction is messy and may look chaotic at times. Rest assured there is a methodical approach to what needs to be done, which is carefully planned and scheduled before work begins.

We can do it together – safety is a shared responsibility!

• 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
As the year progresses, work on each of the seven iconic centre-lane vivastations will begin to unfold. Work is already underway to build the vivastations at Bantry/Scott and 19th/ Gamble, with crews scheduled to ramp up work at the remaining stations: 16th/Carrville, Weldrick, Major Mackenzie, Elgin Mills and Bernard.

There are many steps involved in building a vivestation, including pouring 8 trucks’ worth of concrete. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we proceed through the works.

As you drive along Yonge Street this construction season, keep your eyes open for each of the following steps in building a vivestation. 

1. Installing caissons, and pouring concrete for the foundation of the vivestation
2. Forming and pouring the barrier wall, a concrete barrier providing delineation between the station and traffic
3. Steel installation for the skeleton of station
4. Glass installation for the curved roof, and heated waiting area
5. Tile work on the platform
6. Fixture installation, including garbage bins, benches, handrails, and more
7. Electrical and intelligent transportation systems, including security and PA systems, emergency call boxes [ECB], lights, heaters, ticket vending machines, and more
Coping with construction is a lot easier when you know what to expect, where to expect it, and for how long. Your community liaisons meet with schools, libraries, businesses, resident groups, and more. 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 and follow us on our social media platforms.

Stay informed about road closures, overnight and weekend work by visiting vivanext.com/yongeimpacts

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We’d like to thank all the people who continue to support our local shops and businesses along Yonge Street in the City of Richmond Hill during construction. If you haven’t visited us lately, we can help you find just what you’re looking for. After all, we’re your neighbours too—Shop Yonge!