shaping our communities in Richmond Hill & Newmarket

The vivaNext rapidway will:

- Complement and enhance our community as the population increases
- Help shape successful urban growth
- Encourage building attractive, pedestrian-friendly places for people to live, work and play
how it all began

part of a big plan

To lessen our reliance on cars, we need more choices in how to get around, and from this comes new ideas on how our communities should grow. In 2006, the Province of Ontario published Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This 25-year plan for managing growth aims to protect green spaces and create complete communities with more options for life in general, including housing, work and transportation.

Metrolinx, an Ontario provincial agency, developed The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in 2008. Metrolinx is funding transit projects like ours to expand, connect and improve transportation systems within and between GTHA regions.

York Region’s Official Plan outlines a system of urban growth centres and corridors and is supported by Regional Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines. Two of the key urban growth centres identified are the Richmond Hill Regional Centre and Newmarket Regional Centre. The Yonge Street rapidway will reinforce the strong north-south and east-west connections to other regional centres and other modes of public transit.

municipal planning

- Town of Newmarket Official Plan approved in 2006
- Town of Richmond Hill Official Plan approved in 2010
- VivaNext has worked closely with the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Newmarket to ensure rapid transit integrates with their Official Plans, growth strategies and community objectives, while respecting the unique attributes found in each municipality.
Once the vivaNext project plans were formed, Environmental Assessments [EAs] began. Public consultation is a key part of an EA process. As part of the public consultation for Yonge Street, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation ensured interested parties were informed and involved, and were provided access to information and time to respond. We also encouraged interested parties to participate in identifying and resolving issues.

We hosted Public Consultation Centres to help guide the Yonge project through the EA process, and we received approval of the EA from Ministry of the Environment.

Since then, we’ve used newsletters, social media and public speaking opportunities to stay engaged with the communities in Richmond Hill and Newmarket.
In 2009, Metrolinx announced funding of $1.4 billion for the construction of rapidways in York Region.

- Yonge Street segments include:
  - Hwy. 7 to Major Mackenzie Dr.
  - Levendale Rd. to 19th Ave./Gamble Rd.
  - Mulock Dr. to Davis Dr.

The identified rapidways included Highway 7, Davis Drive and Yonge Street.

The Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.
vivaNext route map

- Open Rapidway
- Rapidway Construction (2011-2014)*
- Rapidway Construction (2012-2016)*
- Rapidway Construction (2014-2017)*
- Rapidway Construction (2015-2018)*
- Future Rapid Transit
- Spadina Subway Extension (2011-2016)*
- Proposed Yonge Subway Extension
- Terminals
- GO Transit Rail Lines

* Subject to change
Map not to scale
In total the rapidway will extend 6.5 kilometres from Highway 7 to 19th Avenue/Gamble Road. In the heritage area north of Major Mackenzie Drive, viva will continue to drive in mixed traffic as it does now.
The Yonge Street rapidway is a part of the vivaNext plan to build a rapid transit network that connects York Region’s urban centres and enriches our communities.

The plan includes rapidways along Highway 7, Davis Drive and Yonge Street, as well as two subway extensions.
stations become destinations along the corridor
traffic flows in a new way at signalized intersections

First signal phase: left and u-turns for Yonge street traffic

Second signal phase: right-turns and straight-through for Yonge street traffic, straight-through for Yonge street pedestrians and rapid transit

Third signal phase: left and right-turns and straight-through for cross street traffic
left-turns on Yonge

- No more waiting for oncoming traffic to clear before making left turns across Yonge Street.
- At the nearest intersection, drivers can use the dedicated left-turn signal to make a U-turn and safely approach their destination.
- Left turns will be made at intersections, eliminating the traffic delays and hazards caused by mid-block left turns.
- Newmarket and Richmond Hill will have walkable hubs of activity along Yonge Street, with new opportunities for living, working and shopping.
- Transformation encourages sustainable travel choices, relieving traffic congestion in Newmarket and Richmond Hill with up to 72 vehicles replaced by a single bus.
pedestrian-friendly streets

→ York Region is committed to building stronger connections through its comprehensive Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

→ In consultation with the local municipalities, the Region created a blueprint to develop walking and cycling infrastructure. The plan will also promote alternate forms of travel, such as combining walking and cycling with public transit, to help reach its sustainable transportation objectives.

connecting to established community networks

Town of Richmond Hill

→ As part of a plan to create a safe, convenient, continuous and connected pedestrian and cycling network, the Town of Richmond Hill recently installed approximately 90 km of signed bike-only routes; 57 km of signed bike routes with edge line and 13 km of bike lanes in both residential neighbourhoods and business parks throughout the town.

Town of Newmarket

→ The Town of Newmarket offers more than 44 kilometres of walking and biking trails along the Nokiiadaa Trail system. Newmarket’s vast trail system promotes a healthy lifestyle, reduces vehicle emissions by encouraging waking and cycling and brings the community together to enjoy the great outdoors.
The Yonge Street rapidways will include streetscape details such as side inlet grates, decorative tree grates and attractive sidewalk treatments and finishes.

Landscaped areas, improved lighting and attractive architectural elements recognize Yonge Street as key destinations for people to meet, gather and socialize along an attractive, welcoming streetscape.

The combination of great transit access and wider, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks will encourage businesses to offer more choices to work, dine, live and shop.
new vivastations provide comfort, convenience and protection

Tinted glass provides enhanced comfort, reduces glare and improves visibility during the day. At night, lighting illuminates the canopy for additional ambiance and safety.

PA system has both live and recorded announcements; automatic volume levels adjust based on time of day.

Motion-activated heaters provide warmth while the new automated entry doors minimize heat loss.

Vivastations can accommodate two vehicles as well as future LRT.

Security cameras are installed at key points around the platforms.

Emergency call button allows for two-way communication and triggers blue pulsing lights.

Signage helps direct riders with ease and clarity.

Fare payments made easy. Use cash, debit, credit, monthly passes or the new PRESTO card.

Designated waiting area is marked for those who have paid their fare and validated their ticket.

Glass enclosure helps riders stay dry and sheltered all year round.

Innovative canopy design hangs over the vehicle, ensuring comfortable boarding and disembarking.

Riders can easily keep track of arrivals and service announcements in real-time with the message board.

Raised tiles along the platform edge provide greater awareness for the visually impaired.
green spaces for trees and plants are priorities

- Plans include protecting existing vegetation and trees wherever possible.
- Once the rapidway is complete, new trees will be planted along Yonge Street.
- We’re planting salt and drought-resistant trees and shrubs and adding underground soil-cell technology, which helps to support healthy trees and plants.
Process is completed in partnership with York Region Realty Services

Different approaches depending on project’s impact on property

- **temporary easements** for grading and other construction-related work areas
- **permanent easements** for future maintenance of retaining walls, storm-water management ponds etc.
- **partial acquisitions** for strip widening
Before we can begin road construction, we need to prepare everything alongside the road first.

- We'll start with:
  - relocating utilities
  - building retaining walls
  - working on water culverts and bridges

- Even though all of these aren't on the road, lane closures may be required.
building a rapidway step-by-step

Every effort will be made to minimize the impacts of construction and ensure that traffic keeps moving as smoothly as possible. Progress is dependant on a number of factors, including weather and scheduling.

- Move utilities and install temporary traffic signals
- Shift all lanes over to one side of roadway
- Remove old curbs and drains
- Install new streetlights
- Put in new curbs, drains and sidewalks
- Install permanent traffic signals and pave/paint new traffic lanes
- Shift traffic to new lanes and repeat the previous steps on other side
- Build rapidways down centre of roadway
- Build vivastations and landscape boulevard and median along rapidway
- Pave final rapidway and roadway
Road construction will be staged, once utilities have been moved back.

Construction staging helps traffic flow, to minimize disruption to local community, transit users and drivers.

Stage 1  Removal of centre medians

Stage 2  First side road widening

Stage 3  Second side road widening

Stage 4  Building down the middle
how construction will unfold

In 2013, crews surveyed roads and tested soil in preparation for widening Yonge Street.

From 2014-2017, construction will be sequenced, with major road work starting after utility work.

Construction is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

For detailed construction information, sign up for construction updates on vivanext.com. Schedule subject to change.
access for pedestrians

- Pedestrian convenience and safety are top priorities.
- When sidewalks have to be temporarily re-routed, there will be clear signs showing pedestrians where to go.
- 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.
- Cyclists will have their very own dedicated lane.
> Throughout construction, all existing stops will be maintained.

> In some cases, bus stops and shelters may be affected and/or relocated.

> When bus stops are relocated, notices will be placed at your stop in advance.

> Pedestrian safety will be maintained with signs on site as needed, to guide you around construction.
There will be a total of 10 new vivastations [20 platforms] built along Yonge Street, as part of a total of 72 vivastations to be built on York Region’s rapidways.

Vivastations will be in the centre of the road.

These new stations will create an attractive street presence, complementing future mixed-use development.

This summer, York Region opened its first 2.5 km of rapidway with 6 new vivastations along Highway 7 East.
We are committed to minimizing construction impacts on local businesses, by:

- profiling local businesses on the vivaNext website
- keeping customer access to businesses
- encouraging consumers to visit businesses along corridors through signage, advertising and contests
- working with the Chambers of Commerce
- emphasizing that businesses are open during construction
- providing advance notice of major works activities

supporting local businesses throughout construction
Having information, updates and answers makes the construction process easier. As the rapidway projects move forward, we’re committed to being available to you by phone, email or in person.

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Coping with construction is a lot easier when you know what to expect, where, and for how long.

It also helps to be reminded of all the great benefits you will enjoy at the end of it all.

You can find answers to any questions you may have through:
- project newsletters and bulletins
- contacting your Community Liaison
- the vivaNext website, vivanext.com
- email construction notices when you sign up at vivanext.com
- public open houses
- visiting us on Facebook, following us on Twitter, or reading our blog at vivanext.com/blog

We know that you want to know about what's happening, so be sure to sign up for construction notices at vivanext.com/signup, read our blog at vivanext.com/blog, and find us on Facebook and Twitter.