Yonge Street - transforming in Newmarket

With construction well underway, the reality of a new and improved Yonge Street is starting to feel a bit closer. Road widening is continuing on the west side of Yonge between Sawmill Valley Drive/Savage Road and Davis Drive, and is scheduled to take place on the east side next year.

By the end of the project, there will be 2.4 km of rapidway, and 3-centre-lane vivastations at Mulock, Eagle and Davis, each having two platforms [one northbound and one southbound]. The final traffic lane configuration will include dedicated left-turn lanes and traffic signals at every signalized intersection.

The Yonge Street bus rapidway in Newmarket 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 Davis Drive and Highway 7 in Markham and Vaughan, and the future Yonge Subway Extension.

This investment in modernizing Yonge Street, 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 a greater destination to work, dine, relax, live and shop.

Bringing this plan to life is not without its challenges. Construction, in particular, is messy and disruptive, with its shifting lanes, signage, road closures and traffic delays. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we build the rapidway in your neighbourhood.
growth and development in Newmarket

VivaNext is an integral component of the Centres and Corridors strategy, which concentrates growth and development in key areas, and strengthens downtowns in Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan.

Changes are underway on Davis Drive and Yonge Street, with York Region and the Town of Newmarket committed to creating complete communities within walking distance of transit.

Much of the new development around vivastations will be compact and mixed-use, providing housing and employment, retail, dining, services and recreation. Developments will also include welcoming public spaces, attractive landscaping and other amenities. These all help make neighbourhoods more dynamic destinations – and complete communities that are ideal places to live.

update on construction activities on Yonge Street in Newmarket

As you drive or walk along Yonge Street, you’ll see the transformation starting to take shape. You’ve probably noticed that earlier this year crews removed medians and set-up temporary traffic lights, and widened the road between Sawmill Valley/Savage and Davis Drive, starting on the west side.

Crews have begun installing water mains and storm sewers, and have started with base layer paving. Road widening is underway on the east and west sides of Yonge for the remainder of this year and throughout 2018.
Pedestrian safety and ensuring access to businesses remains our top priorities.

Sidewalk closures are not always convenient, but they are important for both public and worker safety. When sidewalks have been temporarily closed, 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.

investing in infrastructure: weekend and night work

So how do we get these projects done when people still need to use the roads?

VivaNext rapid transit projects are carefully planned to manage construction and maintain traffic flow as much as possible. There is a balance on every construction project between the need to get work done on schedule, the need to keep traffic moving, and the construction disruption to adjacent homes and businesses.

On occasion, night work is scheduled on busy roads to avoid traffic congestion during the higher-traffic daytime hours. When driving, we remind you to use caution, and keep an eye out for changing lane shifts, pedestrians and workers.

Construction continues on some of our streets, so please drive slowly through work areas with everyone’s safety in mind.

We understand that sitting in traffic can make commutes longer. On the other hand, when work is done at night we know the noise and lights can make it difficult for those living nearby. The project works hard to strike a balance between all these considerations. Work is limited during peak traffic times, and crews work diligently to complete overnight work quickly so that it’s over as soon as possible.

Our crews work diligently to minimize the amount of noise and light they create while they’re working overnight, while still maintaining a safe work environment for crews.
Your Community Liaisons are out and about in the community, meeting and talking with people all year throughout Newmarket. Activities include meetings with businesses, schools, resident groups, pop-up information booths, community events 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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stop, shop + dine.

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!