It’s an exciting time to live and work in York Region. York 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. Being centrally located in York Region, Yonge Street is 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 runs from Savage Road/Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive. The Yonge Street rapidway will accommodate existing and future riders as growth along the Yonge line continues. Once completed, the Yonge Street rapidway in Newmarket will run 2.4 kilometres and have wider sidewalks and beautiful plantings. 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.

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 completed rapidways on Davis Drive and Highway 7 in Markham and Vaughan, and the future Yonge Subway Extension.

Future plans for the area include mixed-use developments that blend a lifestyle concept of housing, retail, employment, amenities and transit within close distance to each other.
Building a rapidway is not a short-term proposition. There are a lot of things to consider in the design, planning and construction phases that involve a number of stakeholders and logistical hurdles.

Each vivaNext project includes improvements to infrastructure and utilities—which is necessary as the population grows—and leaves a lasting legacy.

We’re now entering the roadway construction phase. Here’s a snapshot of what you can expect to see this year:

- Continue to remove medians on Yonge Street and setting up temporary traffic lights.
- Road widening between Savage Road/Sawmill Valley Drive and Davis Drive, starting on the west side of Yonge.
- There will be temporary lane closures around work areas as required.
- Where possible, bus stops and sidewalks will remain open. Where bus stops and sidewalks are affected, directional signs will guide pedestrians to the nearest available option.
- Some night and weekend work may be required.
pedestrian safety

Pedestrian safety and ensuring there is access to businesses are some of our top priorities. When sidewalks have been temporarily detoured, 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. Please give yourself enough time to get to your destination, and remember to reduce your speed through construction zones for the safety of the community and workers in the area.

When transit stops are temporarily relocated, signs will be posted describing the new location and the easiest way to get there. Once the rapidway is complete, well-marked crossings, combined with audible signals, will help make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross at signalized intersections.

community engagement

One of the ways we keep you informed, especially during construction season, is through local events and festivals. Join us this summer at a variety of community events to get information, ask questions, share your feedback and stay connected. In case you miss us, the best way to stay informed about Yonge Street construction activities is to sign up for email notifications at vivaNext.com/subscribe.
With construction underway on Yonge Street in Newmarket, thank you for continuing to support our local shops and businesses. If you haven’t visited us lately, don’t mind the mess outside and come check us out.

Businesses are open throughout construction and we value your support. We have a variety of services and products, and want to help you find what you need. After all, we’re your neighbours too—Shop Yonge!