



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Vivastations taking shape across York Region

NEWMARKET – Viva is picking up speed as York Region’s rapid transit system gets closer to service launch in September. Signs of progress can be seen along the roadways and at intersections throughout York Region, including the unveiling of the first Vivastation at the intersection of Highway 7 and Allstate Parkway in Markham. Fare equipment will be installed later in the spring.

“Today marks an important day for Viva Rapid Transit, signifying the tremendous progress we have made over the past couple of years,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “What was once a bold vision of Regional Council is now turning into a reality. As evident by the unique design of the stations, Viva will be something special.”

There will be 119 stations and stops located throughout York Region. Stations will range in length from two to 12 metres, depending on the location and the number of passengers expected to use the station. These unique structures will be safe, brightly lit, and easy to spot. Each station and stop will have a distinctive blue fin that serves as a landmark, setting Viva apart from other transit stops.

Vivastations will have special fare machines where riders can purchase and validate tickets before boarding, eliminating the need to pay onboard the vehicle and speeding up the process. Each station and stop will also have electronic signs telling people exactly when the next vehicle will arrive, and easy to understand route maps.

“It’s exciting for the people of Markham to see Viva taking shape,” said Markham – Unionville MP John McCallum. “This innovative rapid transit system is eagerly anticipated by our Government for it will provide significant benefits, including reducing gridlock, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving the quality of life we all cherish.”

The station components are being manufactured in separate production facilities and assembled later at the roadside locations. The steel columns, roof blades and glass panels are being manufactured and installed by Architectural Metalcraft Industries of Mississauga. The metal fins are being manufactured and installed by WSI Sign Systems Ltd. of Bolton.

“I am impressed with the progress being made in my riding and look forward to this innovative new rapid transit service beginning this fall,” said Markham MPP Tony Wong. “Public transit is a priority of the McGuinty Government and Viva is an excellent example of our commitment to eliminating traffic congestion and promoting sustainable growth within York Region.”

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Frequency will be the hallmark of Viva, with rapid transit vehicles arriving every five to 10 minutes during peak periods. The rapid transit system will link the Region's urban centres of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Aurora and Newmarket along four major transportation corridors, including Highway 7 and Yonge Street. In addition, Viva will link York Region with the City of Toronto and its subway system, to GO Transit and to transit systems in the Region of Peel, and eventually into Durham Region.

“This is a wonderful milestone since Seneca College is expanding into York Region, immediately behind the Vivastation that was officially completed today,” said Seneca President Dr. Rick Miner. “Our Markham Campus will have about 3,500 students, and Viva will not only benefit them, but will provide quality transportation for the many staff and faculty who will also be located there.”

The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and York Region each contributed \$50 million for Viva's first phase. When the first phase is fully implemented, York Region estimates these initial improvements will lead to a 30 per cent increase in transit ridership – moving 7,000 car trips a day off the major arterial roads.

Electronic photos of the finished station and stations being constructed are available upon request.

For more information on Viva, to view our Local Leaders Gallery, or to learn about the Viva Challenge, please visit our Viva Web site at www.vivayork.com

For more information on the Regional Municipality of York, the services offered and links to the nine area municipalities, please visit the web site at www.york.ca

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