



PROJECT OF THE YEAR: TRANSPORTATION MORE THAN \$75 MILLION

vivaNext Highway 7 East Rapidway

Managing Agency: York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Metrolinx
Primary Contractor: Kiewit Ellis Don, A Partnership
Primary Consultant: Parsons, Aecom & IBI Group
Nominated By: APWA Ontario Chapter

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) is responsible for the planning, design and construction of the York Region Rapid Transit System (vivaNext) and related infrastructure to deliver the transit priorities set out in the York Region Transportation Master Plan. The Program is a vital part of the Region's plan for the next generation of rapid transit being built to support growth and combat traffic congestion.

YRRTC delivered the first phase of Viva, which involved the planning, design and implementation of the bus rapid transit network running in mixed traffic, the purchase of new buses, and the provision of off-board payment facilities. This phase was launched in 2005, with a steady increase in ridership of over 22.7 million riders in 2013.

The vivaNext project is being funded by Metrolinx, an agency of the Province of Ontario, with a mandate for a 25-year plan to implement a common vision for transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) also referred to as *The Big Move*. The vivaNext project is an example of *The Big Move* in action and represents \$1.4 billion (2009) in provincial transit investment.

The H3.1 segment of rapidway in the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Markham, which opened on August 18, 2013, included the construction



of six stations (12 platforms) at key intersections, together with the design and implementation of related infrastructure and facilities including intelligent transportation systems. The two platforms at Bayview Station are curbside and include buildings with stairs and elevators connecting Highway 7 to Bayview Avenue.

Not only is this section of Highway 7 more efficient for pedestrians, cyclists, riders and drivers, but the landscape has been transformed with sidewalks along sections where there were previously none, trees and other greenery. The transformation taking place along the Viva routes will change how pedestrians, cyclists and motorists not only view the area in general, but get from A to B more easily, safely and efficiently.

The H3.1 segment features separated lanes with their own traffic signals, so the buses don't run in congested traffic. Buses are GPS tracked and arrival times are relayed to forthcoming stops. Platforms are shielded from the rain and there are enclosed and heated areas for customer protection from inclement weather. Riders pay on the platform, shortening the time buses are stopped. The articulated buses hold close to 100 people and can run with headway—the time between vehicles—of less than five minutes at peak times.

The transformation of this urban corridor will support growth, and reduce congestion to help make York Region an even more inviting place to live, work, shop and play.