

« those carefree summer days are here!
make some #connections this summer »

bus rapid transit is a global phenomenon, up nearly 400% in over 10 years



At vivaNext, we're working hard to build a Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] system. And we're not alone! Our vision of fast, reliable and convenient BRT service is shared by many cities and regions, all over the world.

Bus Rapid Transit is a global phenomenon that has nearly quadrupled over the last 10 years, growing 383% worldwide from 2004 to 2014, according to data compiled by the [Institute for Transportation and Development Policy](#).

buses! buses!

Former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, Enrique Peñalosa, said it best with his rally cry: "Buses! Buses! Buses! Buses!" That was his response to a suggestion that some municipalities might benefit from a subway.

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Indeed, for many cities and regions, BRT simply makes sense. A BRT system can be built at a fraction of the cost and time of a rail system – in the span of a few years instead of a decade or more – and still provide service that can be just as reliable, fast and frequent as a train.

More cities and regions are turning to BRT as their transportation solution, with 1,849 kilometres of new lines added globally in the last decade. In York Region, our contribution was the six- kilometre stretch of rapidway on Highway 7 East! And that's just the beginning.

32 million global BRT riders every day

Around the world, 32 million people ride BRT every day, according to the global database BRTData.org. That's 5,087 kilometres of BRT lines in 193 cities.

The undisputed global leader of the movement is Latin America with nearly 20 million passengers, followed by Asia with 8.7 million. Brazil is the birthplace of BRT, and the country with the largest network of systems; nearly 12 million passengers a day in 34 cities!

Bus Rapid Transit grew the most in China with construction of 552 new kilometres over the last decade, followed by Brazil with 345 kilometres, and Mexico with 234 kilometres, according to the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

Closer to home in North America, BRT is a small but growing phenomenon with one million passengers in 27 cities. The United States was fourth worldwide in terms of growth, with 104 kilometres of new lanes built in the last 10 years.

9.6 million annual riders on Highway 7 East rapidway

Here in York Region, we're working hard to bring the vivaNext vision to life. Our current plan will include 34 kilometres of rapidway once construction is complete, connecting the communities of Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Newmarket. That includes the six kilometres already running in Markham. We're also forging connections with the Spadina Subway Extension, and advancing plans for the Yonge North Subway Extension. In 2014, our Highway 7 East rapidway in Markham had 9.6 million riders, so we're well on our way.

We're building rapidways but the true end product is something much greater – mobility. Mobility makes everything possible. Because BRT runs in designated lanes it's not subject to the whims of traffic. When our rapidways are complete, people will know they can rely on Viva service to get where they need to go – to work, to school, and to life. As our communities grow and roads get more congested, our rapidway system will be ready to meet the growing

demands of our region – part of a global movement moving people forward into the future

Tags: [Bogata](#), [Brazil](#), [BRT](#), [Bus Rapid Transit](#), [Colombia](#), [international](#), [South America](#), [Viva](#), [vivaNext](#), [York Region](#)

This entry was posted on Monday, June 29th, 2015 at 3:42 pm and is filed under [General](#), [Studies](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

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« zig-zags and traffic flips

Newmarket Jazz Festival »

when time is money, BRT is priceless



In our busy modern lives, *time* is our most precious commodity, and for the competitive-minded, cutting time can be exciting.

When living through the construction of a Bus Rapid Transit system, you might wonder if it's really going to make a difference. Is it really worth it?

Bus Rapid Transit has been proven to save time and money and even enhance health, according to a 2013 report by EMBARQ, the transportation branch of the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities.

The report – [Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts of BRT Systems](#) – looked at four different Bus Rapid Transit projects and quantified things like time lost during construction, improved travel time, reduced transit operating costs and all of the future environmental and public health impacts that come from Bus Rapid Transit. Then they calculated whether or not it's worth it.

EMBARQ's analysis used case studies from the TransMilenio in Bogota, Colombia; Metrobús in Mexico City, Mexico; Rea Vaya in Johannesburg, South Africa; and Metrobüs in Istanbul, Turkey.

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saving time

We all know that time is priceless. Every minute spent living our lives instead of waiting in traffic is a minute well-spent. Bus Rapid Transit saves time because buses have dedicated lanes that won't be clogged with traffic. Passengers pay before they board and have near-level boarding, so they're able to get on and off buses quickly. Traffic signals that give buses priority saves time, and so does the frequent service, because you spend less time waiting and more time getting where you need to go.

EMBARQ found the typical Metrobüs rider in Istanbul saved 52 minutes a day by using Bus Rapid Transit. In Johannesburg, riders save an average of 13 minutes each way.

Imagine what you could do with 52 more minutes in a day!

saving money

Now take the happiness of saving time, and add the satisfaction of saving money – how exciting is that?

For the cities in the EMBARQ report, Bus Rapid Transit is an investment in the future. One of the biggest benefits is reduced operating costs. Mexico City's Metrobús Line 3 is estimated to have saved \$37 million with lower operating costs that come with Bus Rapid Transit. Istanbul and Turkey also have seen significant savings from lower costs.

Here in York Region, we're already saving time on Bus Rapid Transit. Riders on our Highway 7 East rapidway are experiencing 35% faster travel times. But the best is yet to come, as we grow around a great rapid transit system. Our region's population is projected to grow from 1.1 million in 2014 to 1.8 million in 2041, and employment is expected to grow from 565,000 to 900,000. We're building a system of Bus Rapid Transit lanes to move the future of York Region – and help people get where they need to go, saving time and money along the way.

We've caught the excitement, and maybe [watching our video will help you catch it too](#).

Tags: [Bogata](#), [BRT](#), [Bus Rapid Transit](#), [priceless](#), [Save Money](#), [save time](#)

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One Response to “when time is money, BRT is priceless”

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moving the masses: Pan Am and Parapan Am Games rely on mass transit to make it all happen



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Get ready, the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games have arrived! This is the world's third-largest international multi-sport games. That means 250,000 visitors, and over 7,000 athletes converging on the GTA this July and August.

When you want to move the masses, you need mass transit.

Imagine 1.4 million spectators [that's how many tickets there are for the Pan Am Games] potentially trying to make their way to over 300 events all over the GTA from July 10 to 26. Or 50,000 people all going downtown on a single night to attend the Opening Ceremonies at Rogers Centre on July 10.

Without transit, getting people to mega-events like this would be traffic chaos. The Toronto Pan Am/Parapan Am Games is relying on mass transit infrastructure to make it all happen. Organizers have adopted what they call a "transit-first approach" – doing all that they can to get people to take transit during the Games.

» [Tickets to the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games include free](#)

transit with local services such as GO Transit, Toronto Transit Commission [TTC], YRT/Viva and many more. Just show your Games ticket and ride for free.

- » Extra TTC and GO train service will run during the Games and subway service will start at 6am on Sundays instead of the usual 9am.
- » Several games venues won't have parking. [Accessible parking is allowed, but should be pre-booked.]
- » Apps and online tools can help people optimize their transit and driving routes.
 - » [Triplinx](#) is Metrolinx's interactive transit trip planning tool, which launched in May, and provides step-by-step, real-time directions for transit riders.
 - » [2015 Games Trip Planner](#) provides real-time driving and transit routes during the Games.
 - » The 'Call One' Call Centre, run by York Region Transit, will allow Games spectators to book specialized transit, coordinating service between GO Transit and all nine specialized transit service providers in the Games area, including York Region Transit Mobility Plus.

Our first rapidway on Highway 7 East in Markham and Richmond Hill is ready for the Pan Am Games. While it wasn't planned specifically for this event, the rapidway will make travelling to events at Markham Pan Am/Parapan Am Centre near Kennedy Road and Enterprise Boulevard much easier.

Major international events like this will often spur the creation of transit infrastructure. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games led to the creation of the Canada Line, a light rail train in Vancouver that connected the city to the airport.

Vancouver Olympics organizers encouraged spectators and commuters to turn to transit during the Games, just as Pan Am/Parapan Am Games planners are doing now.

Transit service in Vancouver experienced record ridership during the Olympics, up 31 percent with an average daily ridership near 1.6 million.

There was also an amazing, surprising after-effect. Once people got used to riding transit, they kept riding, even when the Olympics were over.

Ridership increased by nearly eight percent that year, excluding the Olympics numbers, which was partly due to the new Canada Line, and partly due to people keeping up their Olympic transit habit.

Now that's a legacy for the future.

For mass events, transit just makes sense. When everyone has so many places they need to be all at once, it's so much easier to be car-free, sit back and enjoy the ride.

« realizing the vision of leafy, tree-lined streets
bus rapid transit is a global phenomenon, up nearly 400% in over
10 years »

those carefree summer days are here!



School's wrapping up and summer's here! Are you excited? We are. Summer is the time of year when vivaNext gets a lot done. This summer, work on our Davis Drive rapidway in Newmarket is entering the home stretch, and we're excited to see it taking shape. We're also widening roads and paving in Vaughan on Highway 7 West, and last but not least we are putting the final touches on our Highway 7 rapidway in Markham in preparation for the Pan Am Games.

Summer is a great time for you to get things done too – important things like swimming, cycling, camping and barbecues.

Warm weather and no school mean carefree days, which is why it's more important than ever to drive carefully. Children and teens will be running around having the time of their lives. Sometimes they run into the streets without looking, skateboard on busy streets, or do other things you wouldn't expect. It's motorists' job to be extra vigilant, helping our kids stay safe.

In our busy lives, driving sometimes feels like a race from one place

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to the next. Is it really worth the rush? Sidestepping rules of the road by talking on a cell phone or rolling through a stop sign can be tempting. But, take your time. Slow down and enjoy the summer. Keep your attention on the road and watch for construction detours, speed signs and children.

And if you find driving is becoming a little tedious, you can try Viva, which is running throughout York Region. As you know, six kilometres of bus rapid transit are already running in Markham from Bayview to Warden, providing travel times that are as much as 35% faster, so experience it firsthand. This route will be a fast, convenient alternative to driving your car throughout the Pan Am Games this summer.

However you choose to get around, we hope you make the most out of your summer – drive with care and be safe!

Tags: [Construction](#), [driving](#), [Safety](#), [school](#), [summer](#)

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