

# Viva among priorities in \$7B capital plan

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Staff Writer

The GTA has a new regional transit plan and Viva is among the first beneficiaries.

Metrolinx, the regional transit authority, formally approved its \$50-billion plan for transit expansion Friday and quickly recommended funding for the expansion of York's

Viva bus transit.

The construction of bus-only rapidways on Hwy. 7 and Yonge Street was listed as among the 15 priority projects that could be immediately implemented as part of a \$7-billion, five-year capital plan.

Also approved were plans to construct light rail transit on Sheppard

Avenue, connecting the subway to Scarborough.

"We are confident that the (plan's) construction program will generate almost 430,000 jobs in Ontario. In the first full year of construction alone, the plan will create an estimated 17,000 jobs," Metrolinx chairperson Rob MacIsaac said.

Metrolinx is digging into the \$11.5

billion set aside by the province for its prioritized transit projects.

Those also include the Yonge and Spadina subway extensions.

A first phase of "quick win" projects is already under way.

Funding for a third phase of projects remains to be determined. A 2013 report by Metrolinx will lay out options, possibly including some

form of road tolls.

By the end of Metrolinx's 25-year vision, more than 80 per cent of people in the GTHA will live within two kilometres of rapid transit, compared to just 42 per cent now.

They hope twice as many people as now will take advantage of transit, reducing overall commute times even as the population grows.

**York Regional Police**  
**Holidays to the Village**  
**at the Community Safety Village**

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008 Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Cost of Admission: a new, unwrapped toy for

**Come and experience:**

- Holidays from around the world
- Walk outside and enjoy the holiday lights
- Not chocolate and treats
- A visit from Santa
- Fun festive crafts
- Holiday safety tips

Community Safety Village (inside Bruce's Mill Conservation Area)  
3291 Stouffville Side Road between Kennedy & Warden Avenue

A Viva bus travels southbound in Aurora on its way to the Richmond Hill terminal. Under a new regional transit plan for the GTA, Viva would be one of the first services to receive funding for expansion: Metrolinx, the regional transit authority, formally approved a \$50B transit plan.



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

**W**  
Town of WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Come join in the  
**Christmas Celebration**  
in Downtown Stouffville  
Friday, December 5 starting at 7 p.m.

The Stouffville BIA & Stouffville United Church  
present  
**"A Living Nativity"**  
a live re enactment with actors  
Care n' Share Parking lot

Join us after the lighting of the 2 downtown Christmas trees as we carol on Main Street where children can visit Santa at Studio Lab (corner of Main & Church Street)  
Everyone is invited back to the United Church for refreshments

Your downtown merchants will be open to serve you and **FREE GIFT WRAPPING** is available all weekend at the following locations:  
GO Train Station & Multiverse Games & Toys

Celebrate Christmas in downtown Stouffville on Friday night with the Living Nativity and Tree Lighting, Saturday enjoy the parade and Sunday attend Christmas in the Heart of Stouffville.

Support your Downtown and shop locally

*Merry Christmas to Everyone from your Downtown Merchants*

**SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

Introducing our  
New Cosmetic Manager  
*Julia Samain*  
Come and meet her  
at the  
**Holiday Season Gala**  
Saturday, December 6th  
2-6 pm

Book Your Appointments Now  
**905.640.2700**

**SANTA'S COMING**

Sat, Dec. 6th  
from  
10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Get your  
**FREE**  
Picture with  
Santa (5x7)

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