

*This report was prepared by 1UP as part of the Leaders Lab 2020 simulated design competition and the content in the report has not been endorsed by the City of Richmond Hill.



1UP Toronto 2020 Leaders Lab Report

August 2020





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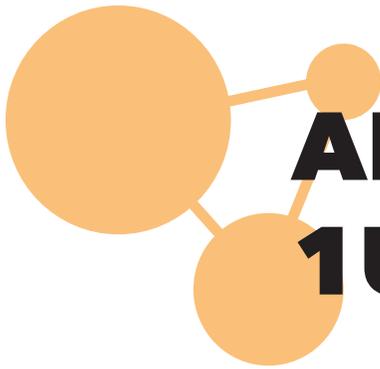
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ABOUT 1UP TORONTO



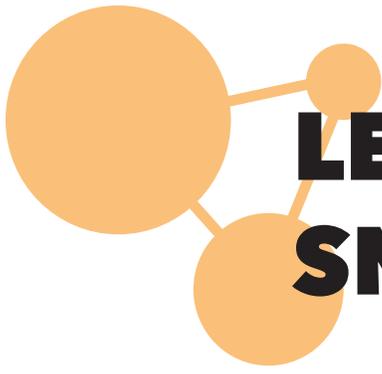
1UP Toronto Leaders Lab is a youth leadership program that brings together secondary school students across the Greater Toronto Area to celebrate and incubate city-building ideas.

Due to the global pandemic, the 2020 Leaders Lab took place online. The event featured several guest speakers and included the 1UP Design Jam, a student urban design competition.

For the 1UP Design Jam this year, we partnered with City of Richmond Hill and Urban Strategies Inc. As the Richmond Hill Centre undergoes a major transformation, it

presented a great opportunity to challenge our youth participants to reimagine movement and transportation flows along a busy multi-modal street. We asked them how they would design this road to be connected, adaptable and resilient. We hope our participants' creativity and thoughtfulness will be reflected in the comprehensive planning framework.

This report provides a summary of all the student teams' ideas from the 1UP Design Jam. We hope that through this Leaders Lab, we can educate youth on city building and provide them an opportunity to shape the city they live in.



LEADERS LAB SNAPSHOT

32 STUDENTS*

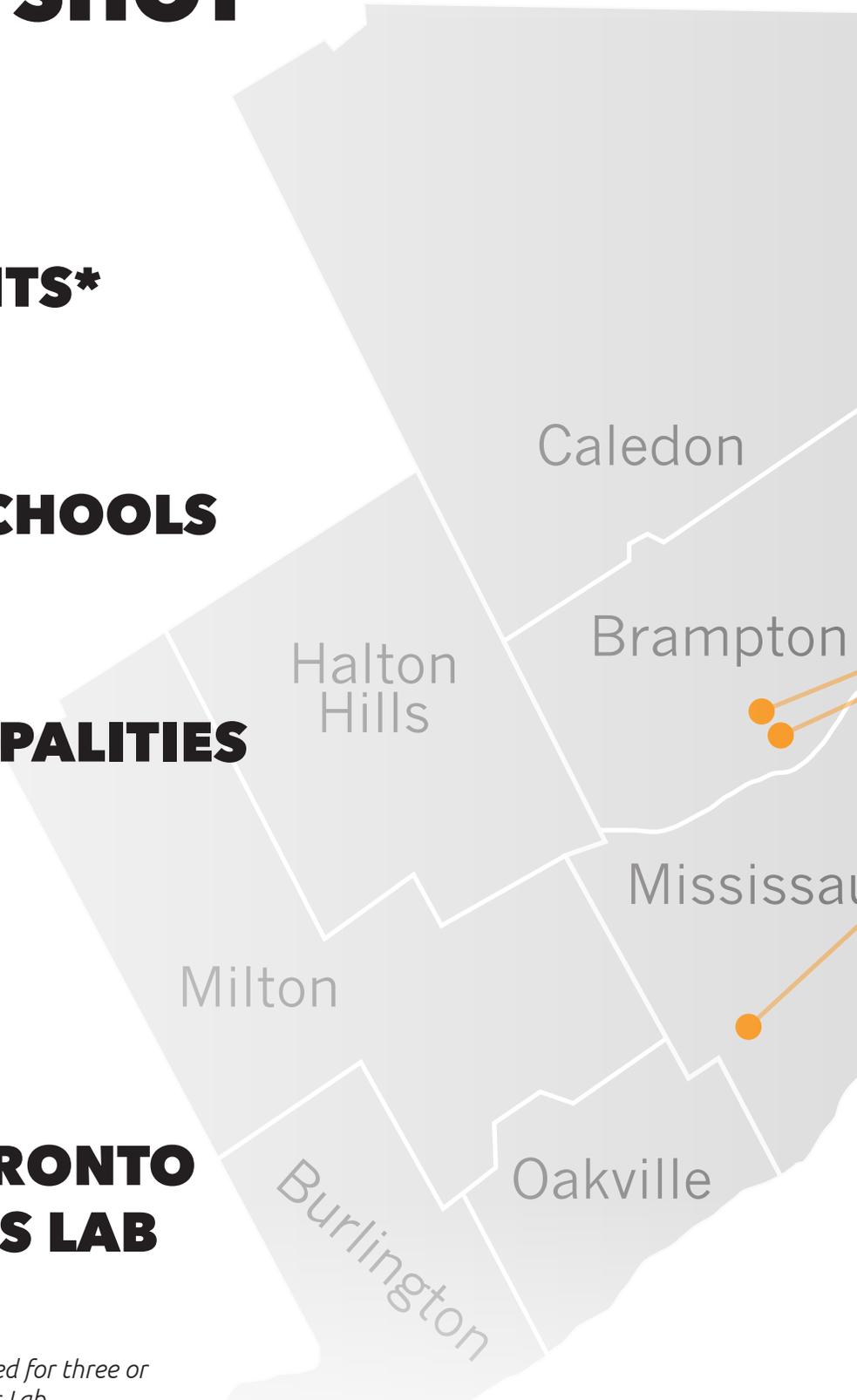
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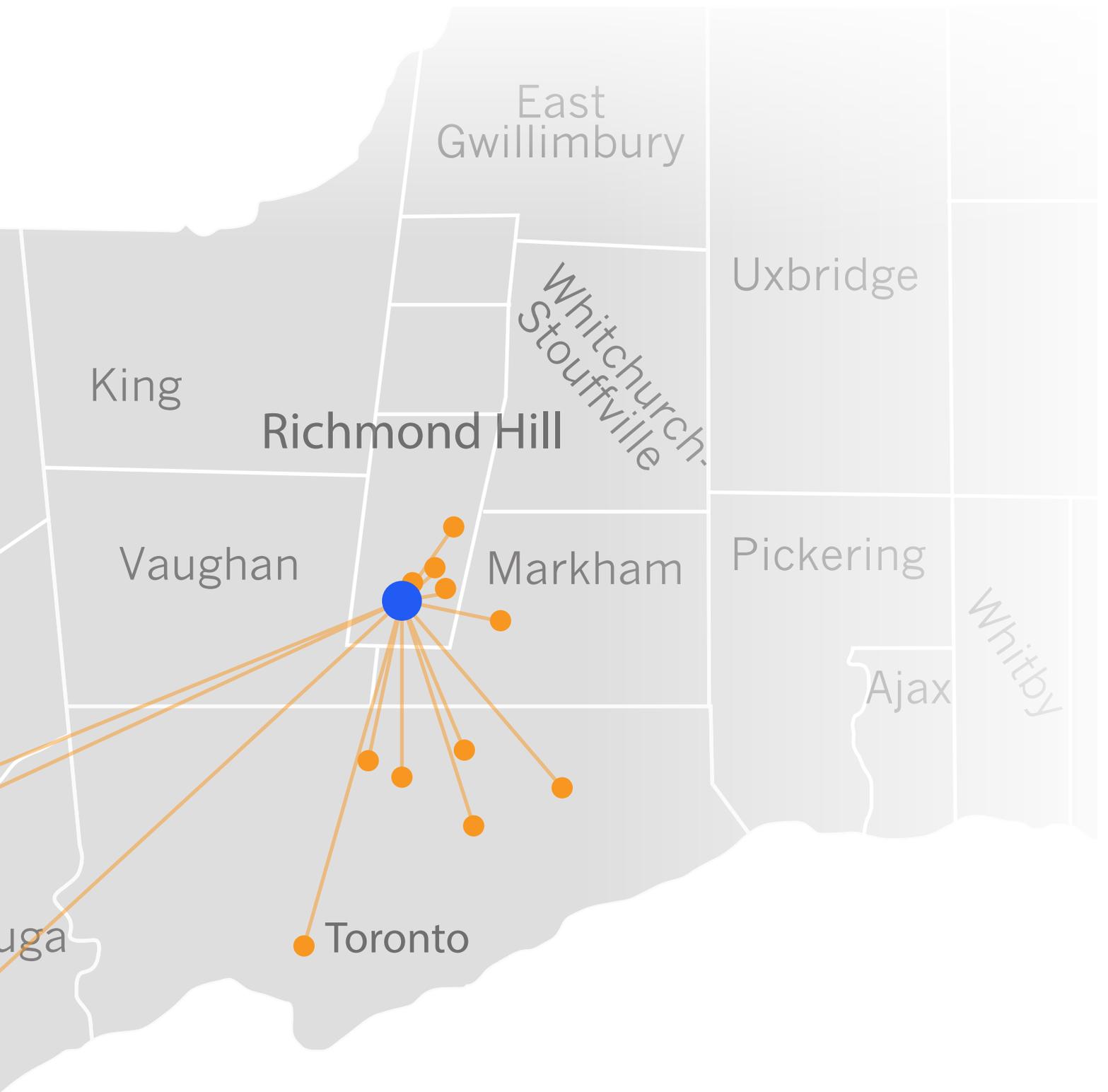
5 MUNICIPALITIES

4 TEAMS

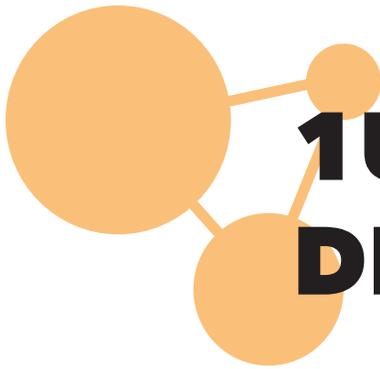
**1 UP TORONTO
LEADERS LAB**

**19 students attended for three or more days of Leaders Lab*





-  **Participating Schools**
(See list of schools on page 16)
-  **1UP Design Jam Location**
Richmond Hill Centre

The logo features three orange circles of varying sizes connected by thin orange lines. The largest circle is on the left, a medium one is below it, and a smaller one is to the right. The text '1UP DESIGN JAM' is positioned to the right of the circles.

1UP DESIGN JAM

The 1UP Design Jam is a student design competition for real-life urban challenges in the Greater Toronto Area. Students at the Leaders Lab were assigned into teams of four to six, to tackle a case challenge provided by our Design Jam Partner, City of Richmond Hill. To support the teams throughout the challenge, they were each provided with daily Design Jam activities (with supporting demo videos) and also received one-on-one time with a Design Jam Partner representative during the “Prototype/Test” stage. Several guest speakers joined us sharing their insights and experiences on various urban planning/design topics (see next page). Each team was tasked to design for one of two groups of personas provided in the case challenge.

The desired outcomes of the 1UP Design Jam were:

- To develop greater empathy and curiosity in youth of current challenges in local communities
- To create imaginative youth-led solutions for our partner to consider implementing or incorporating
- To apply a user-centered approach to solve real-world community challenges

The 1UP Design Jam took inspiration from the Design Thinking (or human-centered design) model:

1. EMPATHIZE

Understand the place, people and problem

2. DEFINE

Identify a specific challenge to address within a greater issue

3. IDEATE

Brainstorm possible solutions

4. PROTOTYPE / TEST

Build and test a physical model of a solution

5. PITCH

Present the solution to others for feedback



Hosts
Maya Lekhi
1UP President
Elmirah Ahmad
1UP Photographer



Daniel Olding
 Senior Manager,
City of Richmond Hill
 Introduced the Case
 Challenge



Cheryll Case
 Founder and Principal
 Urban Planner,
CP Planning
 Accessibility and
 inclusivity in
 urban planning



**Santessa
 Henriques**
 Program Manager,
Urban Minds
 Project Management
 101



Tei Carpenter
 Founder,
Agency
 Creative and design
 thinking



Craig Lametti
 Partner,
Urban Strategies Inc.
 Transportation and urban
 design



**Cynthia
 Chiu Chen**
 Landscape
 Architectural Designer,
Janet Rosenberg & Studio
 Site inventory
 and analysis



CASE CHALLENGE: RICHMOND HILL CENTRE



Currently the home of large retail stores, sprawling parking lots and a bus terminal, Richmond Hill Centre is about to undergo an urban transformation. With major investments in transit infrastructure in and around the centre, a vision and a plan for the community is being created to imagine the future of Richmond Hill Centre. At the core of Richmond Hill Centre, built around an integrated transit station, 'Station Road' will be expected to play a number of functions which will be in competition with each other.

"How might we design Station Road to be connected, adaptable and resilient?"



Richmond Hill Centre today.



Conceptual 3D Model of the new Richmond Hill Centre

PERSONAS: Group 1



Anna, 19

- Chinese York University student who lives in the City of Markham and uses public transit to meet with her friends
- She enjoys the nightlife in the area, especially street music and cultural festivals
- Anna is always looking for new places to take pictures to post on her social media



Amir, 34

- A young Iranian male newcomer, who works as a commission based delivery driver
- He drives a car for family and work, and drops his children off for school at the mobility hub
- Amir finds it very difficult to deliver parcels during morning and afternoon rush



George, 53

- George is a 53-year-old who works at one of the Service Canada locations in Richmond Hill
- George is always relying on public transit during the day to get to and from work, and would like to spend as little time as possible commuting
- He likes to visit the nearby restaurants and services like dry cleaners and post offices

PERSONAS: Group 2



Paula, 72

- A senior resident who was born and raised in Richmond Hill
- She consistently uses her nearby grocery store and requires accessible entrances, wide sidewalks and ramps because some steps are too steep for her
- Paula uses the public transit to visit family and attend her medical appointments



Zahra, 13

- Student who lives in a residential neighbourhood that is about a 10 minute walk from Station Road
- She is very active and loves the outdoors; she often takes her skateboard or walks
- Zahra is left to walk her dog and get to school every day, even if the weather is not ideal



Alex, 42

- Alex is a municipal roads operator working for the City of Richmond Hill
- His job entails maintaining roadways and ensuring safety and functional use of streets and sidewalks throughout the seasons
- Alex and his colleague in the fire department would chat about emergency service accessibility on Station Road

TEAM PITCHES

Relmagine Richmond Hill



Relmagine Richmond Hill envisioned a **SAFE** car-free Station Road, by putting people first.

- **Pedestrian-only Street:** Station Road would transform to a car-free shared space for pedestrians and cyclists. Only food trucks and emergency service vehicles would be permitted.
- **Eco-Friendly Materials:** Street benches would be made out of green ash wood and all pavements would be created from recycled plastic.
- **Digital Communication:** Innovative wayfinding kiosks would provide Wifi hotspots, phone charging and digital navigation. Information screens near the transit station would display transit times.



Sustainable



Accessible



Flexible



Efficient

Relmagine Richmond Hill's guiding principles

**Design Jam &
People's Choice Award
Winners**

TEAM PITCHES

ComCon



ComCon introduced different grade level solutions to improve movement along Station Road.

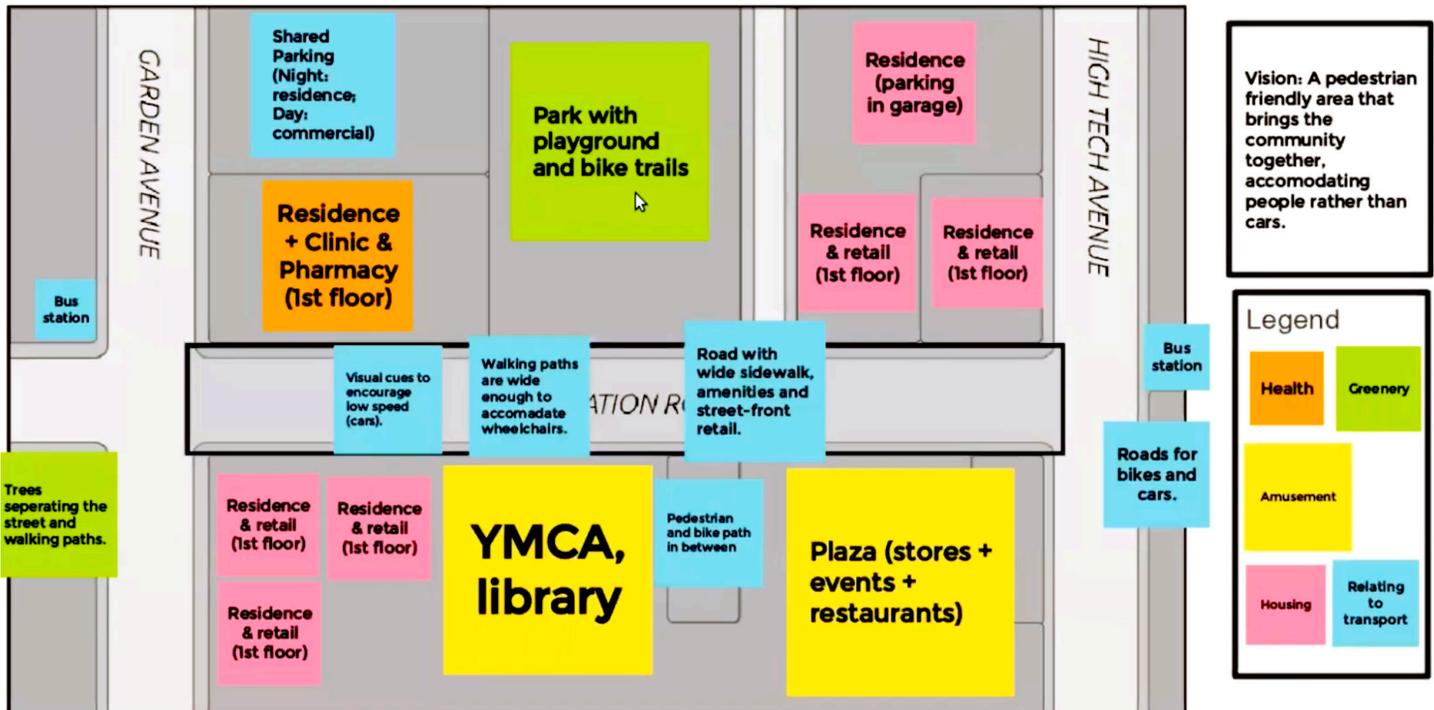
- **Pedestrian Overpass:** An above-grade pedestrian walkway would connect users to major nodes through all weather conditions without interacting with the busy street.
- **Adaptive Car Lane:** During off-peak hours a car lane would be used for short-term parking to access retail stores and/or drop off visitors.
- **Adjustable Medians:** A vegetated median would be installed between the car lanes to encourage traffic calming and it could be lowered for street events and festivities.



Ground level cross-section diagram

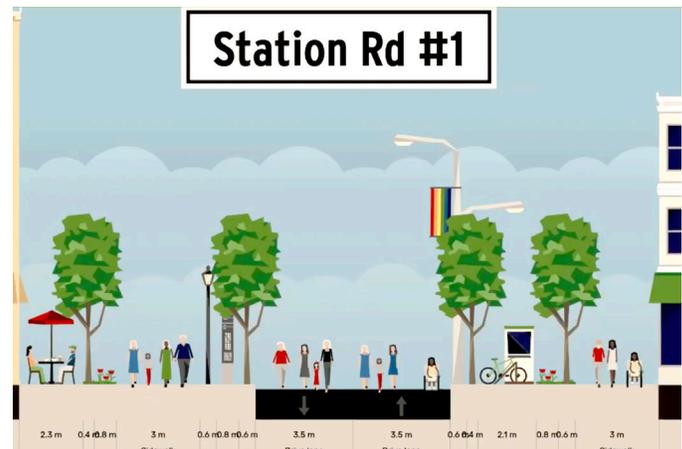
TEAM PITCHES

Station Nation



Station Nation focused on community and integrating services to meet the needs of the various users.

- **Vibrant Boulevards:** Wide sidewalks accompanied with patio space, bike parking and greenery would provide safety and inclusivity.
- **Tall Trees:** Planted along the streets, trees would be used to provide shade, act as traffic calming measure and improve the air quality in the area.
- **Community Services:** Key essentials like pharmacies, libraries and local stores would be strategically placed to create a complete community.



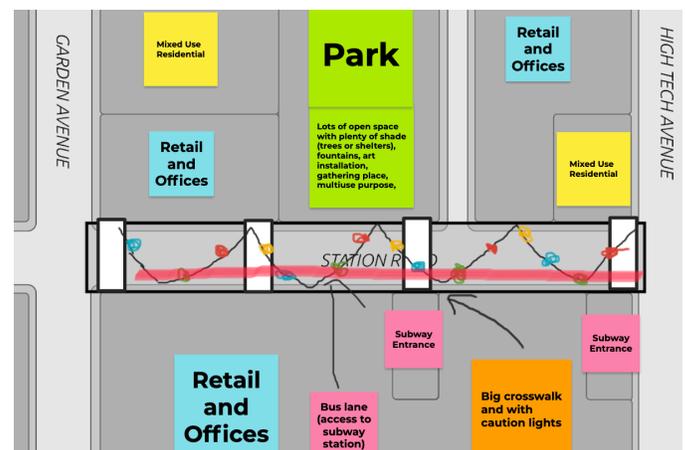
Station Nation's cross section diagram

TEAM PITCHES YO!



YO! reimagined Station Road to be a lively space with innovative technologies.

- **Animated Installments:** Solar-powered string lights would be placed above Station road to improve the night ambiance. Curbless, brick-patterned paths would be introduced with colours to identify shoulder and dividing lines.
- **Efficient Light & Waste Systems:** Pavements would also be created using light reflective materials, which could allow for cooling measures in warm temperatures. Underground waste systems would be integrated to prevent trash overflow or spillage.
- **Movable Greenery:** Plant boxes which act as street dividers, could be moved and allow enough space for emergency vehicles to move through them.



Ground level plan diagram



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CITY OF RICHMOND HILL



The 1UP Toronto Leaders Lab and particularly the 1UP Design Jam provided a platform for youth to shape the built environment around them in a fun and creative way. The ideas that each student team proposed within such a short period of time demonstrated their level of thoughtfulness and consideration for the users.

We have summarized some key themes that emerged from the student teams' ideas. We hope the City of Richmond Hill and Urban Strategies Inc. would consider incorporating them into the new Richmond Hill Centre.

COMMON THEMES

- Open spaces with flexible configuration
- Emphasis on safety, convenience, comfort and accessibility
- Separated and colour-coordinated bike lanes to protect cyclists
- Environmentally sustainable designs and innovations
- Provide accessible connections to the transit hub
- Designing for all ages including parents, seniors, youth and young children
- A mix of land uses providing the community with a variety of everyday service
- Public realm installments that are inter-seasonal and movable



NEXT STEPS

Here are some of the ways the City of Richmond Hill and Urban Strategies Inc. can continue engaging youth on this project:

1. Professional Development Workshop:

Urban Minds offers workshops to provide training for City of Richmond Hill staff on youth engagement in the context of intergenerational spaces. With staff's participation, we hope to better understand barriers to youth participation and identify areas of improvement in youth services related to the design and programming of spaces.

2. "Youth Fair": We believe youth engagement shouldn't be a one-time affair, but there should be multiple touch points for youth to stay involved. As the plan for Richmond Hill Centre develops, one option may be to host a "Youth Fair". This event could provide an opportunity for youth to share comments in a fun and interactive way.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Bayview Secondary School
Delphi Secondary Alternative School
Earl Haig Secondary School
Erindale Secondary School
Harold M. Brathwaite Secondary School
Langstaff Secondary School
Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute
Northview Heights Secondary School
St. Robert Catholic High School
Thornlea Secondary School
Turner Fenton Secondary School
Unionville High School
University of Toronto Schools
York Mills Collegiate Institute

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