

# Highway 7 Regional Corridor – Markham

Highway 7 is poised to become Markham’s new main street. Since the creation of the Cornell and Markham Centre plans in the 1990s, laying out the way for Markham’s city-building initiatives, Highway 7 is envisioned as a vibrant main street, complete with pedestrian-friendly design, comfortable street furniture, and lively street-level shopping with homes and apartments located above, creating opportunities to live and work in the community.

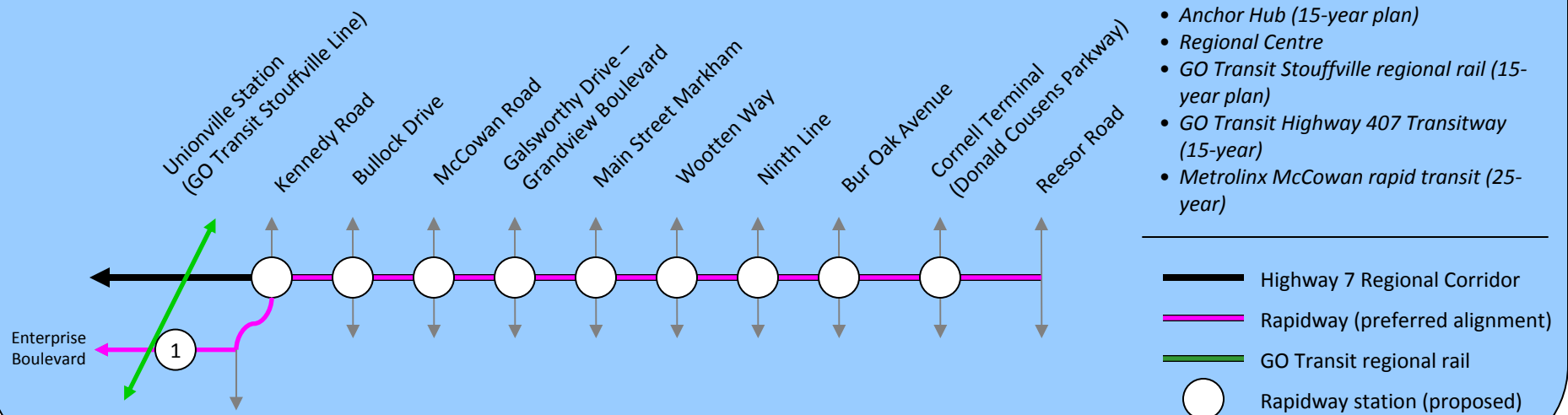
Linking Cornell and Markham Centre to York is the Viva Highway 7 Rapidway. The Rapidway, connecting residents with jobs and visitors with local shopping and attractions, is planned to provide a fast and reliable connection from Markham Centre to Richmond Hill Centre in 2013, linking with the proposed Yonge Subway Extension, and the Markham North-South Rapidway leading to the Sheppard Subway.

## Statistics Canada 2006 Census

- 57,863 people live in census tracts along Highway 7 between Warden Avenue and York-Durham Line
- Where do area residents work?
  - 43.5% of residents work outside York Region
  - 8.9% work outside Markham but within York Region
  - 29.3% work within Markham
  - 8.5% work at home
- How do area residents get to work?
  - 83.7% of residents drive or carpool to work
  - 12.7% take transit
  - 2.8% walk or cycle

## Highway 7 – Unionville Station to Reesor Road

Not to scale – for illustrative purposes only



**Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

*Markham Centre*

- Designated as an Urban Growth Centre
- Planned to achieve, by 2031 or earlier, a minimum density target of 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare

*Highway 7*

- Potential to be defined as an Intensification Corridor
- Calls for increased residential and employment densities to support and ensure the viability of existing and planned transit service levels
- Higher order transit proposed to 2031

**The Big Move (Regional Transportation Plan)**

Metrolinx

*Markham Centre*

- Designated as an Anchor Hub in the 15-year plan
- Located at the interchange of five proposed rapid transit lines:
  - Viva Highway 7 Rapidway
  - Viva Markham North-South Rapidway
  - GO Transit Stouffville regional rail
  - GO Transit Highway 407 Transitway
  - Metrolinx McCowan rapid transit
- Forecasted to achieve a minimum of 10,000 people and jobs within an 800 metre radius

**Regional Official Plan**

The Regional Municipality of York

*Markham Centre (Warden Avenue / Highway 7)*

- Identified as a Regional Centre, serving as a major focal point for urban development
- Densities should support an overall, long-term density target of 2.5 Floor Space Index

*Highway 7 (Highway 50 to Reesor Road)*

- Identified as a Regional Corridor

**Town of Markham planning studies**

*East Precinct and Remington Precinct Plan  
Highway 7 Precinct Plan*

- Will review the neighbourhood plans within Markham Centre in the context of new development proposals and designations
- Focuses on street and block plans, building heights and massing
- Concept plan for Highway 7 and Warden area expected in February 2009

Cornell Secondary Plan Review

- Purpose is to update the land use policies for the Cornell community, while building upon the existing Secondary Plan
- New policies will encourage the transit-oriented, mixed-use development of an expanded Cornell Centre, and address new Provincial and Regional planning directions, new rapid transit service, and new employment areas to the east
- Approved by Markham Council as Official Plan Amendment 168 in January 2008, approved by York Region in June 2008

**Viva Highway 7 Rapidway – my way is the highway**

Have you ever wanted to speed past traffic and reduce commute times? Starting in 2013, VivaNext will make travelling on Highway 7 faster. VivaNext, the next generation of rapid transit in York Region, will take the Viva rapid transit vehicles out of traffic and into Rapidways, a series of dedicated lanes just for Viva, providing fast and reliable connections from Markham Centre to Richmond Hill Centre and the proposed Yonge Subway Extension, the Markham North-South Rapidway leading to the Sheppard Subway, and to the proposed Cornell Terminal.

Construction of the Highway 7 Rapidway from Jane Street to Kennedy Road begins in fall 2009. Please see [www.vivayork.com](http://www.vivayork.com) for more details.

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**York Region – connecting with you**

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