

Markham Transportation Strategic Plan (MTSP)

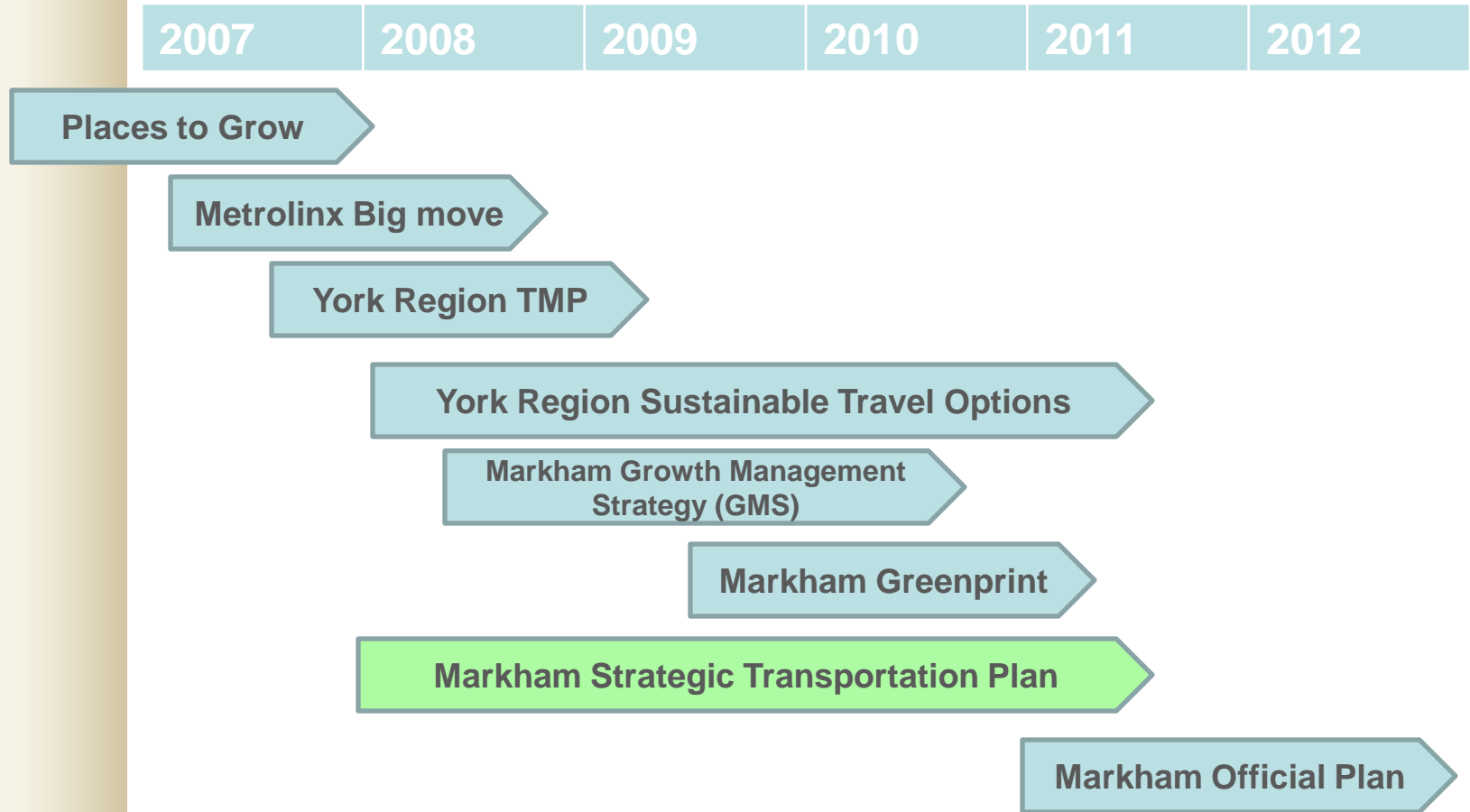
Presentation of Draft Report

**Transportation Committee
March 22, 2011**

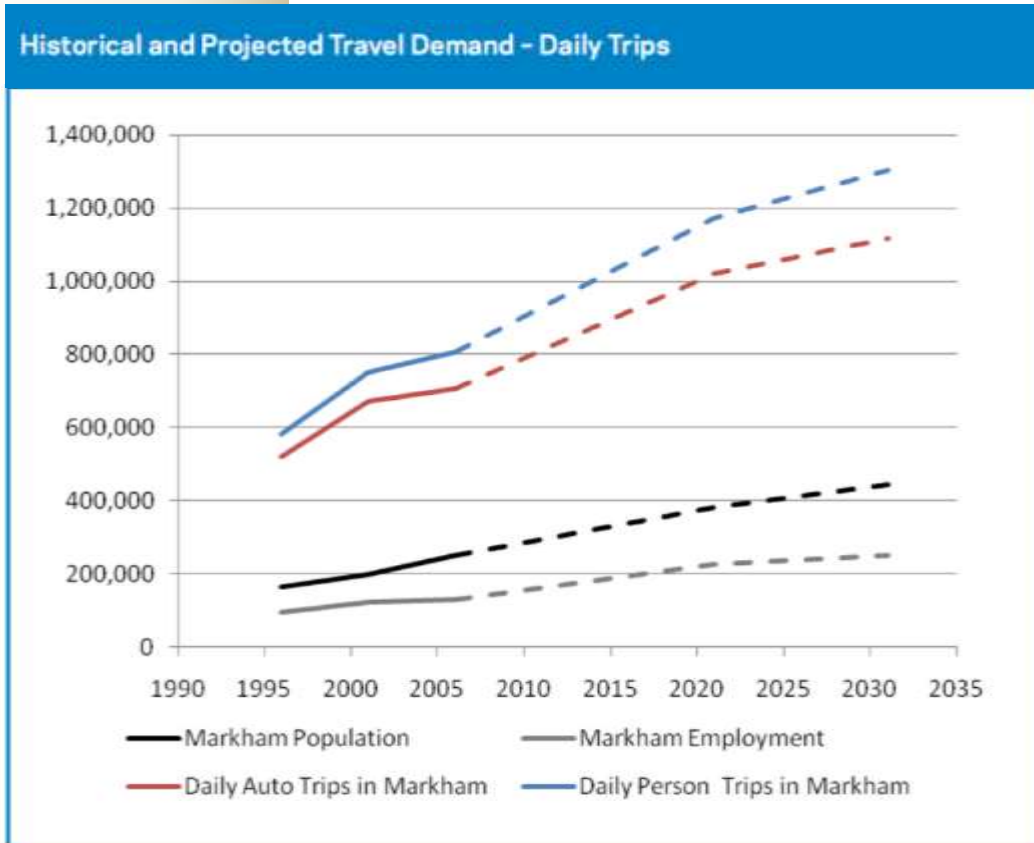
Presentation Overview

- **MTSP Process and Timelines**
- **Recap of interim findings**
- **Overview of the Draft MTSP**
- **Future strategic policy directions**
- **Strategic plan elements**
- **Area specific plans**
- **Implementation**
- **Next steps**

Evolution of MTSP and Related Planning Initiatives



Key Needs and Opportunities



- Up to 150,000 new residents and 100,000 jobs
- Daily auto trips are projected to increase by 60% compared to today, if existing trends continue
- Transit trips projected to triple

* Includes trips to, from and within Markham, but not “through trips”

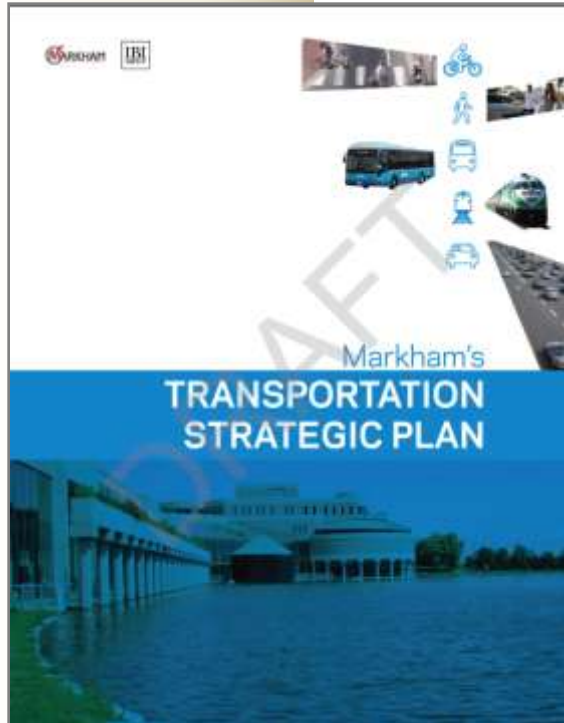
Projected Future Conditions

Indicator	Existing (2006)	Projected GMS (2031)	Percent Change
Share of trips by transit (AM peak period trips from Markham)	11%	19%	+72%
AM Peak Hours auto vehicle-kilometres of travel (1000's)	556	912	+64%
Average speed (km/hr)	47	45	-4%
AM Peak Period transit ridership – YRT, VIVA & GO (1000's)	53	154	+190%
Average Trip lengths	14.0	14.1	Nil

Key Needs/Opportunities

- **Promoting land use strategies that reduce trip lengths (mixed land uses)**
- **Making land uses more pedestrian (and transit/bike) friendly**
- **Maximizing opportunities for local transit**
- **Optimizing transportation infrastructure and managing travel demands**
- **Promoting livable communities through land use and transportation planning**
- **Reducing the environmental impact of transportation activities**

Overview of Draft MTSP



- **Articulates high-level Vision, but also action-oriented**
- **Builds on York Region and Metrolinx plans**
- **Integrated with land use**
- **Includes pilot projects which aim to test new and innovative transportation initiatives**
- **Acknowledges Greenprint objectives**
- **Implementation plan incorporates financial assessment and other stakeholder involvement**

Strategic Plan Elements



- **Transit and Pedestrian-Oriented Development**
- **Transit**
- **Cycling**
- **Roads**
- **Parking**
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**
- **Road Safety**
- **Goods Movement**
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems**

Transit and Pedestrian-Oriented Development

- **Continue to integrate land use planning into transportation planning process**
- **Develop mobility hub plans**
- **Update zoning by-laws to address MTSP recommendations (e.g. TDM, Parking)**
- **Encourage high level of pedestrian priorities and amenities**
- **Implement traffic calming to support walkable communities**
- **Conduct community walkability audits**
- **Review standards for the provision and maintenance of pedestrian infrastructure**

Transit and Pedestrian-Oriented Development

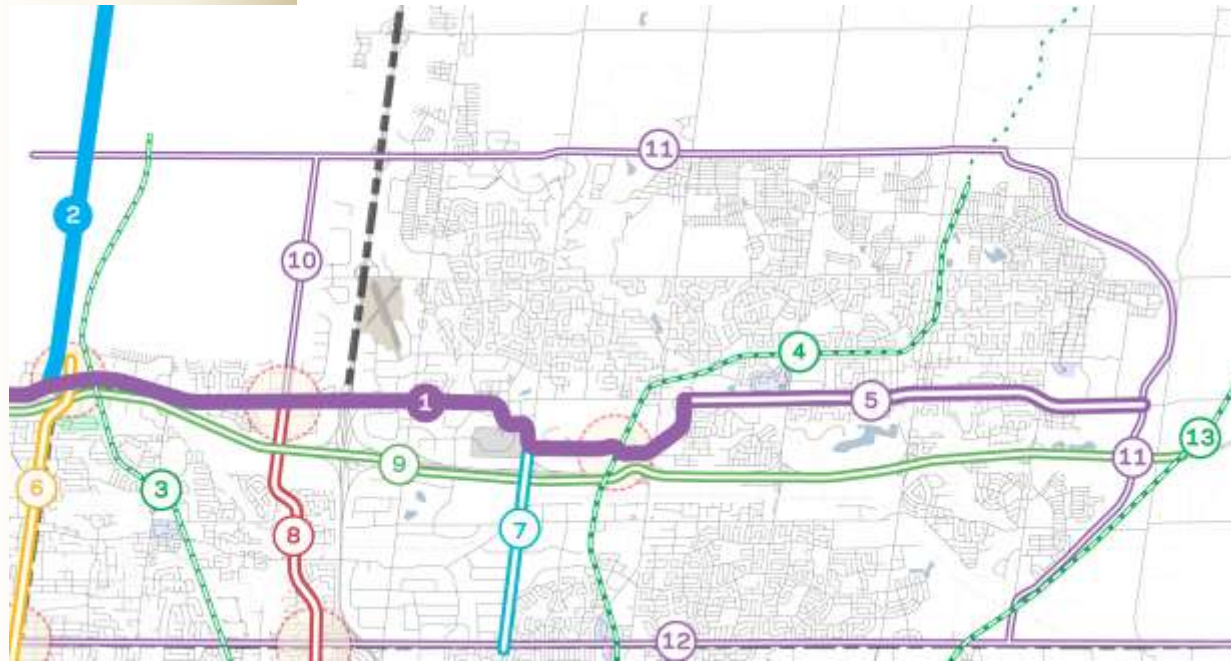
Potential Action: Conduct Walkability Audits around Transit Stations and Within Neighbourhoods



Transit

- **Explore feasibility of smart shuttles to serve Langstaff, Markham Centre and existing communities without good transit**
- **Work with GO and YRT/Viva to implement more progressive fare policies**
- **Adopt a transit first approach to all municipal initiatives**
- **Demonstrate leadership by implementing bold measures to support transit**
- **Advocate for prioritization of rapid transit projects**

Future Rapid Transit Network



FUNDED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1. Viva Highway 7 Rapidway – Markham Section (Yonge Street to Unionville GO) - 2014
2. Viva Yonge Street Rapidway (Richmond Hill Centre to Major Mackenzie Drive) – 2015

PLANNED

3. GO Richmond Hill Line Upgrades
4. GO Stouffville Line Upgrades
5. Viva Highway 7 Rapidway Extension (to Cornell)
6. Yonge Subway Extension
7. Markham North-South Link
8. Don Mills LRT Extension (Steeles Avenue to Highway 7)
9. Highway 407 Transitway (Hwy 427 to Cornell Centre)
10. Leslie RT (York Region Plan)
11. Major Mackenzie RT (York Region Plan)
12. Steeles RT (The Big Move)
13. GO Havelock Line

Transit

- **Potential Action: Work to Implement Free GO Station Shuttle**



Cycling

- **Implement Town's Cycling Master Plan**
- **Provide greater priority to cycling on Town roads, with a preference for segregated lanes**
- **Develop bicycle priority routes to GO Rail Stations**
- **Address gaps between urban cycling network and pathways network**
- **Adopt bicycle parking and amenity standards in zoning by-laws**
- **Review road maintenance and snow clearing to provide greater priority for cycling routes**

Cycling

- **Potential Action: John Street Road Diet**
Potential Concept

BEFORE



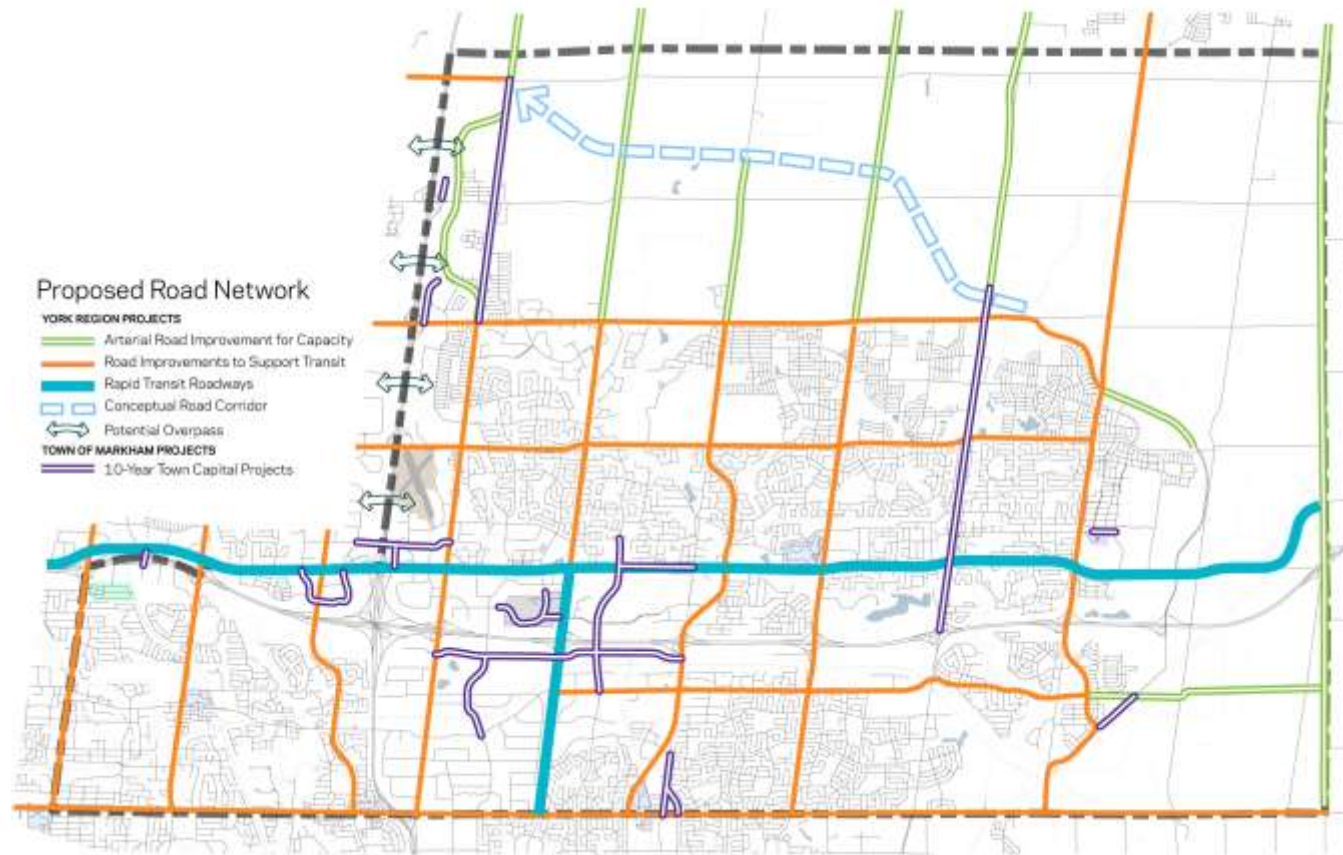
AFTER



Roads

- **Implement local road improvements to support development and increased connectivity**
- **Support selective road expansion on regional roads (for discussion)**
- **Adopt a complete streets policy**
- **Adopt right-of-way standards that reflect complete streets philosophy**
- **Adopt minimum level of service target**

Road Network (Current Plans)



Addressing the Question of Road Improvements

- **Several options for road network are possible:**
 - A) Arterial road improvements for capacity
 - B) Road widening to support transit
 - C) Select 404/407 crossings
 - D) New roads (e.g. East-west arterial)
 - E) No widening beyond 4 lanes
- **Even with significant shifts to transit, auto demand will increase**
- **Further input from council is required on policy directions (April 5th)**
- **Recommendations could be tailored by location**
- **Region's Sustainable Travel Choices Study is on-going**

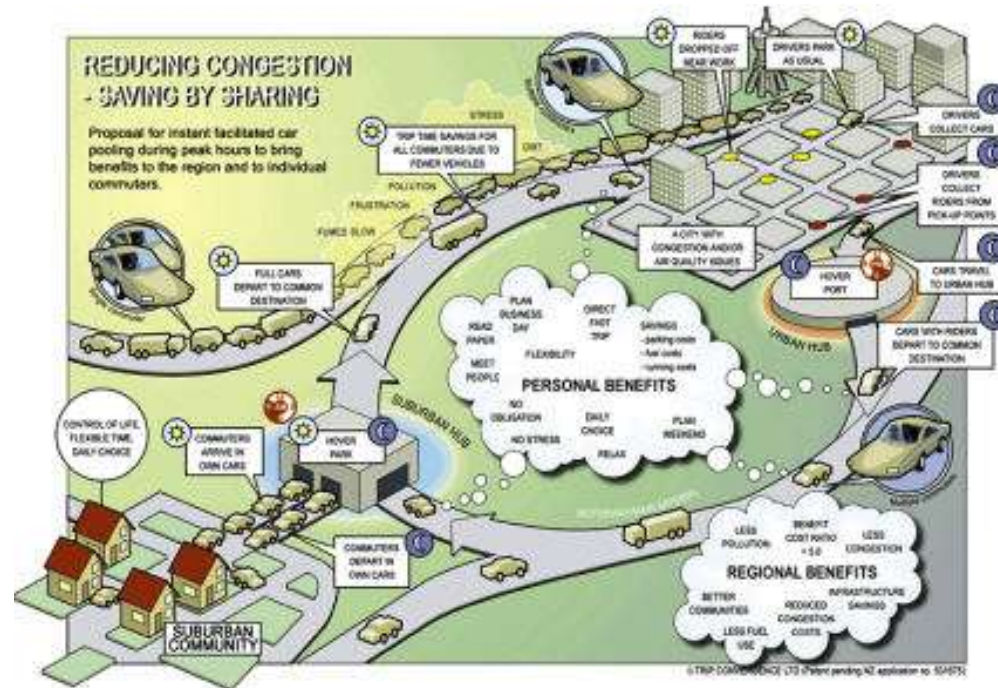
Parking

- **Hold parking workshop with Council (April 20th)**
- **Revise parking standards and incorporate into zoning by-law**
- **Expand municipally owned parking supply**
- **Optimize supply and use of on-street parking**
- **Finalize parking governance models, including a options for a Parking Authority**

Transportation Demand Management

- **Require travel plans to be integrated into development agreements, including use of shuttle services**
- **Enhance workplace outreach programs through Smart Commute Markham Richmond Hill - Transportation Management Association**
- **Work with schools to develop travel plans**
- **Work with regional and local partners to engage households through individualized marketing programs**
 - Pilot project being implemented in Cornell
- **Continue public outreach programs at special events**

- **Potential Action: Explore flexible car-pooling**



Road Safety

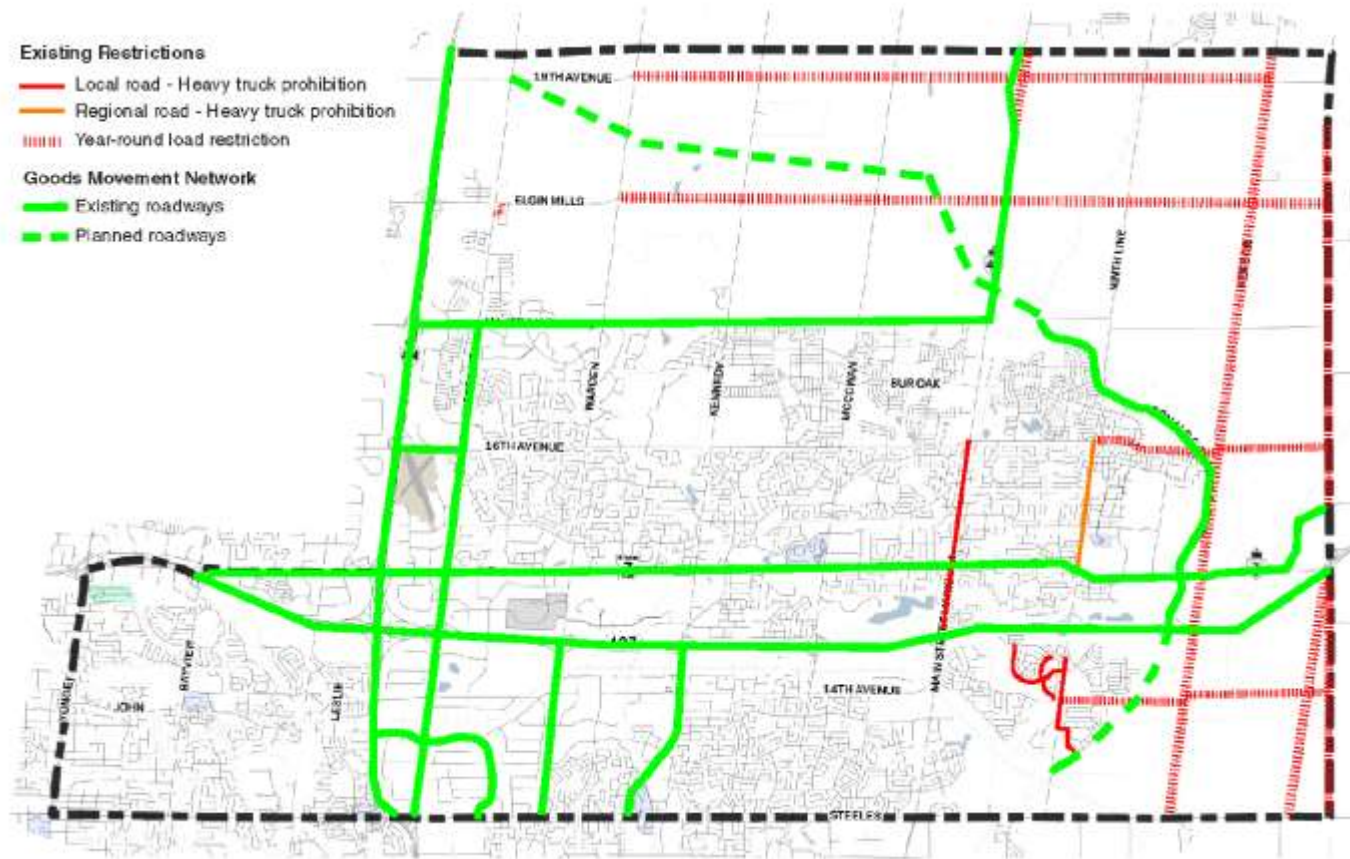
- **Update and expand existing collision database**
- **Use in-service safety reviews and road safety audits to inform future safety improvements**
- **Enhancements to safety of all road users into upcoming infrastructure projects**
- **Engage the public and other stakeholders in developing/supporting road safety initiatives**

Goods Movement

- **Plan for effective and sustainable goods movement to/from and within Markham**
- **Work with Province and Metrolinx to support its regional goods movement strategy**
- **Support economic development and Markham's employment sectors by:**
 - Improving road infrastructure and urban-rural connections
 - Exploring innovative goods movement solutions
 - Review delivery times by heavy vehicles while ensuring economic needs are met
- **Regulate on-street loading, particularly in areas with high pedestrian volumes and potential**
- **Mitigate impacts of construction-related traffic**

Goods Movement

Existing/Proposed Strategic Goods Movement Network



Goods Movement

- **Example Action: Centralized Goods Movement**

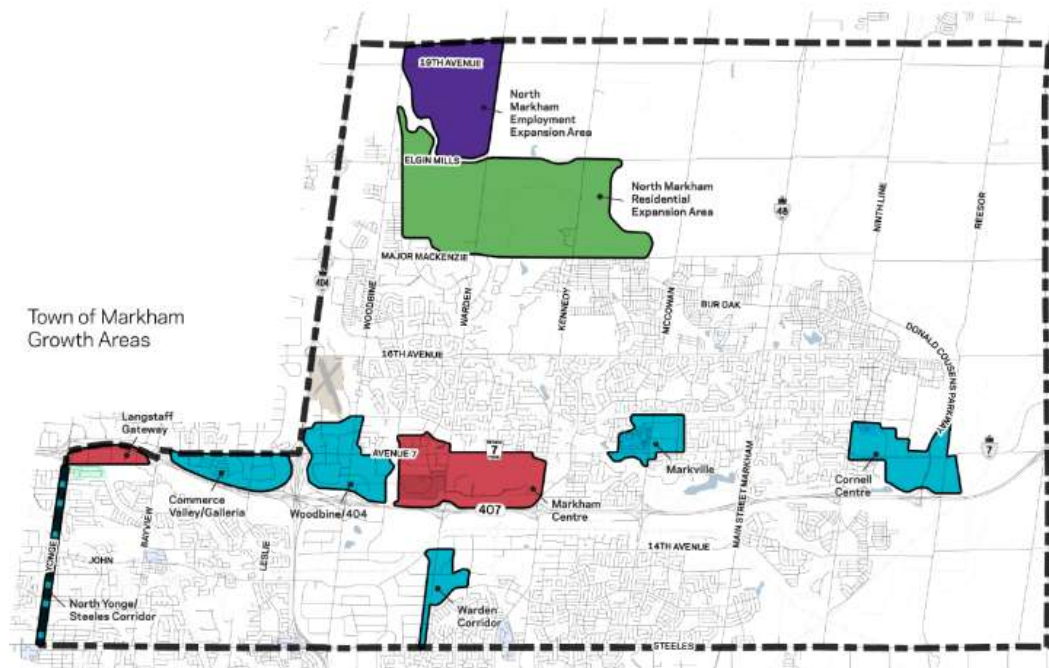


Transportation Systems Management

- **Support and encourage implementation of projects identified in the York Region ITS Strategic Plan**
 - Telephone and web travel information
 - TDM website
 - Highway 7/407 traffic management system
 - ITS systems support for enforcement
 - Area wide traffic signal control

Area Specific Plans

- MTSP includes broad recommendations for new growth areas (e.g. major road improvements, cycling plans, transit connections, key policy directions)
- Details to be refined through secondary plans



Implementation Plan Considerations

- **Identify short, medium or long term initiatives**
- **Identify partners to coordinate implementation across stakeholders**
- **Propose performance measurement framework to tie indicators to strategic directions and objectives**

Key Issues to be Discussed

- **Policy on Regional Road Improvements and approach for coordination with Region Sustainable Travel Choices Study**
- **Road level of service thresholds**
- **Timing of rapid transit projects including Yonge Subway**
- **Scope of Town's involvement in transit**
- **Development Phasing Approach**
- **Financial Plan**
- **Implementation process**
- **MTSP role out and public consultation**

Next Steps

- **Revise recommendations based on Transportation Committee feedback**
- **Hold third Steering Committee meeting to review key issues**
- **Present Draft Plan to Technical Advisory Committee**
- **Present draft MTSP to DSC April 2011**
- **Present Final report to Council**
- **Incorporate recommendations in Development of New Official Plan**