



“TOGETHER OUR VOICE IS STRONGER”

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Public Information Session October 27, 2025 on Markham Honda Indy – Summary Report

The URA conducted a public information session in Council chambers to start getting answers to resident questions about the upcoming Ontario Honda Dealers Indy August 14-16, 2026. The session was moderated by ex-Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton. We had four panelists:

- Councillor Andrew Keyes
- Councillor Reid McAlpine
- Jeff Atkinson, President, Ontario Honda Dealers Indy
- Nethu Srikanthan, Director, Partnerships, Ontario Honda Dealers Indy

Although representatives from City of Markham Engineering staff, GO Transit and York Region Transit were invited, they were unable to attend. About 50 residents, including 3 other Markham Councillors, attended.

Following opening (background) remarks by each panelist, questions were taken from the audience. Residents were reminded that there are FAQ on the Markham website which provide basic information. Prior to the event, URA had submitted a [List Of Questions](#) in 13 categories (A to K) to the panelists, which proved useful in structuring the discussion.

The following is a summary of topics discussed and responses:

Category A – Business Case/Costs to Markham/Transparency

- The \$50 million regional economic benefit was calculated by [Destination Markham](#) (an arm's length City corporation) and is based largely on visitor spending. As Markham has limited hotel rooms, much of this will be spent beyond our borders. All Markham hotel stays are subject to a 4% Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), which accrues to Markham. The prime benefit to Markham is largely marketing exposure, which is not included in this total.
- Markham was attractive to the organizers as 70% of race fans will have an easier commute versus Exhibition Place
- Costs for Markham are the capital costs to resurface the roads earlier than planned. This is funded from the reserve fund portion of the MAT, so there is no cost to taxpayers. The City negotiated a bond from the organizers that this capital cost is refunded if the race does not proceed (except Acts of God)
- Council approved the event based on the business case, due diligence analysis by legal and financial staff, and the minimal downside risk. It fits with our city's reputation as an auto technology centre.

- Region of York also has some costs (Kennedy Rd)
- All Council members and staff were bound by a Non-Disclosure Agreement until the press conference in September. Councillor McAlpine will look into public release of the Business Case, Contract and any other staff reports (possibly partially redacted)

Category B – Nearby Stakeholders

- Amica management has expressed no concerns
- Bill Crothers HS has delayed its 2026 opening to August 17
- Access to residences on Main St South will be maintained at all times

Categories C and E – Noise/Environmental

- Average noise levels will be below those of the Gardiner Expressway – 75 dB at 500 meters distance. It is not a constant noise like a concert
- Fuel used is 100% renewable ethanol. Some vehicles are hybrids

Category F – Traffic Plan (Note: due to absence of Engineering, GO and YRT, these answers must be treated with caution at this time)

- It is recognized that traffic management is vital. A traffic management plan is still to be developed, but will include GO trains, VIVA, shuttle buses, traffic signal modification, parking
- GO Transit intends to keep or add to existing services. Do not want to lose riders
- No permanent loss of GO parking
- 65% of race attendees at Exhibition Place took transit. For the Markham event, expect the proportion of attendees who drive to be larger, due to proximity to Highway 407
- A more detailed map, with entrances, exits, parking locations is to be released in the next few weeks.
- Providing new access to the GO tunnels from the west was cited by residents as a priority
- Roads are planned to be shut down Wed. August 12 9:00 pm to Sun. evening August 16, unless extended by bad weather.
- The traffic management plan includes emergency services. York Region Police has been in contact with Toronto Police and other city police departments for advice

Category H – Maximize Benefits to all Markham

- Plan is to hold “ancillary events” outside the race compound to connect with nearby communities eg Unionville Main Street, Downtown Markham. These may raise money for charity. No details yet
- Organizers would love to work with local businesses, for example, as exhibitors or vendors in Thunder Alley. Contact hondaindy.com

Category I – Long Term Storage of Equipment

- There will be long term outside storage of barricades, fencing etc – not on GO property

Category J – Go Forward Plan

- City will regularly update the FAQ. Residents pointed out that this is inadequate, as it does not allow for dialogue. Public meetings are needed to fully inform residents about items like the traffic and benefits plans. Councillor McAlpine advised that this will be a Council decision.
- Residents encouraged Destination Markham to do a post-race report, as they typically do with other events. Use cell phone and credit card data to validate attendance and spending
- No plan to do a resident poll/survey after the event. Possibly an item for URA