

Jobs-Housing Balance in  
Markham

Bonnie Tam

ABSTRACT

Jobs-housing balance is often employed as a tool to enhance accessibility and sustainability of a community by encouraging people to live close to where they work. Markham is a fast growing suburb where there is almost equal volume of daily in- and out- commuting traffic. Although the number of jobs available in Markham matches number of working residents, only about a quarter of the employed population is able find appropriate jobs. This report explores the "quality" aspects of jobs-housing balance by examining the employment profiles of both employees and employed residents, housing mix, housing price, commuting patterns, and housing shortages in Markham. It is found that a lack of housing mix and affordable housing is the predominant factor for its employees not able to find compatible housing type to reside in Markham. It is suggested that although transportation capacity in Markham is still expandable, jobs-housing balance should be considered in the planning agenda to accommodate its booming growth. Diversification of housing would be a goal which can be accomplished by a blend of complementary strategies such as mixed-use development and good site plan design.