

# **Terry Fox Bikeway**

*Implementation Proposal for the*

## ***York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan to 2026***

*Supporting Organizations:*

*Terry Fox Foundation*

*D'Ornellas Racing Team (250 members - 2006)*

*Newmarket Eagles Cycling Club (180 members - 2006)*

*Toronto Bicycling Network (900 members - 2006)*

**January 2007**

FINAL COPY (v 6.4)

*Author: Joe Doria, P. Eng.*

(on behalf of more than 1300 cyclists in York Region)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Darrell Fox for his initial support and encouragement of this concept and proposal. I would also like to thank the executives of the supporting cycling clubs from D'Ornellas Racing Team, Newmarket Eagles Cycling Club and Toronto Bicycling Network.

I also wish to thank the staff from the Regional Municipality of York and the consulting company Marshall Macklin Monaghan Ltd. for their support and valuable feedback to enhance this proposal.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 TERRY FOX BIKEWAY &amp; YORK REGION BIKEWAY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 SAMPLE ROADWAY DESIGN .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5 TERRY FOX FOUNDATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6 SPONSORSHIP FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7 CHARITY EVENTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8 LETTERS OF SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9 CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	
<b>LETTERS OF SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The idea for the Terry Fox Bikeway was born out of inspiration and necessity.

The inspiration to dedicate a bikeway to the memory of Terry Fox was born from the dream of taking a step in the right direction to improve the lives of others. Terry Fox did not seek fame or fortune in his *Marathon of Hope*, he only wanted to improve the lives of others through his actions. The proposed bikeway would be named the ‘Terry Fox Bikeway’ and would be a living breathing tribute to an inspirational Canadian. The Terry Fox Bikeway would be the main hub used to facilitate annual charity rides to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation and other charitable events. All Canadians can identify with the goals of Terry Fox, it’s what makes us Canadian, the naming of the bikeway after Terry Fox would help to raise awareness for many activities in York Region. We can dream that one day a bikeway may extend from the coast to coast. The main benefits of the first Terry Fox Bikeway in York Region are:

- annual charity events such as the Terry Fox Run to raise money and awareness for cancer research
- cyclist/motorist awareness advertising campaign to eliminate accidents between motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
- commuter transportation network to reduce gridlock & pollution
- exercise facility to promote a healthy and vibrant lifestyle in York Region
- tourist attraction that will promote local businesses (farms, wineries, cafes’ & restaurants) and bring jobs and growth to the region

The creation of cycling friendly roadways that can be used safely without harassment from motor vehicles is a necessity for all cyclists. The feeling of safety is paramount for recreational and commuter cyclists to embrace the bike as a valid means of exercise and functional transportation. York Region and the surrounding municipalities have experienced senseless deaths of many cyclists due to a lack of common courtesy on the roadways. Dedicated cycling lanes along with an effective awareness and advertising campaign would help to eliminate any future fatalities.

This proposal is a long term strategy similar to the York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan, thus, it is proposed that the plan be developed in two major stages. The first stage (Terry Fox Bikeway) would entail the expansion of existing roadways to accommodate approximately 30 to 40 km of dedicated cycling bike lanes. The second stage would join the townships of York Region by gradually developing 125 km of feeder bike lanes to the main Terry Fox Bikeway. These feeder bike lanes would be developed on a multi year plan as roads are resurfaced. This proposal should mesh well with the goals of the York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan in many areas.

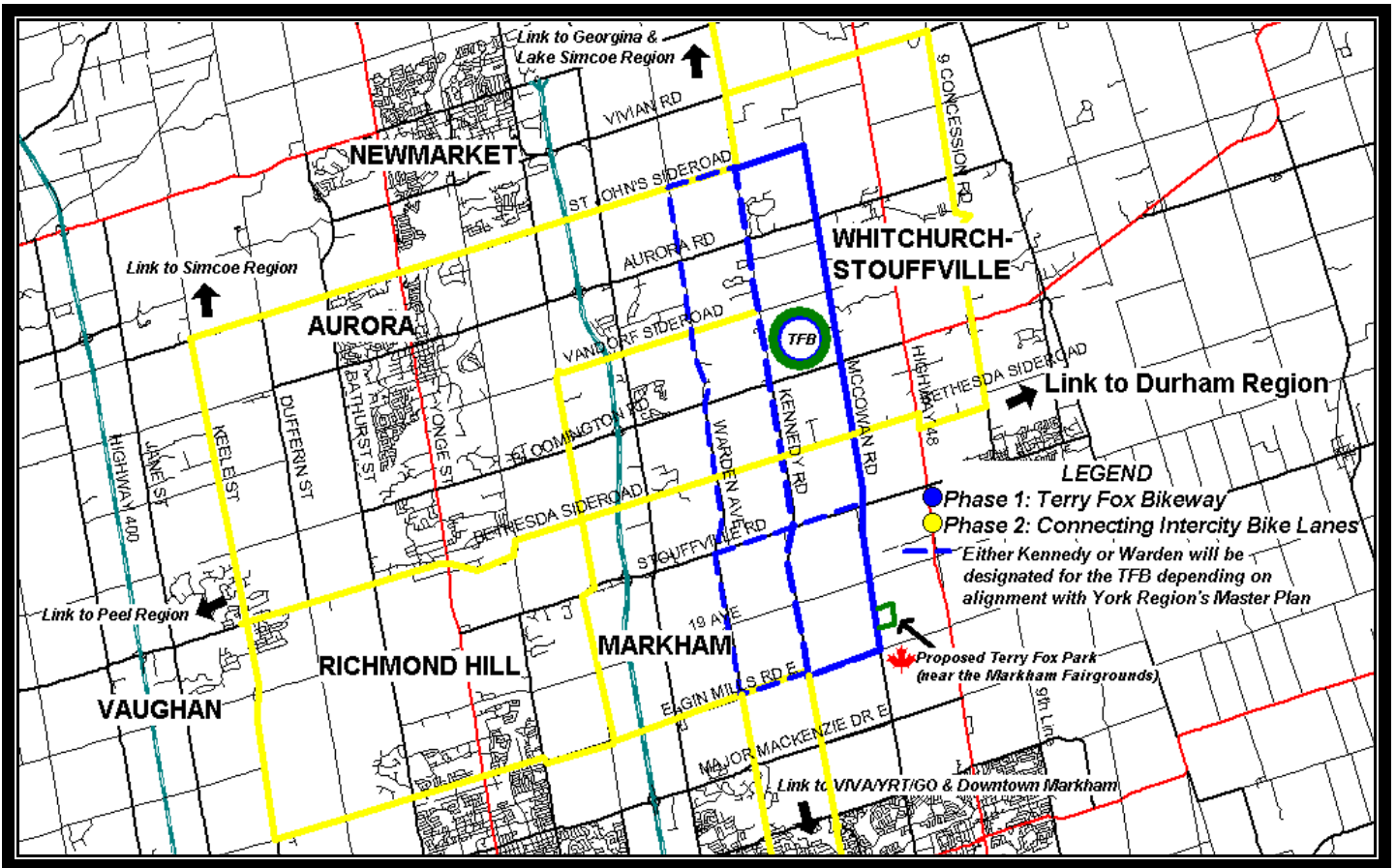
## **2 TERRY FOX BIKEWAY & YORK REGION BIKEWAY**

The selected bikeway network in this proposal encompasses the roads in York Region which are currently the most bike friendly. Some of the existing roadways in York Region are too congested or “built up” to effectively and efficiently add an additional usage. The selected roadways were chosen for their linkage to the most populated townships in York Region. The majority of roads selected have some suitable shoulders that could be paved to accommodate a bike lane. The intent of the road selection process was to identify bike friendly roads that can support a bike lane, thus reducing overall construction costs.

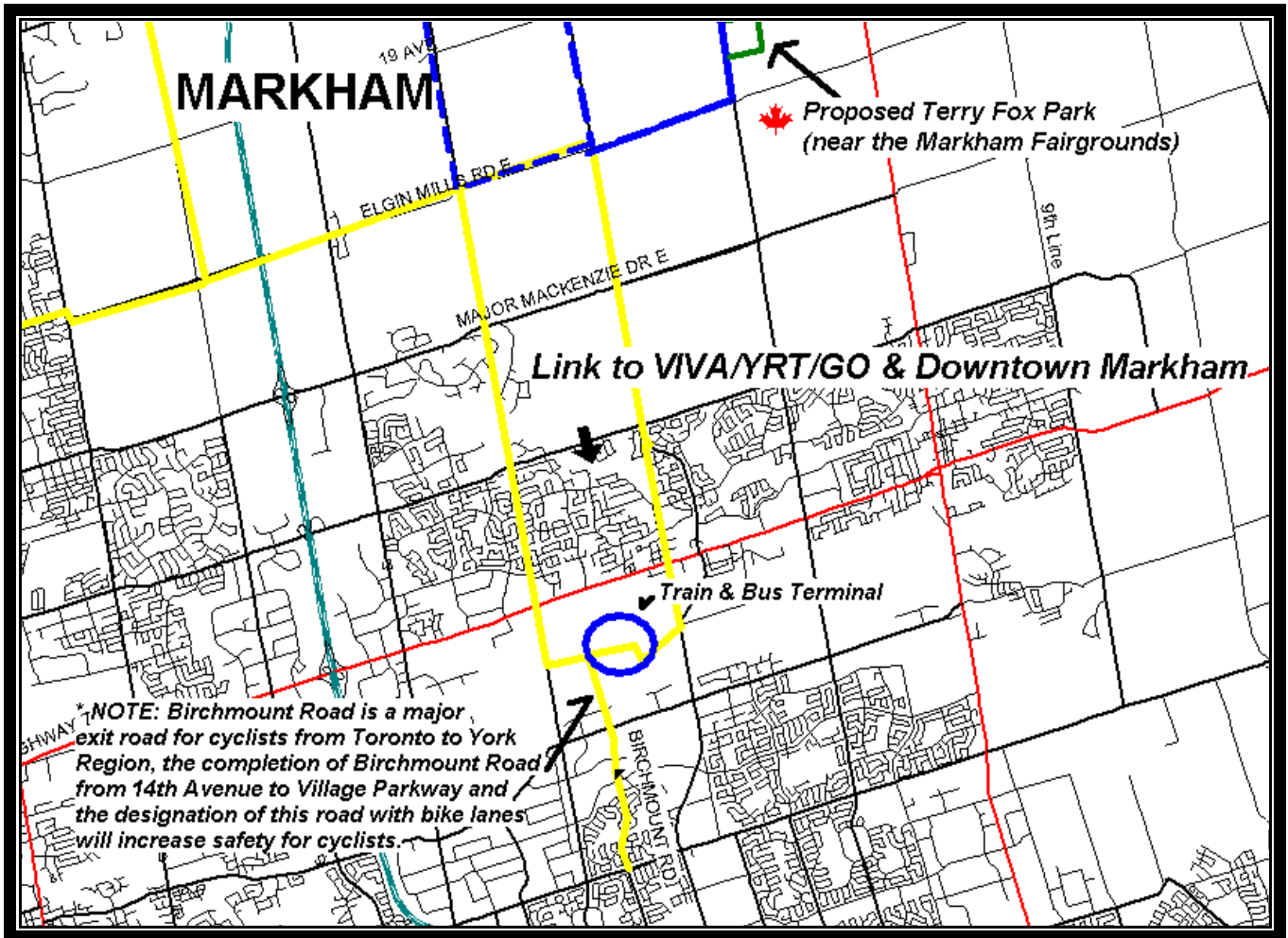
This proposal encompasses two distinct bikeways, the initial bikeway (approximately 30 to 40 km) would be constructed first and dedicated to Terry Fox and named the *Terry Fox Bikeway*. The second bikeway would be developed on a multi year timetable and encompass 125 km of roadways as part of the York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan and named the *York Region Bikeway*.

The Terry Fox Bikeway would officially start at or near the Markham Fairgrounds (Elgin Mills Road and McCowan Road) and encompass the following roads: McCowan Road, Elgin Mills Road, St. John’s Side Road and either Kennedy Road or Warden Avenue depending on alignment with York Region’s Master Plan. Somewhere along the Terry Fox Bikeway a park and parking lot should be built as a general meeting place to attract cyclists from York Region and surrounding municipalities. The property around the Markham Fairgrounds would be an ideal location for a dedicated park and parking facilities. Sample maps of the overall proposed bikeway network can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

The second phase of this proposal (York Region Bikeway) would include an additional 125 km of roadways that would accommodate bike lanes on both sides of the road. These roadways would link the most populated townships (Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Aurora, Stouffville & Newmarket) in York Region with the long term strategy of linking all the townships in York Region.



North Overview: Terry Fox and York Region Bikeways  
**Figure 1**



South Overview: York Region Bikeway link to Downtown Markham  
**Figure 2**

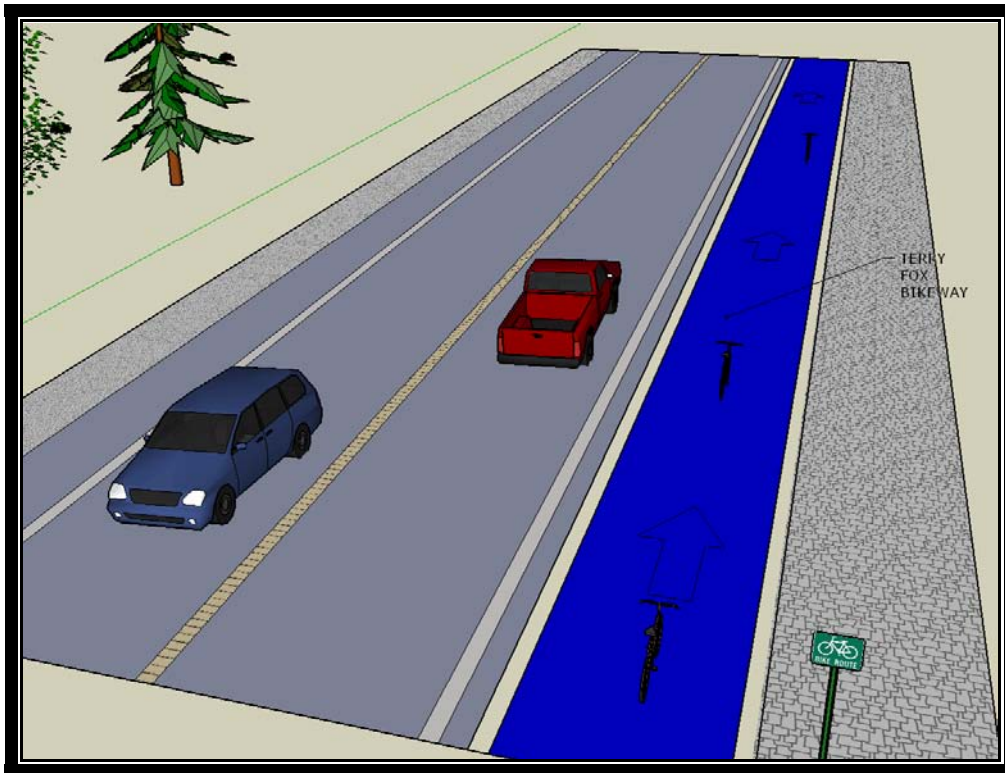
### **3 SAMPLE ROADWAY DESIGN**

The design concept in Figure 3 shows a “one-way” bike lane concept that only requires the construction of a bike lane on one side of the road, the design in Figure 4 shows slightly narrower bike lanes on both sides of the road and would allow bike traffic in both directions. It is important that the Terry Fox Bikeway (TFB) carry unique signage such as posted signs and road marking that clearly distinguish it from the other bike lanes in York Region. The unique signage will promote the use of the TFB and allow motorists and cyclists to easily identify the bikeway. Additionally, a fine gravel shoulder adjacent to the bikeway could also serve as an excellent walking or running trail.

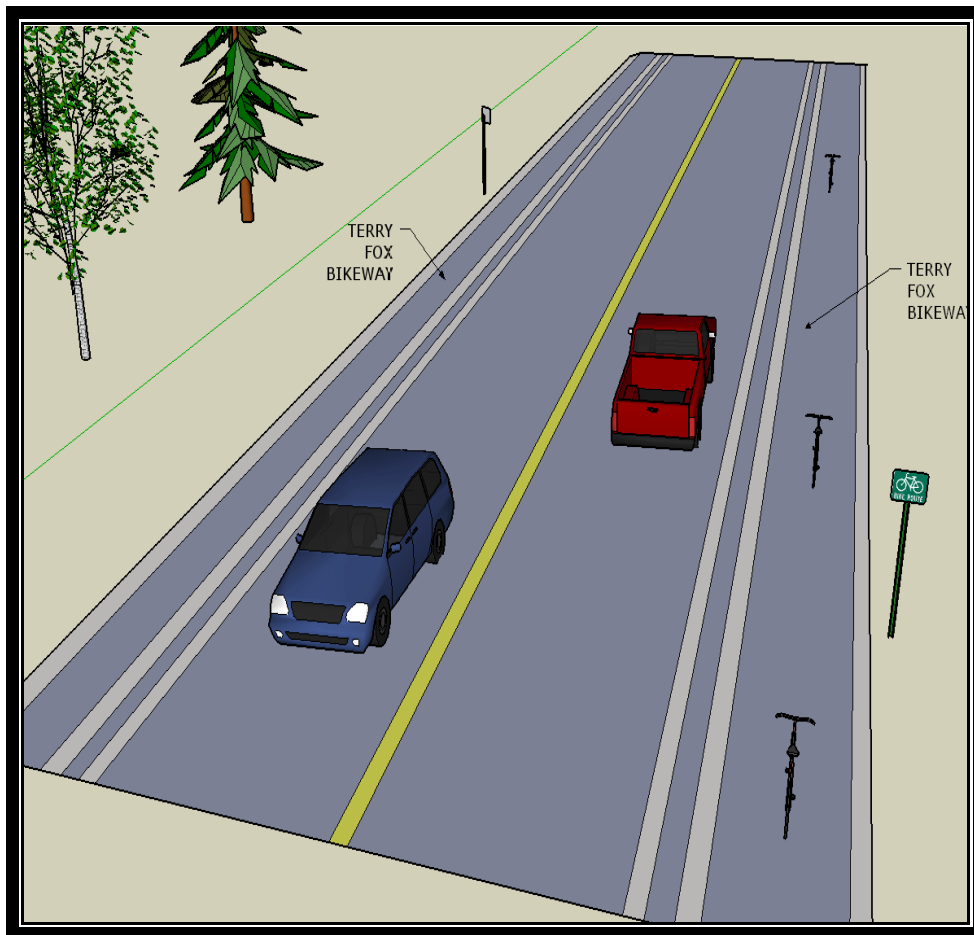
The other 125 km of bikes lanes would also contain designated bike lanes on both sides of the road as proposed in the York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

It is critical to the safety of cyclists that all bike lanes contain both posted signs and road markings that clearly indicate their function. Without the road markings motorists may not give cyclists sufficient clearance to pass safely.

As the network grows and hub points are established, York Region and the local cities may consider investing in bike racks and locker facilities. To encourage commuter traffic on the bikeway network the general public must feel that they can safely store their bicycles while they are at work. A pilot project to test the effectiveness of fully enclosed lockers for bicycles would help to determine the cost benefit of this type of facility.



Lane Concept A  
**Figure 3**



Lane Concept B  
**Figure 4**

#### **4 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN**

To increase safety of cyclists in York Region it is necessary to increase and in some situations correct the behaviour of both motorists and cyclists through a broad-based awareness advertising campaign. The awareness campaign would be conducted in both print and broadcast media and focus on showing the general public that cyclists are ordinary contributing members of society. This increased awareness would help to ensure that motorists and cyclists share the road with respect and courtesy.

Some ideas to use in an advertising campaign:

“Give cyclists the same courtesy you would give a slow-moving tractor.”

“People don’t yell at farmers in tractors and tell them to get off the road.”

“The Highway Traffic Act states that cyclists are entitled to the whole lane (unless otherwise designated) and vehicles must pass cyclists in a safe manner.”

#### **5 TERRY FOX FOUNDATION**

The Terry Fox Foundation has been contacted to determine if they would support the naming of one section of the York Region Bike Network the “Terry Fox Bikeway.” The foundation supports the concept, see Appendix A for a copy of the correspondence from Darrell Fox.

[www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org)

#### **6 SPONSORSHIP FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE**

A large amount of funding for construction, repair and maintenance would come from the local government, other sources of funding may be obtained from provincial and federal government to support the dedication to the Terry Fox Bikeway and Terry Fox Park.

There would be no advertising on the Terry Fox Bikeway because the Terry Fox Foundation is a nonprofit organization and does not associate its name or logo with any corporate identity. On other parts of the York Region Bikeway Network some advertising could be incorporated into the dedicated lanes or signage along the Bikeway, the funds from advertising revenues could be used to support operation, maintenance and repair costs of the overall York Region Bikeway Network.

#### **7 CHARITY EVENTS**

One of the proposed premier charity events would be an annual cycling event in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Similar events have been conducted in York Region such as the Ride For Karen which is a charity ride to raise money to send kids with Cancer to summer camp. In

2006 more than 300 cyclists raised more than \$150,000 for this worthwhile event (for details go to the following link [www.rideforkaren.com](http://www.rideforkaren.com)).

As the bike network grows many different types of events would be conducted around York Regions Bikeway's, these events would range from novice events to elite and possibly pro events. In time, York Region may be known as one of the most bike friendly areas in North America and attract tourists from around the world.

## **8 LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Letters of support from established cycling clubs that regularly ride in York Region have been solicited. The major cycling clubs representing more than 1300 cyclists support the concept brought forward in this proposal. See Appendix B for copies of the letters of support from the cycling clubs.

## **9 CONCLUSION**

The integration of this proposal with the *York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan*<sup>1</sup> has the potential of establishing York Region as a world class premier cycling and pedestrian friendly destination. We now have an opportunity to build the infrastructure to accommodate additional usages along York Regions major roadways to get people out of their cars, improve the environment and facilitate a healthy and vibrant lifestyle.

Terry Fox's *Marathon of Hope* started with a step in the right direction, may this proposal along with the *York Region Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan* be the step in the right direction for York Region.

---

1

**APPENDIX A**

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE TERRY FOX  
FOUNDATION**



A single dream. A world of hope.

November 22, 2006

Joe Doria  
97 Winston Castle Drive  
Markham, Ontario

Dear Joe:

Many thanks for forwarding the document entitled "Terry Fox Bikeway" received November 1, 2006. I have shared your proposal with Betty and Rolly Fox, Terry's mother and father, who ultimately are responsible for approving the use of Terry's name and likeness. They were truly touched that you would consider naming a new bikeway in the York Region of Ontario after their son. They wish to confirm that they accept, in principle, this naming tribute.

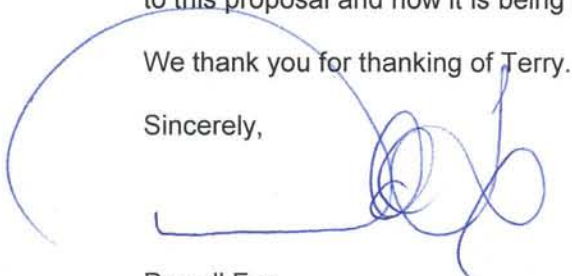
We continue to be moved and humbled by the numerous tributes, awards and honours that have been bestowed on Terry over the past twenty five years. The Terry Fox Foundation and our family remain totally committed to Terry's wish that his name and likeness be used strictly to reduce the cancer burden. As you may know, Terry was not interested in fame and glory when he embarked on his Marathon of Hope in 1980. His sole purpose was to raise money to reduce the cancer burden. The Foundation will not draw on its resources in a lobbying effort to perpetuate Terry's legacy. The honours that have been bestowed on Terry are a result of the efforts of Canadians, like you, who have taken it upon themselves to pursue these ventures.

The Terry Fox Foundation prides itself on hosting events that are inclusive, non competitive and non commercial in keeping with Terry's vision. The annual Terry Fox Run is the primary vehicle we use to fulfill our research mandate. It pleases us to read that the proposed Terry Fox bikeway would extend a further invitation to the biking community in the Greater Toronto Area to participate in our mission of reducing the burden that cancer causes.

Would you be good enough to keep us apprised of further developments that relate to this proposal and how it is being received?

We thank you for thanking of Terry.

Sincerely,



Darrell Fox  
National Director

---

The Terry Fox Foundation

46165 Yale Road, Suite 303, Chilliwack, BC V2P 2P2 Tel: 604 701-0246 Fax: 604 701-0247  
national@terryfoxrun.org web: www.terryfoxrun.org

---

## **APPENDIX B**

# **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

D'Ornellas Racing Team

Newmarket Eagles Cycling Club

Toronto Bicycling Network



D'Ornellas Racing Team  
93 Huntington Park Drive  
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 7E1

December 6, 2006

Joe Doria  
97 Winston Castle Drive  
Markham, Ontario

On behalf of the over 250 members of the D'Ornellas Racing Team Cycling Club, the club executive is thrilled to add its support to the Terry Fox Bikeway proposal.

Much of our cycling is done on the roadways in York Region and we welcome this proposal. We share your enthusiasm that this proposal will assist in making the roads in York Region safer for cyclists and motorists alike. Recently one of our members was seriously injured on a York Region road when a car hit him from behind at over 55 kph. The motorist claimed he didn't see him, an all too common "reason".

The proposal will give cyclists their own space on the road and assist in educating motorists at the same time.

We look forward to the acceptance of your proposal by York Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Deering". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Deering  
President

*Newmarket Eagles Cycling Club*

Joe Doria, P.Eng.  
97 Winston Castle Drive,  
Markham, ON.

9 December, 2006

Dear Mr Doria,

The Newmarket Eagles Cycling Club is one of the largest cycling organizations based in York Region and has been in existence for some 20 years, with approximately 180 members in 2006. Much of the cycling done by club members is on roads such as those identified for designation as the York Region Bikeway, and most of our members make their home in York Region.

We are particularly supportive of the proposal to designate a 30km section of the regional network as the Terry Fox Bikeway. This will provide a valuable focal point for cycling in York Region, through identification with one of Canada's heroes - while, at the same time, further honouring his memory and advancing his goals for cancer research.

Such a focal point is needed for several reasons:

-It will serve to increase public recognition of the role of the bicycle on roads outside of the conventional bike routes that have been established within our major urban areas.

-It will communicate to the motoring public that cyclists have a right to travel on York Region's roads.

-It will offer a safer environment for the public to take up road cycling, and will therefore help to increase participation in this health-promoting activity.

-Through linking publicity associated with the construction and operation of the Terry Fox Bikeway, with information on the "feeder" system provided by the wider network, further emphasis will be given to the need to accommodate both cyclists and motorized vehicles as rightful users of the Region's roads.

We wish you every success in the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Darke, Ph.D, President

1133 Kingdale Road  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 4W1 (905 895 4331)



8 December 2006

Joe Doria, P.Eng.  
97 Winston Castle Drive  
Markham, ON

The Board of Directors of the Toronto Bicycling Network, on behalf of its over 900 members, wholeheartedly endorses the Terry Fox Bikeway proposal.

The Toronto Bicycling Network is Canada's largest recreational cycling club. Many of our organized rides start or go through York Region. A significant number of our members live and commute in York.

The proposed 30 km Terry Fox Bikeway and expanded 125 km York Region Bikeway would be utilized and appreciated by our members. Roadway congestion and safety are constant concerns for both cyclists and motorists.

We trust that York Region will favorably consider your proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Paul Price  
Secretary – The Toronto Bicycling Network, Inc.  
[tbn@tbn.ca](mailto:tbn@tbn.ca)  
[www.tbn.ca](http://www.tbn.ca)