

Small Changes, Big Savings

Fatema absolutely loves her job, but the daily commute from her Brampton home to GENIVAR in Markham, which usually takes more than an hour, is often exhausting. Fatema tried using the 407 Express Toll Route (ETR), and while this did shorten her travel time, it also emptied \$400 out of her wallet each month.

After a few attempts at forming a carpool over the past couple of years, Fatema finally had success. In March 2012, with the help of Smart Commute's [Carpool Zone](#) online ride-matching service, she was able to find a compatible carpooling partner and they both agree they make a good team. "Having a carpool partner has been a blessing; it has really improved my overall drive into work and has reduced my commuting costs," she says. "I have realized savings of almost \$200 a month between toll charges and gas."

Up to four times a week, Fatema's carpool partner, Angelica, starts out at 6:50 a.m. from Georgetown and arrives at her house in Brampton 30 minutes later. From here, they alternate driving duties to their workplace in Markham.

For the most part, this carpool has been problem-free. "In the beginning there were a few challenges in time coordination, but with some minor adjustments and great communication, we have managed to make things work," explains Fatema. These carpooling partners have developed a lasting friendship through commuting together. Sometimes they even carpool to the gym after work – now that's some great motivation!

Genivar Inc. is a Smart Commute Markham, Richmond Hill workplace.



Fatema's car parked in one of GENIVAR's dedicated carpool parking spaces, conveniently located near the main entrance, another benefit of being a carpooler.