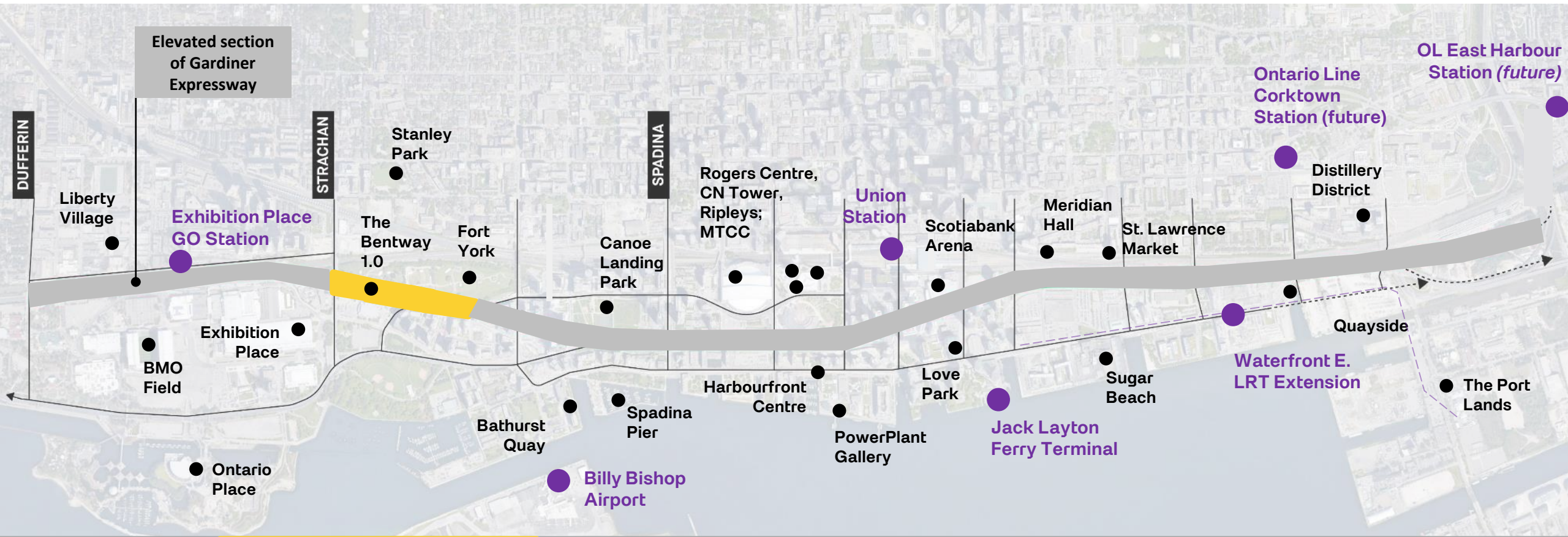


# UNDER GARDINER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

the bentway  TORONTO

Infrastructure & Environment Committee  
March 2024

# CREATING CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE WATERFRONT

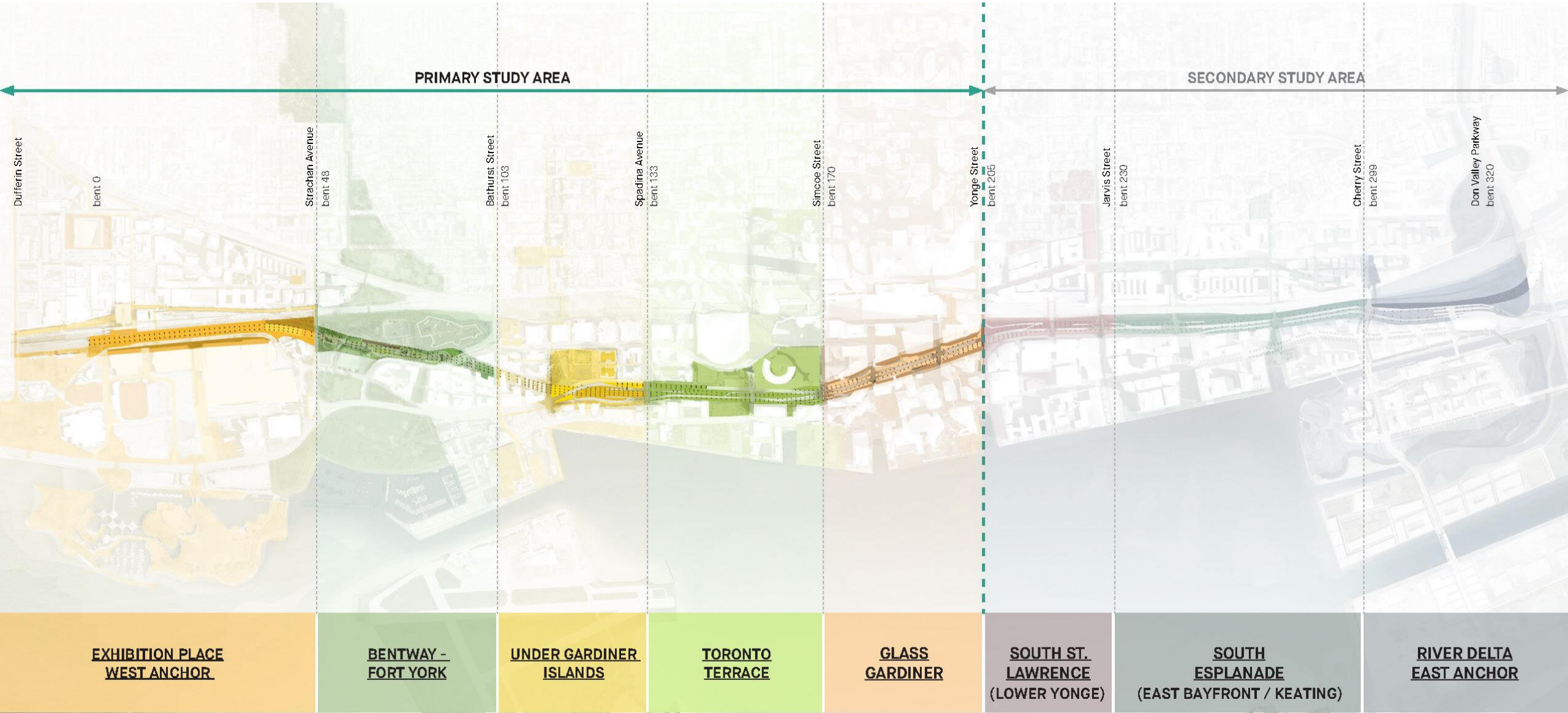


# COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

The Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan is a **collaborative effort between the City of Toronto and The Bentway** that brings together asset owners, subject matter experts, diverse perspectives, and practical experience in planning, programming, operating, and animating the public realm.



# STUDY AREA



# PUBLIC CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

- **8+** Technical advisory meetings
- **10** District-specific stakeholder consultations
- **2000+** Visitors to the Under Gardiner PRP website
- **150+** Unique comments on interactive online map
- **120+** Open House participants
- **270+** Comments and feedback notes provided at Open House sessions
- Continued **relationship building efforts** with Indigenous & Unhoused communities



# NEW BASELINE

The report puts forth guidelines that will improve the overall experience and cohesive identity along the under Gardiner corridor. These standards build on the success of existing under Gardiner features and will contribute to the enhanced safety, accessibility and predictability of amenities along its length.



pedestrian oriented lighting



consistent wayfinding



rainwater management



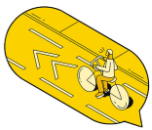
improved safety at intersections



environmental lighting treatments



predictable public amenities



continuous walking and cycling trail



signage mounts at intersections



resilient, perennial & native plants



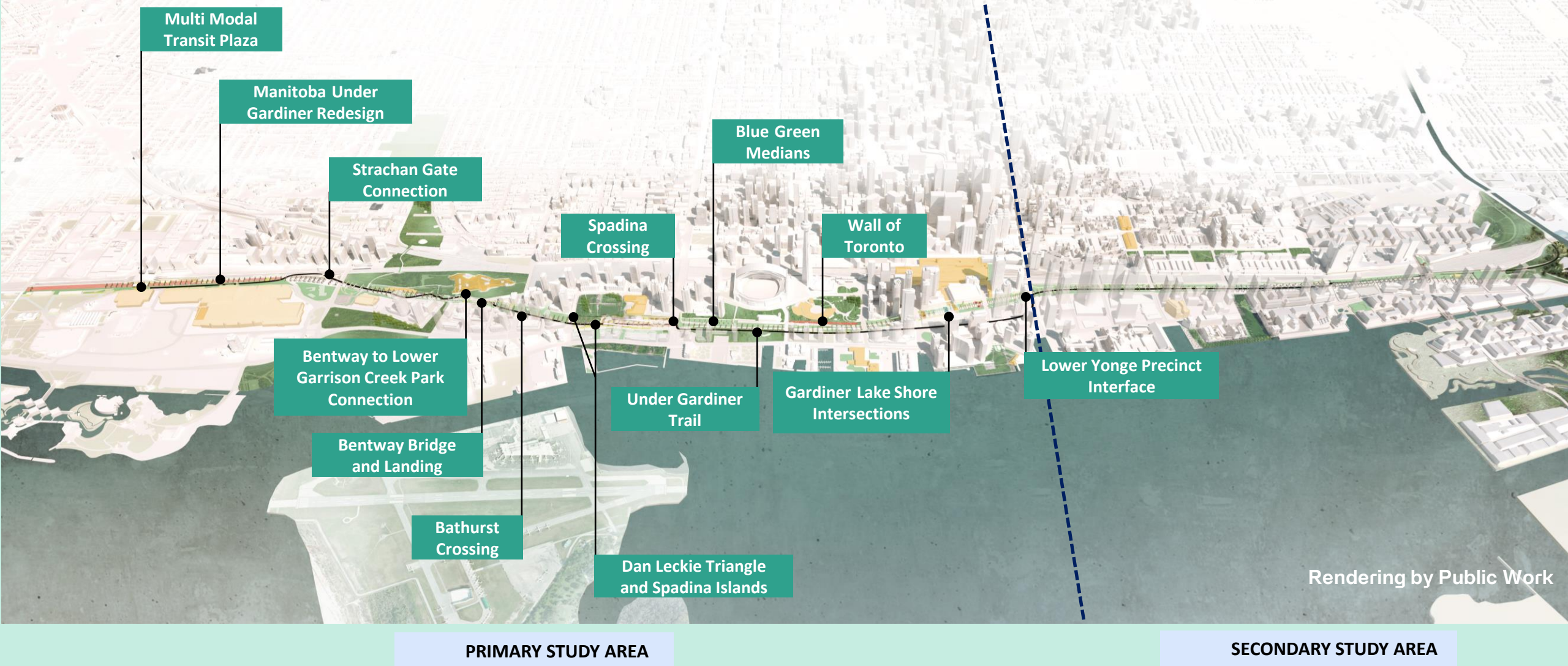
Indicative application of the new baseline features at an under Gardiner intersection, illustration by Kathleen Wu



Indicative application of the new baseline features along the Under Gardiner Trail, rendering by Public Work

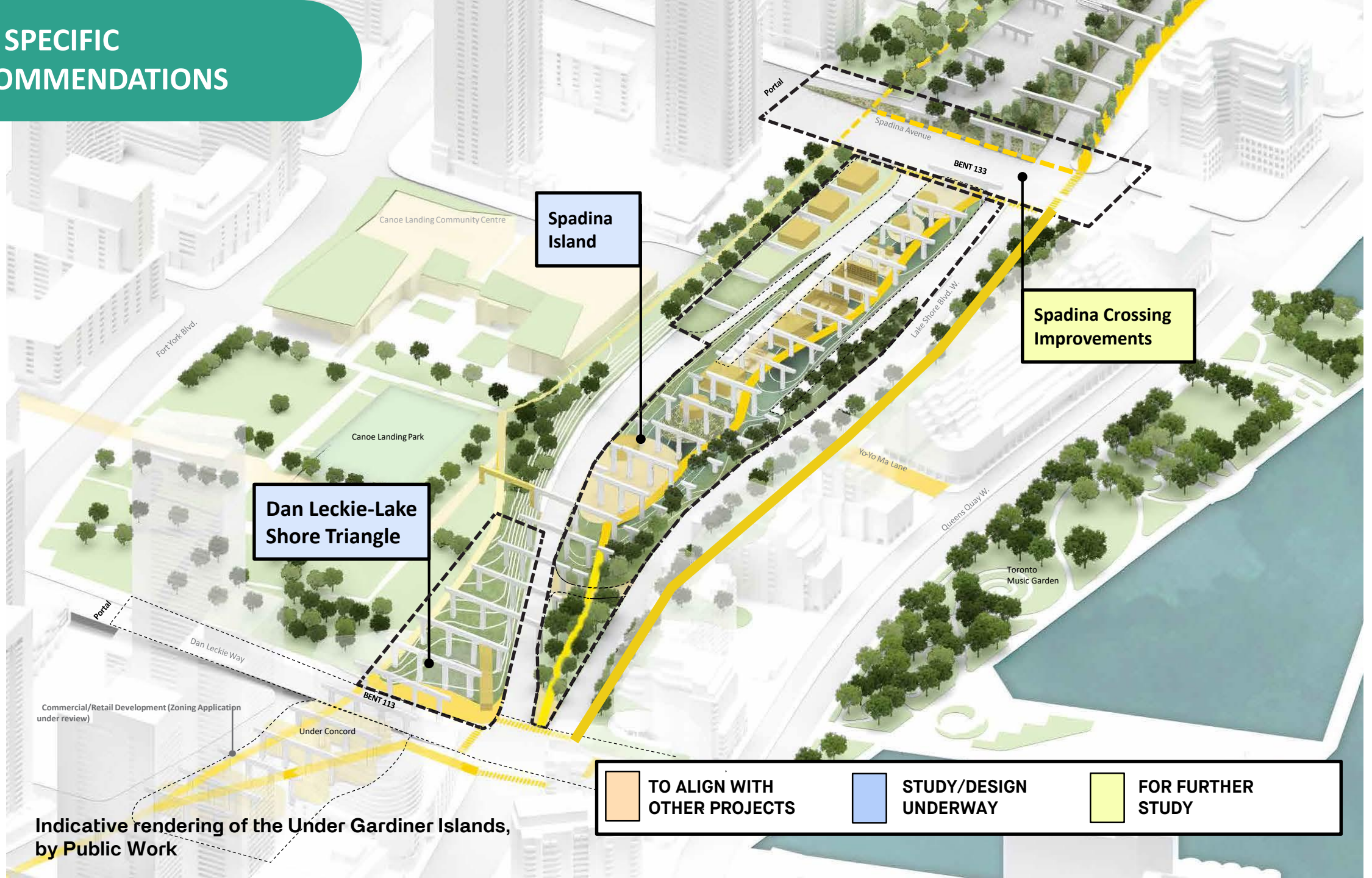
# SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The report adopts a **district-specific approach** that identifies and reflects on geographic changes, local priorities, and driving factors influencing development along the under Gardiner corridor. A series of site specific opportunities have been identified in each district, which **build on the key learnings and successes of existing under Gardiner spaces**.





# SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**Spadina Island**

**Spadina Crossing Improvements**

**Dan Leckie-Lake Shore Triangle**

	<b>TO ALIGN WITH OTHER PROJECTS</b>		<b>STUDY/DESIGN UNDERWAY</b>		<b>FOR FURTHER STUDY</b>
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Indicative rendering of the Under Gardiner Islands, by Public Work

Commercial/Retail Development (Zoning Application under review)

Under Concord

Portal

Dan Leckie Way

BENT 113

Portal

Spadina Avenue

BENT 133

Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Yo-Yo Ma Lane

Queens Quay W.

Toronto Music Garden

Canoe Landing Community Centre

Canoe Landing Park

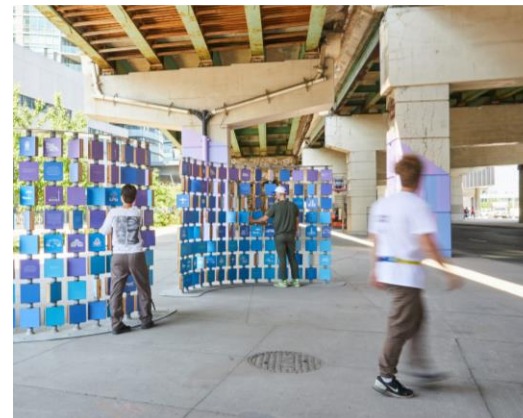
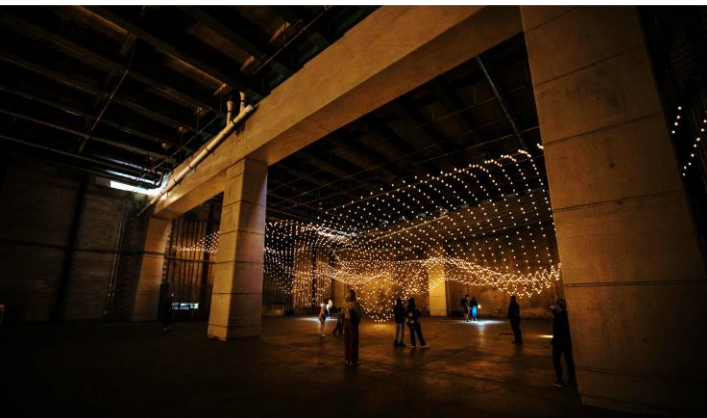
Fort York Blvd

The plan **aligns with stated City plans and policies and advances the shared strategic goals of removing barriers to the waterfront and making new connections.** These include:

- Lake Shore Boulevard East Public Realm Plan (Gardiner East EA)
- City of Toronto Official Plan (Central Waterfront Secondary Plan & Downtown Plan)
- Public Art Strategy
- Visitor Economy Strategic Directions 2023-2028
- Vision Zero Road Safety Plan
- TransformTO Net Zero Strategy
- Complete Streets Guidelines

# TRIAL, TEST, TRANSFORM

Extending The Bentway's innovative approach, which demonstrates the Gardiner's capacity to serve as a creative amenity, **the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan recommends leveraging near-term pilot projects to test long-term recommendations.**



@ Exhibition Place  
(2021 & 2022)

@ YORK ST  
(2023-2025)

@ Simcoe St  
(2023-2025)

@ Dan Leckie Way  
(2023-2025)

**The Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan establishes new public space conventions and sets priorities for investment and improvement that will help transform the Expressway into a contemporary, forward-looking piece of hybrid infrastructure. The Under Gardiner PRP:**

- Improves the experience and identity of under Gardiner spaces through **new physical and visual connections** to ensure all road users are safe and welcome
- Embraces a holistic understanding of climate change, **restoring the balance with natural systems and promoting resilient urban spaces** that enable outdoor activity all year round
- Removes barriers to facilitate **improved connectivity and active transportation** across the waterfront
- Guides the design of **exceptional, publicly accessible spaces** that enable a diversity of uses and contribute to thriving neighbourhoods
- Supports the development of **sustainable maintenance and upkeep processes** that help to address the Gardiner's fiscal, environmental, and social impacts