



***F.G. GARDINER EXPRESSWAY***



**NEW** Lower-Simcoe Ramp

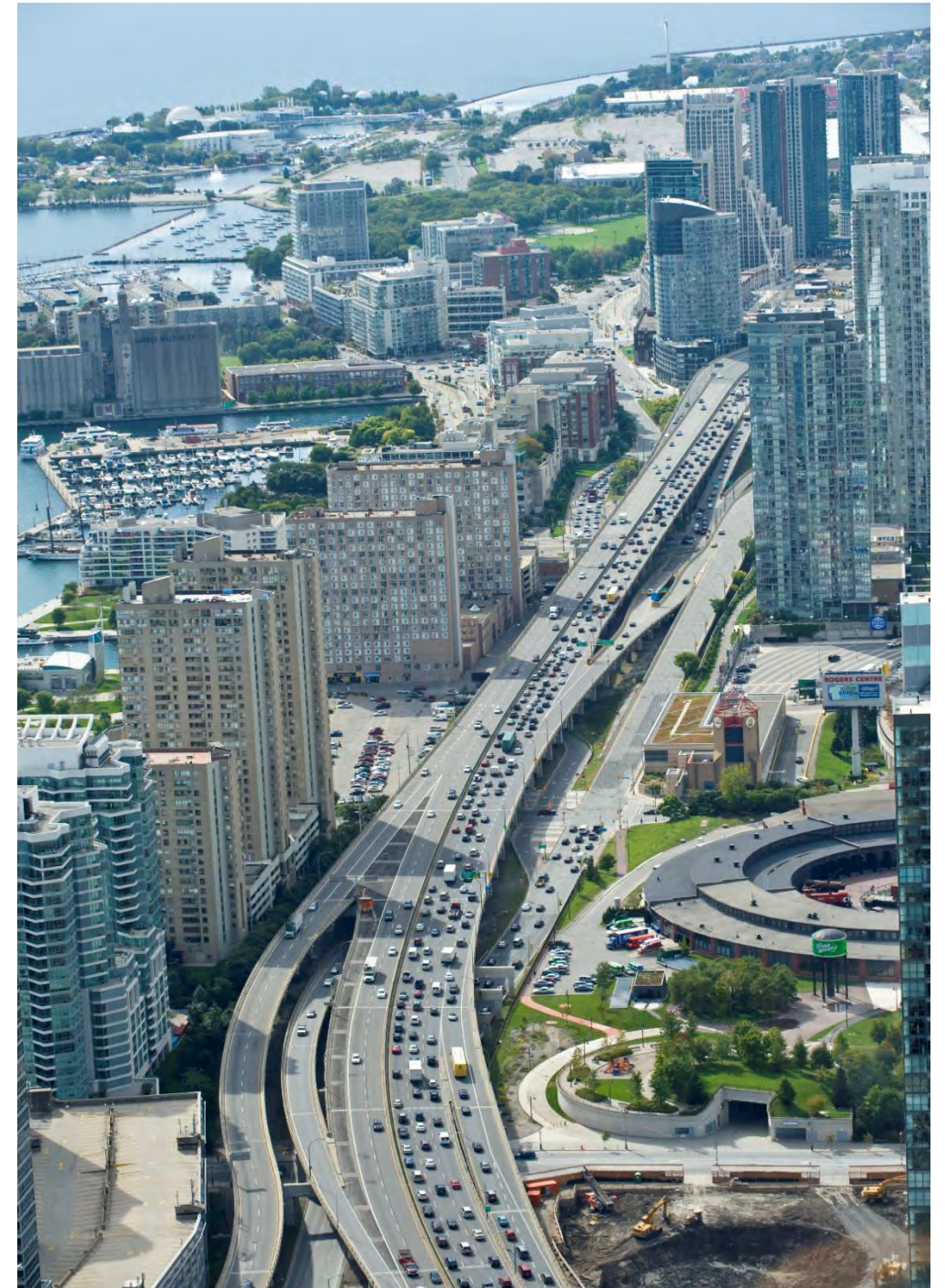
Drop-In Event  
February 28, 2017



# Gardiner Expressway York/Bay/Yonge Ramps

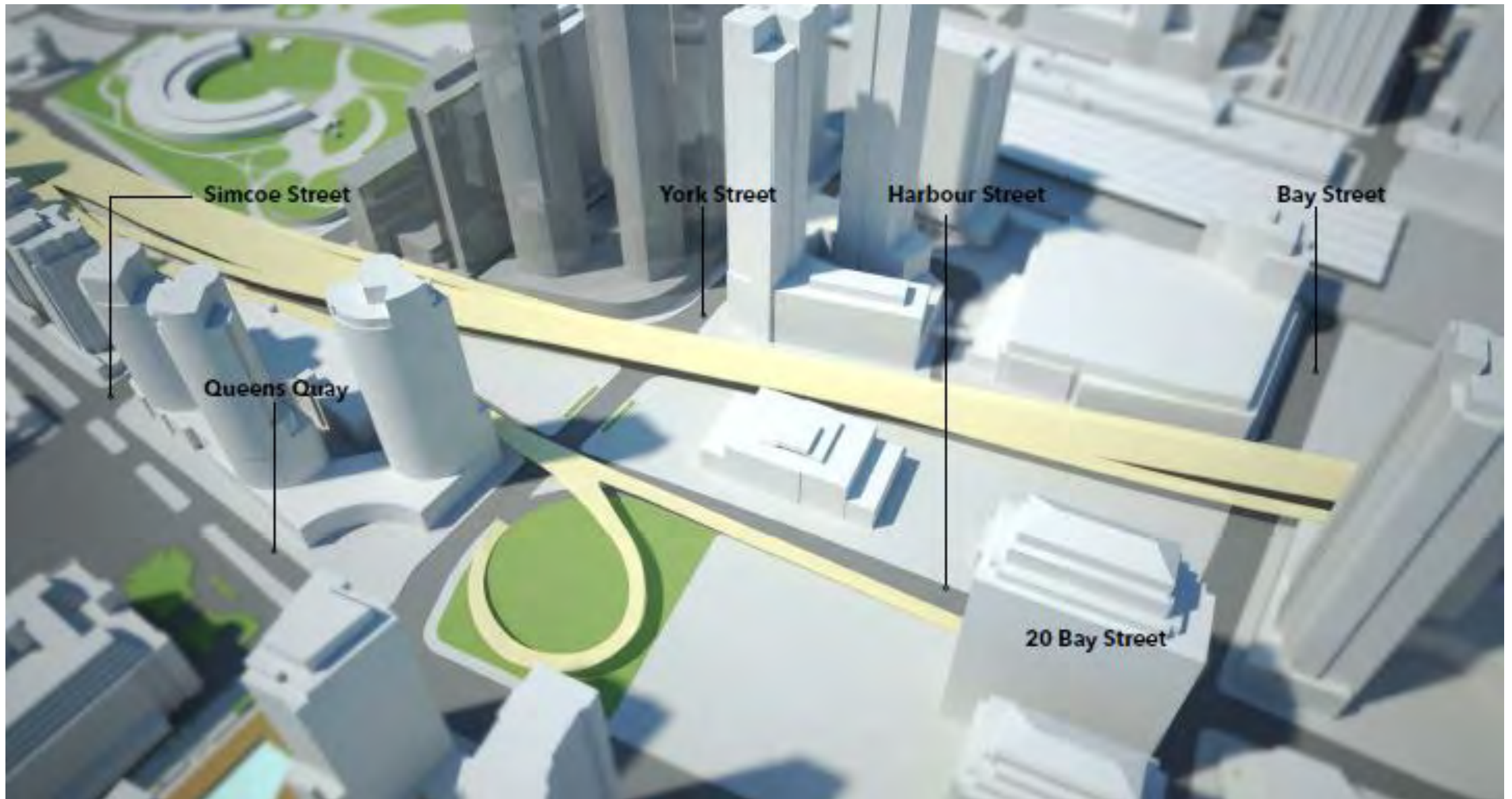
## 2013 Study Objectives

- Originally constructed from 1958 to 1964, the ramps need to address today's demands and uses
- Long-term plans for the waterfront aim to remove barriers and reconnect the City with Lake Ontario
- Waterfront streets are to be remade as “places” with high quality amenities for pedestrians and cyclists
- Improving conditions for the increasing volume of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles requires a reworking of the road network





# Existing Conditions: York/Bay/Yonge Ramps



# Study Outcome:

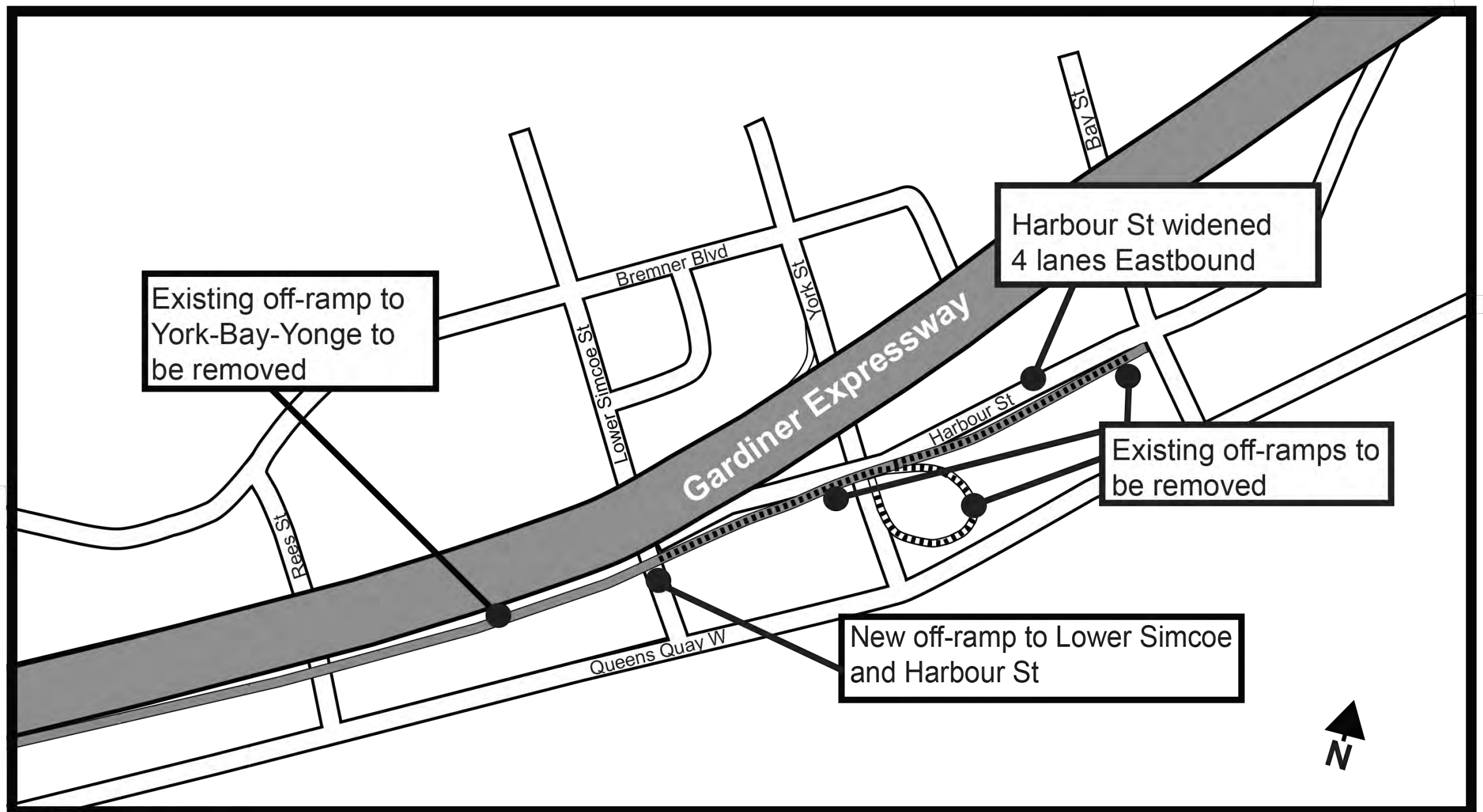
## Replacing the York/Bay/Yonge Ramps

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The Environmental Assessment Study (2013) recommended:

- **Removing** the long elevated ramp to Bay Street and loop ramp at York Street
- **Installing** a new shorter exit ramp to Harbour Street ending at Lower Simcoe Street
- **Widening** Harbour Street from 3 to 4 lanes from Lower Simcoe to Bay Street
- **Adding** streetscaping elements (pavers, trees) along Harbour Street
- **Replacing** the York ramp loop with redesigned park space

# Recommended Improvements





# Study Outcome: New Lower Simcoe Ramp



# Key Benefits

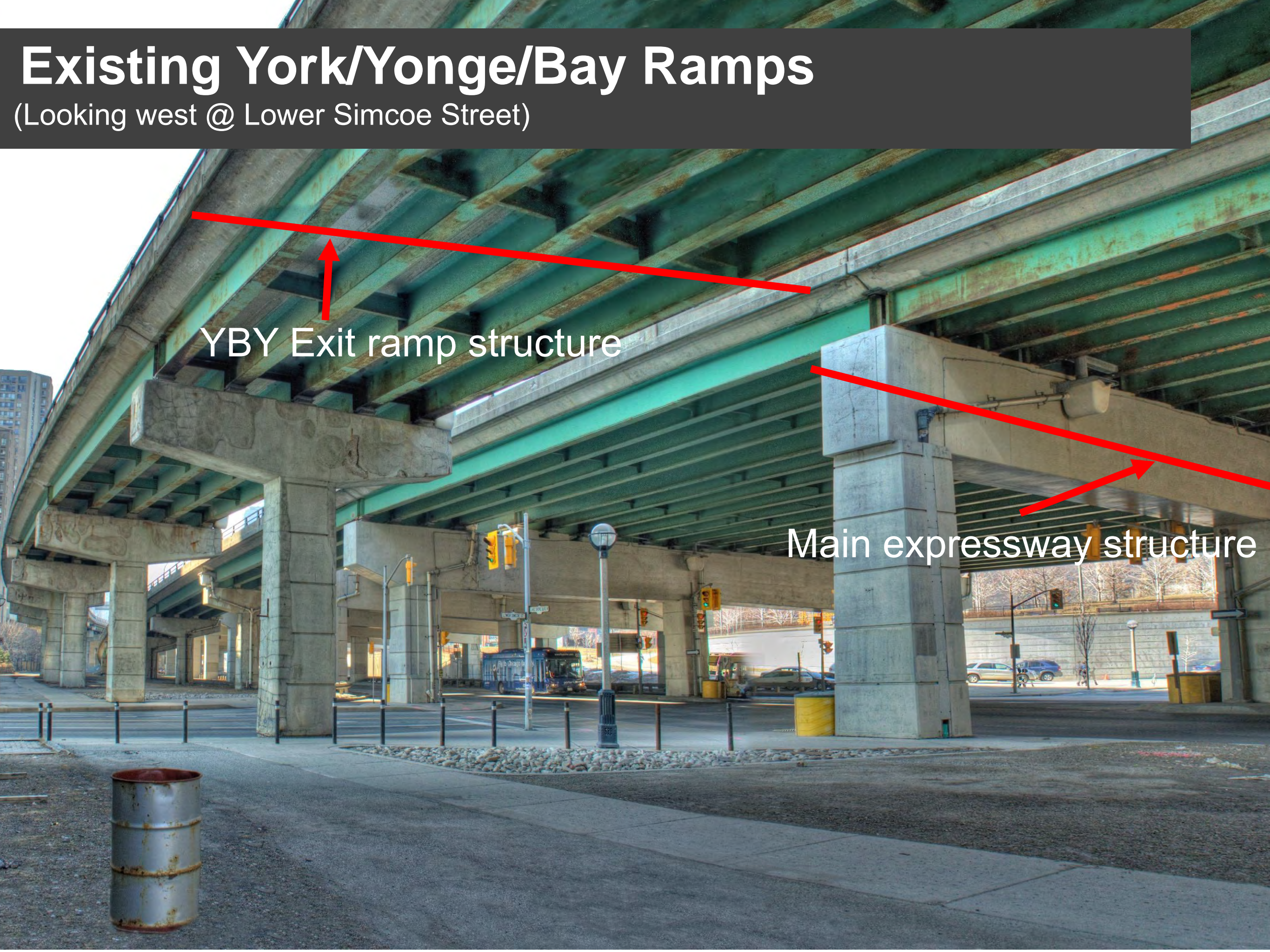
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## **A new ramp to Lower Simcoe Street & Improvements to Harbour Street will:**

- Continue to accommodate high volumes of traffic flow between the Gardiner Expressway, the downtown core and the waterfront
- Create an enhanced public realm for the increasing number of pedestrians and cyclists living and working in, or visiting the area
- Improve public safety by including well-signalized, well-lit intersections and better signage for all users
- Create park space (within the existing York Street off-ramp site) to help enhance the waterfront area

**Improvements help support all modes of travel**





# Existing York/Yonge/Bay Ramps

(Looking west @ Lower Simcoe Street)

YBY Exit ramp structure

Main expressway structure



# Future Lower Simcoe Ramp

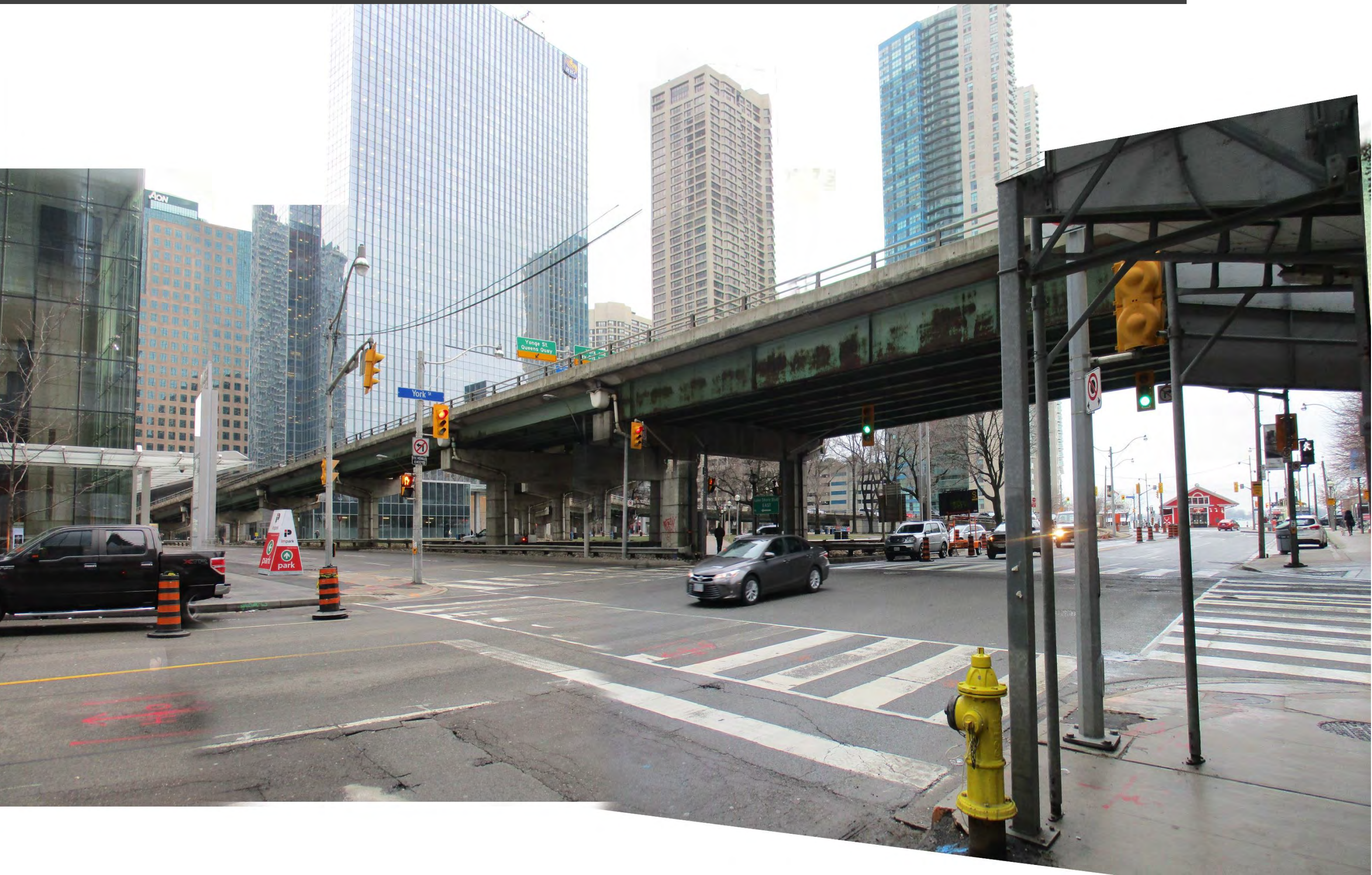
(Looking west @ Lower Simcoe Street)





# Existing York Street Intersection

(Looking south-east towards the lake)





# Existing York Street Intersection

- 3 lanes travelling east to Harbour Street
- York St. exit ramp bisects park space
- no sidewalk access on east side of York St
- traffic median at south-east strands pedestrian traffic





# Future York Street Intersection

(Looking south-east towards the lake)





# Future York Street Intersection

+ added lane on Harbour Street

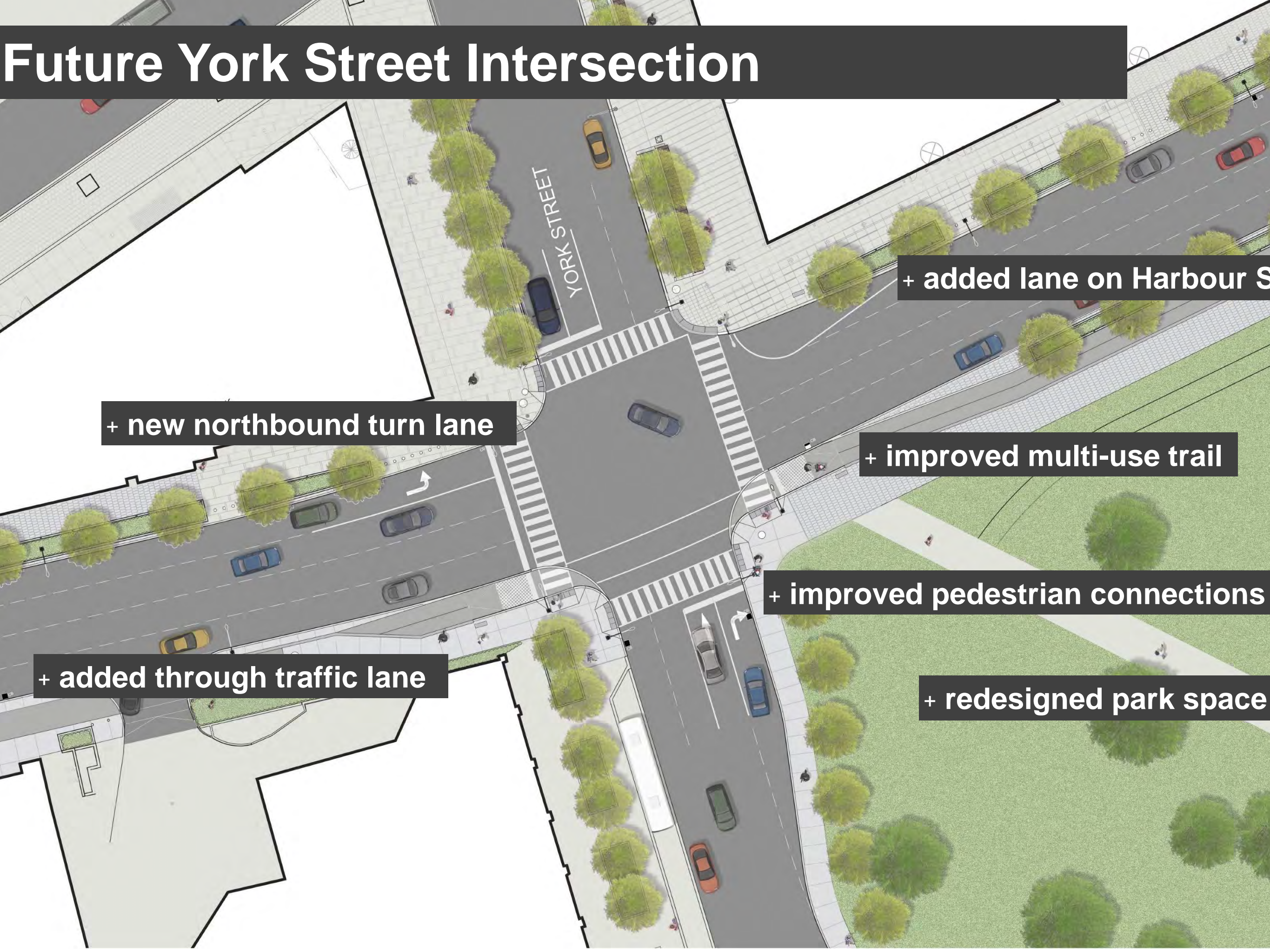
+ new northbound turn lane

+ improved multi-use trail

+ improved pedestrian connections

+ added through traffic lane

+ redesigned park space





# Existing Bay Street Ramp

(adjacent to Harbour Street)





# Future Harbour Street

(Looking west from Bay Street)



+ improved sidewalks

+ added lane on Harbour Street

+ improved multi-use trail

+ added trees



# Future Harbour Street

(Looking east towards Bay Street)





# Construction Phase 1: Preparatory Work

## July 2016 to December 2016

- Foundation and substructure of new ramp at Lower Simcoe started
- Underground infrastructure relocated (fibre optic cables, sewers, etc...)
- No closures occurred; only temporary lane restrictions during off-peak hours on eastbound Lake Shore Blvd.
- Multi-use trail closed from Rees Street to Lower Simcoe Street





# Construction Phase 2:

## Demolition of Existing Ramps & Construction of New Lower Simcoe Ramp and Harbour Street

**April 2017 to January 2018**

Tasks	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct-Jan
Complete foundation and substructure for new ramp at Lower Simcoe Street										
Install new catch basins and stormwater leads on Harbour St										
Demolish existing YBY off ramp										
Relocate Hydro vault and install new Hydro transformer										
Construct new Lower Simcoe ramp										
Install automated de-icing system on ramp										
Widen Harbour Street to 4 lanes along with streetscape improvements										



# Work Details

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## **Work Hours:**

- 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday to Saturday
- Periods of 24/7 and overnight work may be used to help minimize traffic congestion and shorten overall project duration

## **Noise:**

- Demolition work & concrete removal will be loud and disruptive at times
- Work may take place around the clock in some instances, but the noisiest work will cease by 11:00 p.m.

## **Dust:**

- Contractor must control dust
- Work surfaces to be wetted down to avoid spreading dust



# Traffic Management

## **York/Bay/Yonge Ramp will be CLOSED starting Monday, April 17 to January 2018**

- Motorists will still have full access to downtown by exiting the EB Gardiner Expressway at:
  - Jameson Avenue
  - Spadina Avenue
  - Jarvis Street
- EB off ramp at Spadina will be adjusted to allow for movement onto EB Lake Shore Boulevard (NB/Left turn at Spadina will remain)
- Traffic signal times will be adjusted to reduce congestion
- Full access to all westbound Gardiner ramps from Lake Shore Blvd West will be maintained



# Spadina Avenue Off Ramp at Lake Shore Blvd

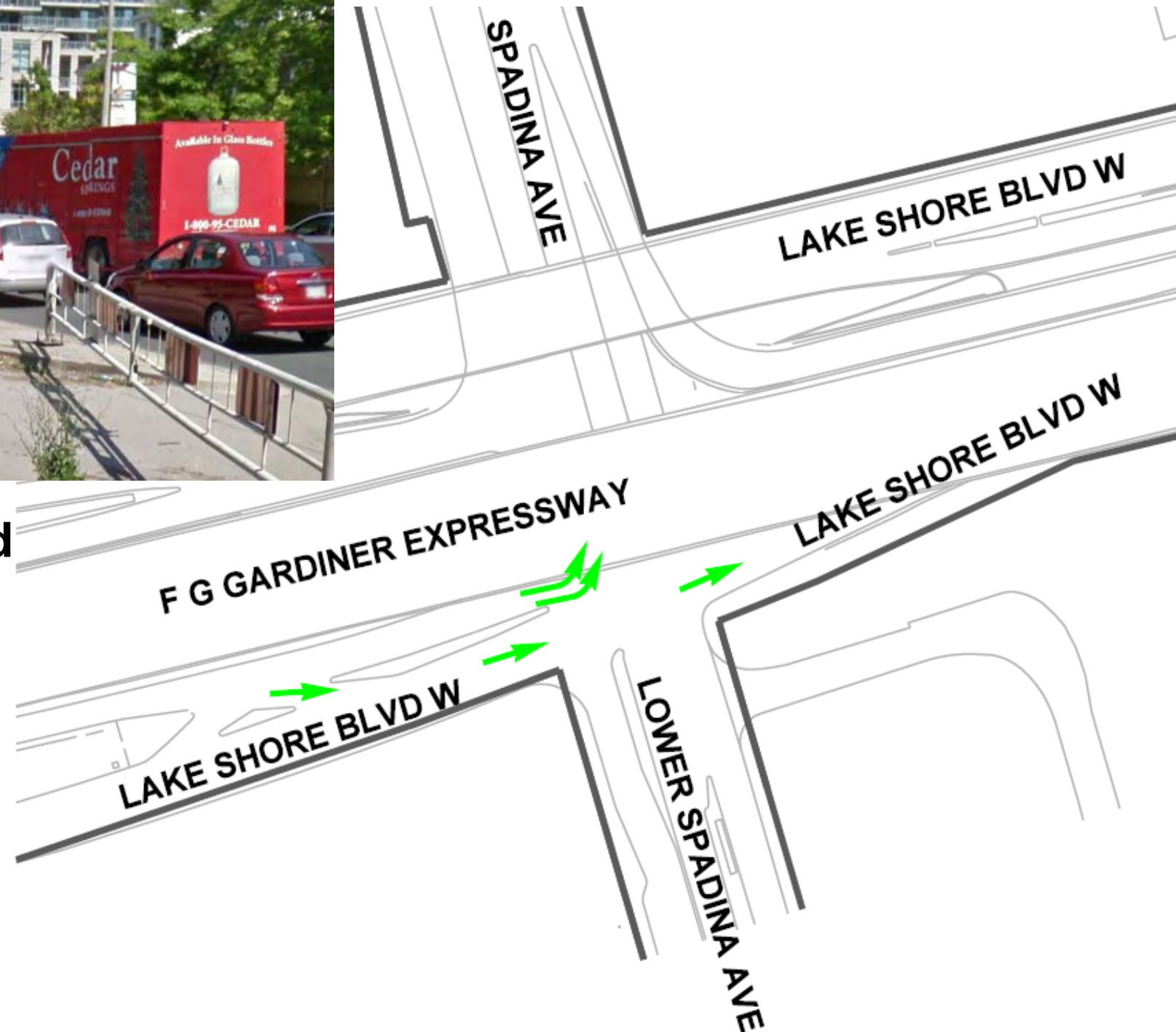


## Spadina Ave Off-Ramp Eastbound

Motorists exiting the Gardiner Expressway at Spadina Avenue will be able to access Lake Shore Boulevard to travel eastbound.

**A locked gate along the ramp exit will be opened to allow motorists to move onto Lake Shore Boulevard.**

Bollards will be placed on Lake Shore Blvd ahead of the locked gate to provide a lane of traffic for motorists to move into.





# Traffic Management

## **During Demolition: April to July**

- EB on-ramp at Rees Street will be:
  - closed during off-peak hours (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
  - open during peak hours to allow demolition during the day and reduce overnight work
- Intersections along Harbour Street at Lower Simcoe, York & Bay Streets will be closed for select weekends to safely remove the overhead spans of the York/Bay/Yonge ramps (dates to be confirmed)

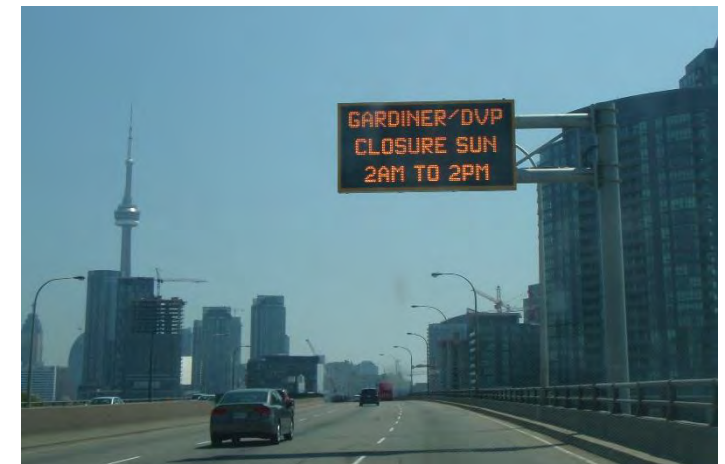
## **Throughout Construction: April to January**

- EB Lake Shore Boulevard/Harbour Street will be reduced to two lanes from Lower Simcoe Street to Bay Street
- Motorists can use parallel east/west streets south of Queen St



# Notification & Access for Vehicle Traffic

- Changeable Message signage on the DVP, Gardiner and Lake Shore Blvd will advise motorists of the ramp closure starting March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Portable Variable Message signs will be placed along EB Lake Shore Blvd and EB Gardiner Expressway
- Orange and black advance traffic advisory signage will be placed at key locations
- Road closures and restrictions will be managed in coordination with local events
- **Laneways and driveways that serve businesses will remain accessible for deliveries or service**
- **Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained at all times**





# Pedestrian and Cyclist Access

- Sidewalks to remain open on:
  - Lower Simcoe and York Streets for north/south travel
  - North side of Harbour Street
- Multi-use trail alongside Lake Shore Blvd will remain closed during Phase 2
- Cyclists to use detour from Martin Goodman Trail at Rees St to Queens Quay





# Raising Awareness



- Construction Notice Update #1 issued via Canada Post to approx. 55,000 properties and emailed to all stakeholders
- Email updates to be provided throughout construction

**Sign-up up at [toronto.ca/simcoe-ramp](https://toronto.ca/simcoe-ramp)**

- Road closures to be promoted through Media Releases, Twitter and Email Updates
- A Construction Liaison Committee will be formed with local property groups to address concerns during construction

**Help us spread the word - include information on your websites and email your audience**