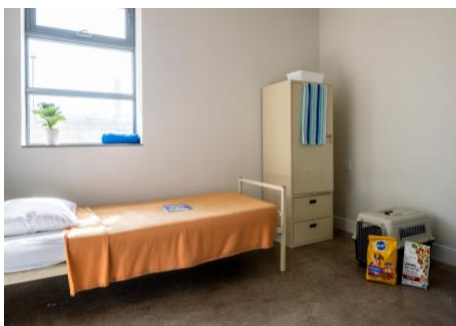




COMMUNITY UPDATE

New Shelter at 2535 Gerrard Street East

The City of Toronto is continuing its work to create new, modern shelter spaces that meet the needs of residents and communities alike. At [2535 Gerrard St. E.](#), a new municipal shelter will provide essential supports to approximately 80 mixed-gender adults (18 and older) who are experiencing homelessness. This new shelter will offer a safe, stable, and welcoming environment where residents can rebuild their lives, access health and social supports, and move toward permanent housing.

You're Invited! – Meet the Operator



The City of Toronto has selected **Warden Woods Community Centre** as the future operator of the new municipal shelter at 2535 Gerrard St. E. [Warden Woods Community Centre](#) has been part of the Southwest Scarborough community for more than fifty years, offering a wide range of programs that support residents' well-being, belonging, and connection through housing, health, and community programs. With deep local roots and a strong reputation for collaboration, Warden Woods brings compassion and experience to this new partnership. Their approach emphasizes respect, safety, and dignity for every person who walks through their doors, while maintaining positive, ongoing relationships with the surrounding community.

As part of the next stage of engagement, we invite you to join us for a Meet the Operator open house. This will be a chance to meet Warden Woods staff, learn more about their work, and hear about how

they plan to operate the new shelter. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions, share feedback, and connect with members of the project team and Councillor Kandavel's office. Through this event and others to come, the City and Warden Woods look forward to continuing an open, transparent dialogue as the shelter design and planning progress.

MEET THE OPERATOR DROP-IN

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Birchmount Collegiate Institute,
3663 Danforth Ave.

Kid crafts, refreshments, and snacks will be provided

Engagement Updates

The City of Toronto continues to engage closely with local residents, businesses, and stakeholders as planning for 2535 Gerrard St. E. moves forward. The following engagement activities took place since May 2025:

May 28: Virtual public meeting for Zoning By-Law Amendment for new shelter sites.

June 15: In-person community meeting for Zoning By-Law Amendment of 2535 Gerrard St. E.

July 15: Statutory public meeting for Zoning By-Law Amendment for new shelter sites at the City's Planning and Housing Committee.

September 24: Design Roundtable with local stakeholders and immediate neighbours.

In addition to the meetings above, the City and the Community Engagement Facilitation team from Third Party Public continued engagement with local community members, including responding to inquiries via email and phone calls, a shelter visit, and a meeting with the shelter operator.

Planning and Construction Updates

Notice of Passing of Zoning By-Laws

On July 24, 2025, Toronto City Council adopted [Official Plan Amendment 833](#) and passed Zoning By-laws (767-2025, 769-2025, 770-2025, 771-2025, and 772-2025) for the new shelter at 2535 Gerrard St. E. These planning changes support the City's Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS), which aims to create 1,600 new long-term and permanent shelter spaces across Toronto by 2033.

These approvals give the City flexibility to refine the design of the building in partnership with the shelter operator and local community, while allowing construction timelines to move forward efficiently. This ensures that critical services can open sooner, while still providing room to incorporate thoughtful design feedback around features such as landscaping, fencing, lighting, and outdoor space.

Working Together with the Community – Design Roundtable

On September 24, 2025, the City hosted a design roundtable with immediate neighbours and nearby

businesses. Participants reviewed updated site drawings and shared feedback on design features such as fencing, lighting, outdoor amenities, and snow management. The discussion also focused on how the shelter can best integrate with the surrounding neighbourhood through thoughtful landscaping and attention to the public realm.

Feedback from this session is being reviewed by the project and design teams to determine what can be incorporated as plans progress. Visit the [project website](#) for updates.



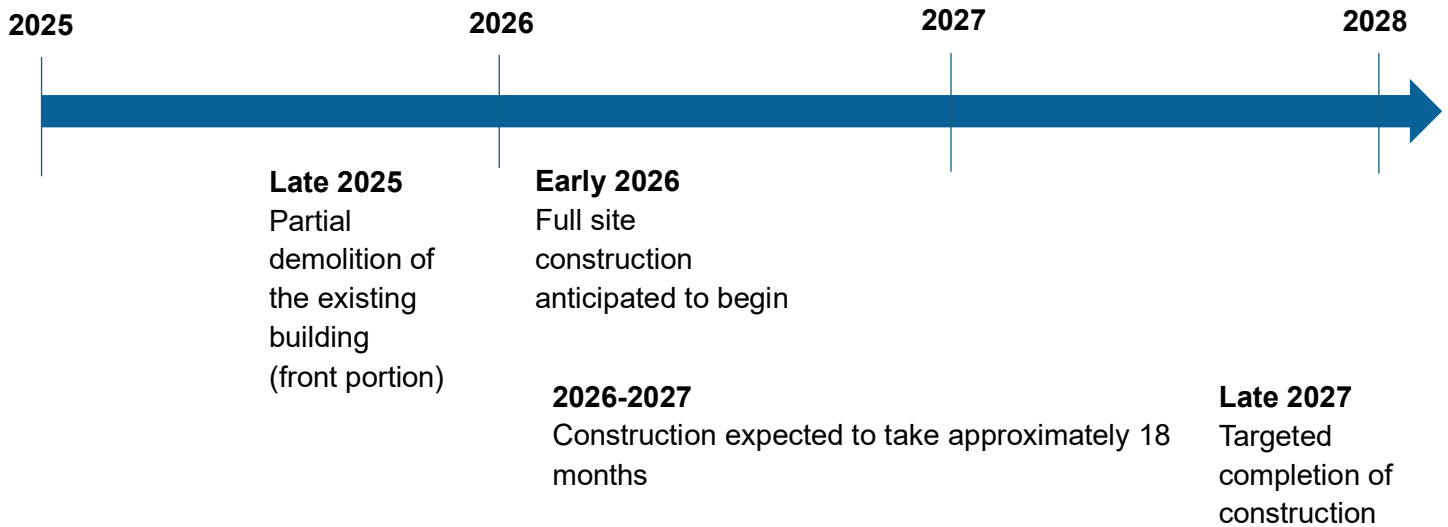
Site Plan Approval Application

On October 7, 2025, the project team submitted an updated [Site Plan Approval](#) (SPA) application. The SPA is an important step in the planning process as it focuses on the detailed design of the site. Elements such as the building layout, access points, waste collection, lighting, and landscaping were reviewed by multiple City divisions to ensure the site is safe, accessible, and visually aligned with the surrounding community.

This updated submission reflects feedback previously received from City Planning and other City divisions in Spring and Summer 2025. Feedback collected during the September Design Roundtable is also being reviewed for feasibility, and where possible, will be incorporated into future design refinements.

Next Steps

Partial demolition of the existing building is anticipated to begin later this year, followed by full site construction in early 2026. Construction is expected to take approximately 18 months, with completion targeted for late 2027.



Staying Connected

You are receiving this update because you previously indicated an interest in staying informed about the new shelter at 2535 Gerrard St. E. If you have any questions, or if you would prefer not to receive future updates, please contact the project team at 2535gerrard@gmail.com.

The City will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses – through regular bulletins like this one, ongoing coordination with Councillor Kandavel's office, and future engagement opportunities.

To learn more or subscribe for future updates, visit toronto.ca/2535Gerrard or email 2535gerrard@gmail.com.