



# Hillcrest Complex Upgrades

## Project Overview

Updated: February 2025



# History of Hillcrest

- In 1921, the newly formed Toronto Transportation Commission (TTC) required a modern and efficient shop facility with safe, bright, clean, and spacious working conditions for employees. Near the geographic centre of the streetcar network at the time, the TTC purchased most of the land on the southwest corner of Bathurst and Davenport.
- On March 13, 1924, the TTC began its move to its new Hillcrest Shops at 1138 Bathurst Street, the former site of Hillcrest Race Track. The facility just celebrated its' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Initially, the Hillcrest facility provided the heavy maintenance and overhaul of streetcars, Davenport Garage for the TTC's growing bus fleet, the School of Instruction (today's Operations Training Centre) and, eventually, the Transit Control Centre.
- In the 1980s, the W.E.P. Duncan Building (bus overhaul) and H.C. Patten Building (fares processing) were constructed on newly purchased land on the west side of the complex.



Hillcrest Complex looking north towards Davenport Road (1944).

# History of Hillcrest

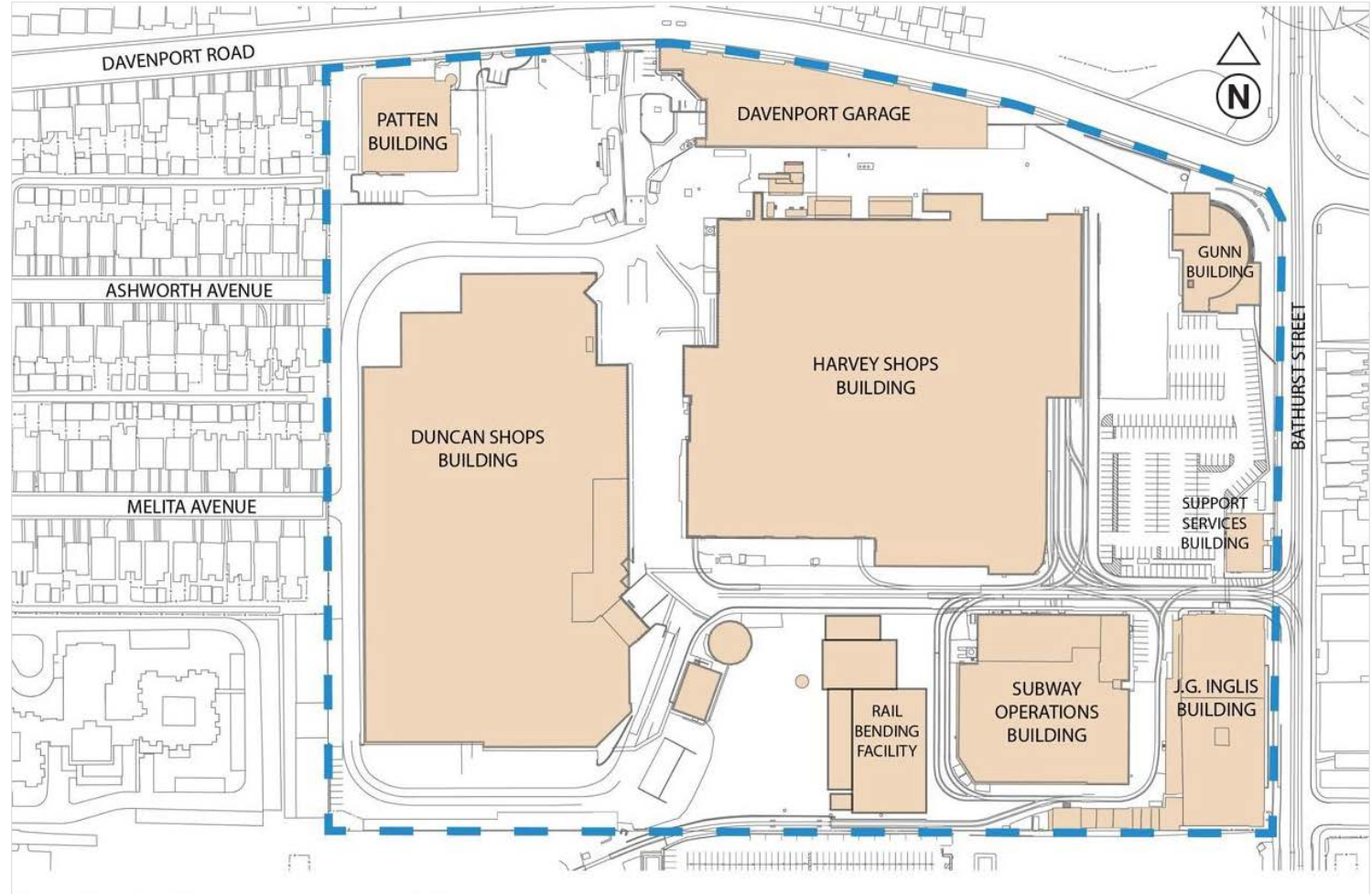
- Historically, Harvey Shop's function was overhauling and rebuilding Canadian Light Rail Vehicles (CLRVs) and Articulated Light Rail Vehicles (ALRVs), replaced by the current fleet of accessible streetcars called Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles or LFLRVs.
- Since 1995, Harvey Shop has been the main site for the TTC's bus overhaul program. Collision repair is another important activity performed here, taking the load off the nine bus operating garages and three streetcar carhouses.
- The last addition to the Hillcrest Complex was the Rail Bending Facility (or Streetcar Way Building) in 2019.
- The TTC operates the largest battery-electric bus fleet in North America (60 eBuses), along with approximately 900 hybrid-electric buses. The expertise of Harvey's skilled workforce has been instrumental in the ongoing overhaul of bus traction motors and traction generators.



Hillcrest Complex looking west (1944).

# Hillcrest Complex Today

- Located at 1138 Bathurst Street.
- Maintenance facility for the TTC's buses and streetcars.



Existing buildings within Hillcrest Complex

# Hillcrest Complex Upgrades

- As part of TTC's Fleet Plan, 60 new streetcars have started to arrive at TTC facilities.
- Expansion of the TTC streetcar fleet requires capacity for additional maintenance/storage space.
- The TTC is making a vital investment into comprehensive upgrades at the Hillcrest Complex, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.



Harvey Shop Building and a streetcar

# Hillcrest Complex Upgrades (continued)

- Project funding provided by the Government of Canada and City of Toronto.
- The project will include facility and yard upgrades to accommodate the storage and maintenance of approximately 25 of 60 new accessible streetcars, much-needed maintenance work and landscaping improvements for the public realm.
- The project is expected to be completed in two phases.



A new accessible streetcar (LFLRV) while in production before arriving at a TTC facility

# Benefits of Upgrades

- Support future ridership growth (126 million boardings in 2030\*).
- Reduce travel time to and from existing maintenance facilities.
  - Hillcrest Complex is the closest facility to the streetcar lines that the new streetcars will service (512 St Clair and potentially 511 Bathurst).
- Save costs by modifying existing infrastructure rather than building a new facility.
- Modernize facilities to provide reliable service demand and operational requirements.
- Align with TTC's long-term fleet plan through streetcar procurement and infrastructure upgrades.

*\* Achievable based on full return-to-office*



# Project Phases

## Construction Timeline:

Construction to start as early as Q4 2024 and last approximately five years\*

### Phase 1

- Install streetcar tracks and overhead power for 25 new accessible streetcars.
- Provide track lubrication to all storage tracks to minimize squealing from streetcar wheels.
- Provide a temporary pre-servicing area.
- Relocate the bus brake testing area permanently away from the residential neighbours and from the original location.
- Upgrade underground utilities.
- Replace tracks inside the Harvey Shop and other maintenance work.

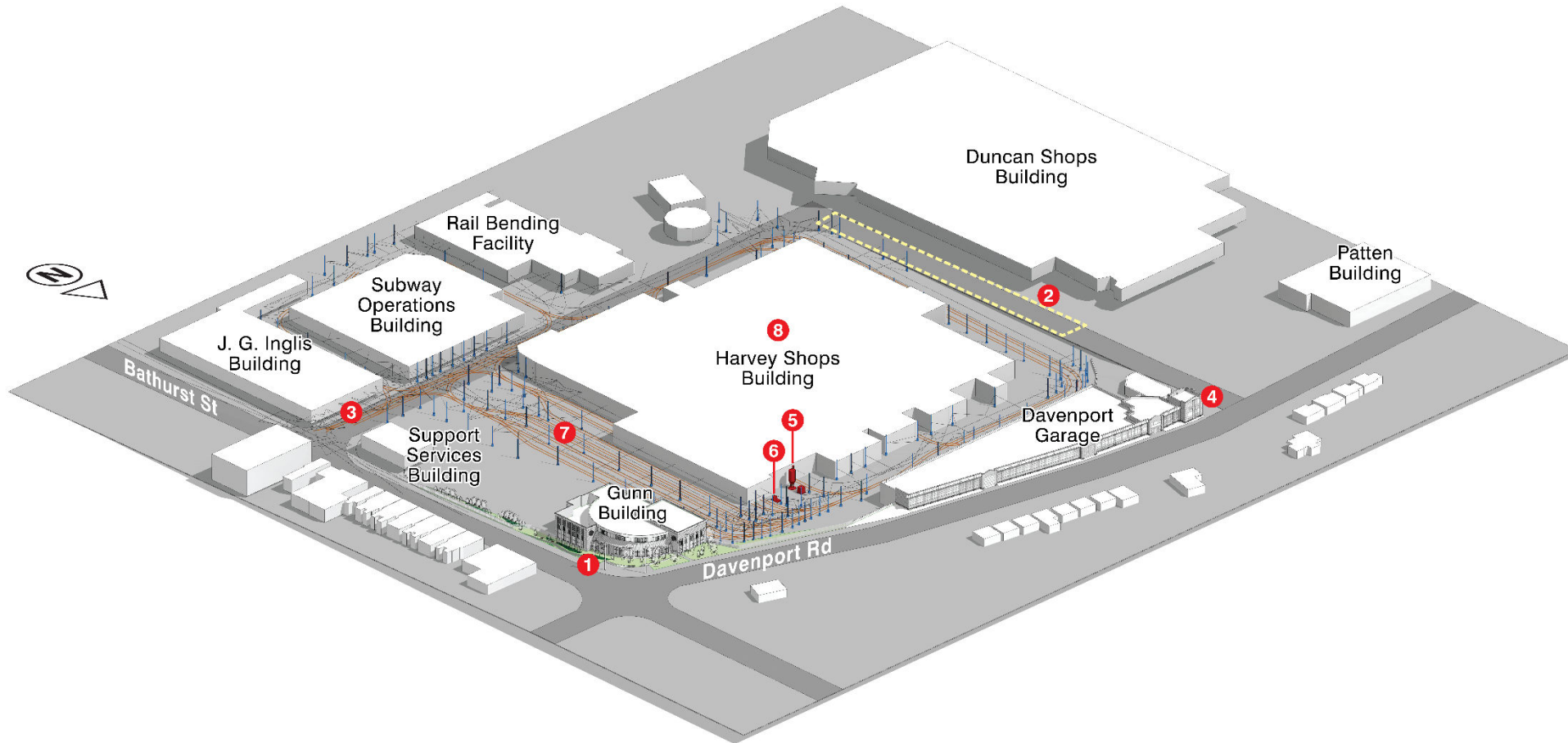
### Phase 2

- Install sanding system (essential for streetcar traction).
- Provide a permanent pre-servicing area.
- Complete landscaping (southwest corner of Bathurst Street/Davenport Road and along Bathurst Street towards the entrance of the facility).

*\* Subject to weather and unforeseen events; content/timeline accurate at the time of this communication*



# Overview of Upgrades



- 1 Landscape improvements
- 2 New permanent brake testing area
- 3 Construction vehicle access (via Bathurst St)
- 4 Alternate construction vehicle access (via Davenport Rd)
- 5 New sand silo system (essential for streetcar traction)
- 6 New windshield washer storage
- 7 Lubrication at various track locations (minimizes streetcar squealing)
- 8 Track replacement and additional pre-servicing area (inside Harvey Shops Building)



# Landscape Concept



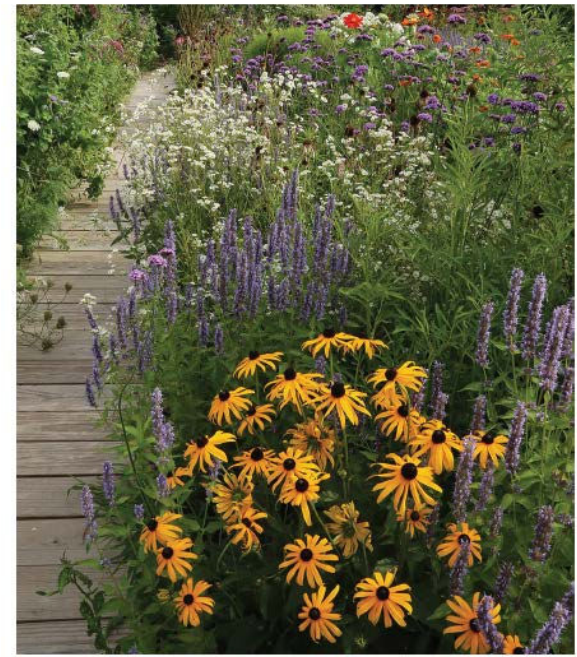
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# Conceptual Features



3 POLLINATOR GARDEN



1 MODULAR BENCH

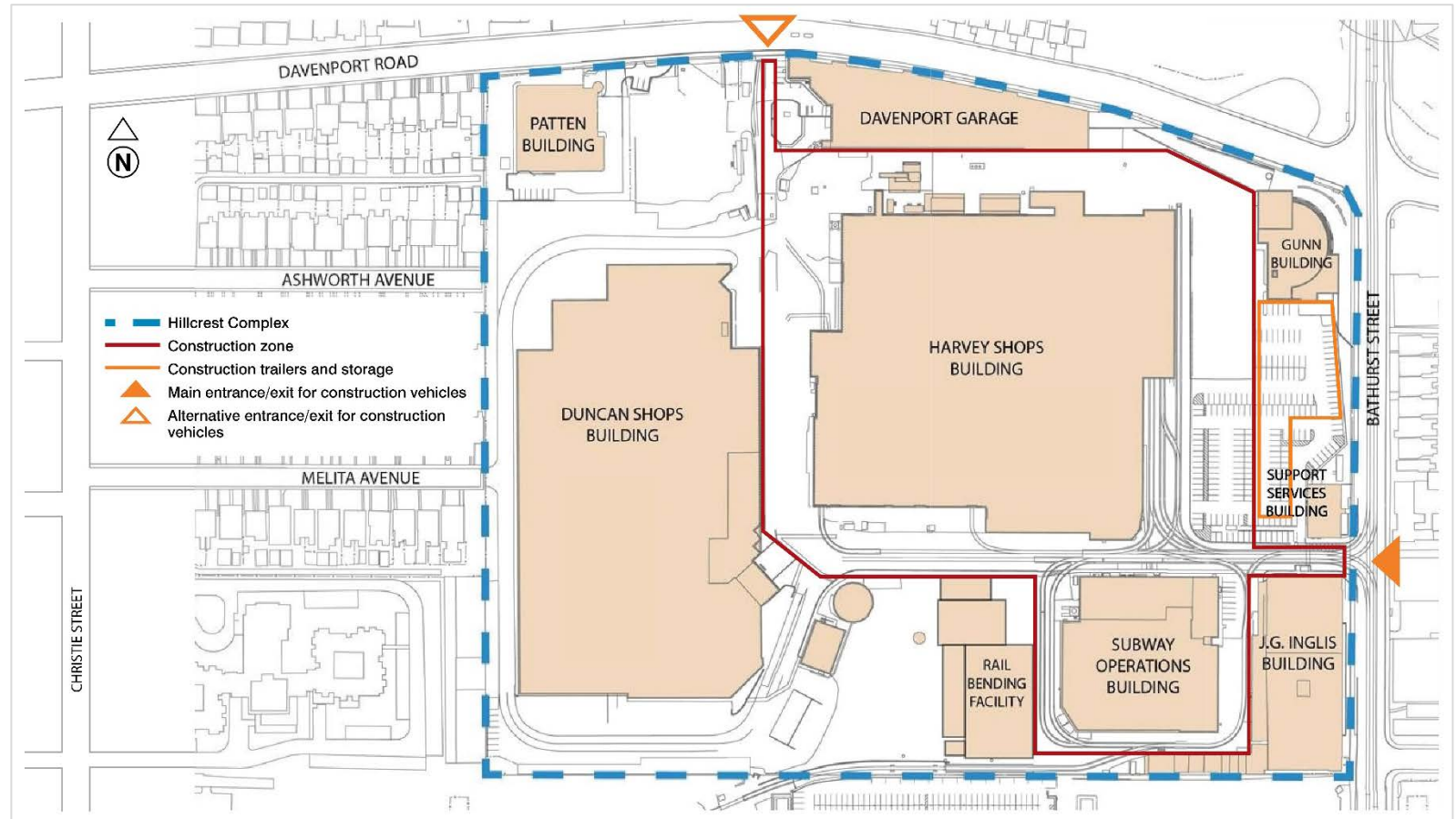


2 GRAVEL PATH



# Construction Site Setup

- All construction work will be within the Hillcrest Complex.
- Trailers and laydown area (where tools, materials, equipment, and vehicles are temporarily stored) will be within the Hillcrest Complex.
- Construction vehicles will use the existing main entrance/exit at Bathurst Street with the Davenport Road entrance/exit as an alternative when needed.



# Construction and Post Construction

- During construction:
  - Construction vehicles will use the existing main entrance/exit at Bathurst Street with the Davenport Road entrance/exit as an alternative when needed.
  - Noise, dust, and vibration associated with construction are unavoidable with this work. Mitigation measures to reduce noise, dust, and vibration will be in place.
- After construction:
  - Approximately 25 new accessible streetcars will service 512 St Clair and potentially 511 Bathurst (based on ridership).
  - Streetcars will enter and exit the facility from the existing entrance from Bathurst Street.



# Construction and Transit Information

- The majority of work will take place between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. As permitted, overnight and weekend work will be required during the project to complete the work as quickly as possible.
- Efforts will be made to keep disruption associated with noise and dust to a minimum.
- No impacts to streetcar, bus or subway service during this construction.



## More Information

- Project website: [ttc.ca/HillcrestUpgrades](https://ttc.ca/HillcrestUpgrades)
- Contact Person: Reka Sivarajah, Senior Community Liaison Officer
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