



Construction Update: July 19, 2019

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Freight Track Work Begins

Please be mindful that freight tracks are also active construction zones and trespassing violations may be enforced to ensure safety. Along the project corridor, work is beginning to remove existing freight rail siding track and prepare for the temporary and permanent location of freight tracks in Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis. In the Kenilworth Corridor, south of the Cedar Lake Channel, minor earthwork, grading and the arrival of ballast for the temporary and permanent freight rail shifts will begin during the week of July 22. This work will be completed before freight tracks are shifted to make way for tunnel construction later in the fall.

On-going Activities Update

Corridor-wide: Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis

Conditions are changing along the corridor as work continues including survey work, staking, earth work, major utility relocation and vegetation removal with heavy equipment.

SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie: On-going

The passenger drop-off lanes for SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure. SouthWest Transit Station and buses are operating as usual. Pile driving for utility work near the former Culver's site is anticipated to begin the week of July 22.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie: On-going

Expect heavy equipment in the area as work on the new LRT bridge continues in the coming weeks.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie: On-going

Pile driving work has resumed during daytime hours and will continue throughout the year. Pile driving between Golden Triangle and Shady Oak Road is anticipated as an on-going activity until summer 2020.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins: On-going

The new temporary parking lot on the west side of Hopkins Depot is complete and opened to the public. Expect traffic delays as work will intensify in this area in the coming weeks. Crews will begin to remove trail pavement and begin excavation for future bridge piers. The sidewalk will be closed on the north side of Excelsior Boulevard in the immediate vicinity of the tracks as piling for bridge piers begins, please follow posted pedestrian detours. Removal of existing freight tracks will also begin. A full closure of Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing is expected later this summer.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins: On-going

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road, closed on July 13, and will be closed for two weeks. **See detour map below.**

Cedar Lake Trail: On-going

Cedar Lake Trail through Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis is closed in three segments, for two years, until Fall 2021 (**see detour maps below**). The Cedar Lake Trail will remain open between France Avenue in St. Louis Park and Kenilworth Trail/Midtown Greenway intersection in Minneapolis. The Midtown Greenway will remain open. Currently, cross streets remain open to automobiles, bikes and pedestrians, with separate closure of roadways upcoming at various dates. The trail is closed between these segments:

- Between 5th Avenue South and 8th Avenue South in Hopkins, trail users will follow a pedestrian and bike detour via 8th Avenue, Excelsior Boulevard and 5th Avenue.
- Between just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park.
- Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue.

We have received public feedback about trail signage and are making modifications for better wayfinding.

Kenilworth Trail Closure: On-going

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis until Summer 2022. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will continue to cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street.

- The Kenilworth Trail is closed at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway and extends northeast to just south of W 21st St.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis: On-going

For approximately a month, a partial closure of Burnham Road from Cedar Lake Parkway to Park Lane (approx. 800 ft) is in effect. Two-way traffic will be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during detour. **See detour map below.**

Works Progress Administration (WPA) Wall Located at the Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel: On-going

Work to retrofit the existing pedestrian bridge for construction vehicles is almost complete. Salvage work is scheduled to begin in the coming week. This work includes manual and mechanical excavation in sections. This work may take up to 4 months depending on the condition of the wall and preservation protocols. The channel will remain open for recreational use but will be narrowed to approximately 25 feet during this work. A full closure of the channel is expected later this summer; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis: On-going

A full road closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North occurred on July 15 and will last for approximately two years. Local access to businesses will be maintained. Generally, vehicle detours will use Lyndale Avenue, Olson Memorial Highway and 7th/10th Streets. The pedestrian detour will utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.**

Upcoming Work

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins: Late July/Early August

Private utilities began to prepare this area for Southwest LRT construction. Site fencing and erosion control is also being installed. Beginning in late July or early August there will be three phases of closures on Smetana and Feltl Roads. Closures will begin with Smetana Road having up to two overnight closures to install temporary watermain. Following that work, a five- to six-week closure of Smetana Road between Feltl Court to Feltl Drive will occur. Signs will be posted seven days before the closure. **See detour map below.**

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park: July 22

A full road closure of Louisiana Avenue at the Cedar Lake Regional Trail is anticipated to begin July 22 as crews demo the existing trail bridge. This closure will last up to five days. Oxford Street at Louisiana remains open. Traffic moving south will detour west onto Highway 7, south onto TH 169 and back east on Excelsior Boulevard. Traffic moving north with detour west onto Excelsior Boulevard, north onto TH 169 and back east on Highway 7. **See detour map below.**

Upcoming Roadway Closures: To give people advanced notice, the table below includes a list of planned closures. Detour signage will be in place seven days prior to closure to give notice of the actual closure date. As more information is available, we will include in weekly updates.

Community	Roadway	Anticipated Timeframe	Approx. Duration
Hopkins	FULL CLOSURE of Excelsior Boulevard at the intersection of Jackson Avenue North and Milwaukee Street	Late Summer	Two, 2-week closures (approx. 28 days total)
Hopkins	FULL CLOSURE of Blake Road at the Cedar Lake Trail and freight rail crossing	Late Summer	Up to 2 weeks

Meetings and Events

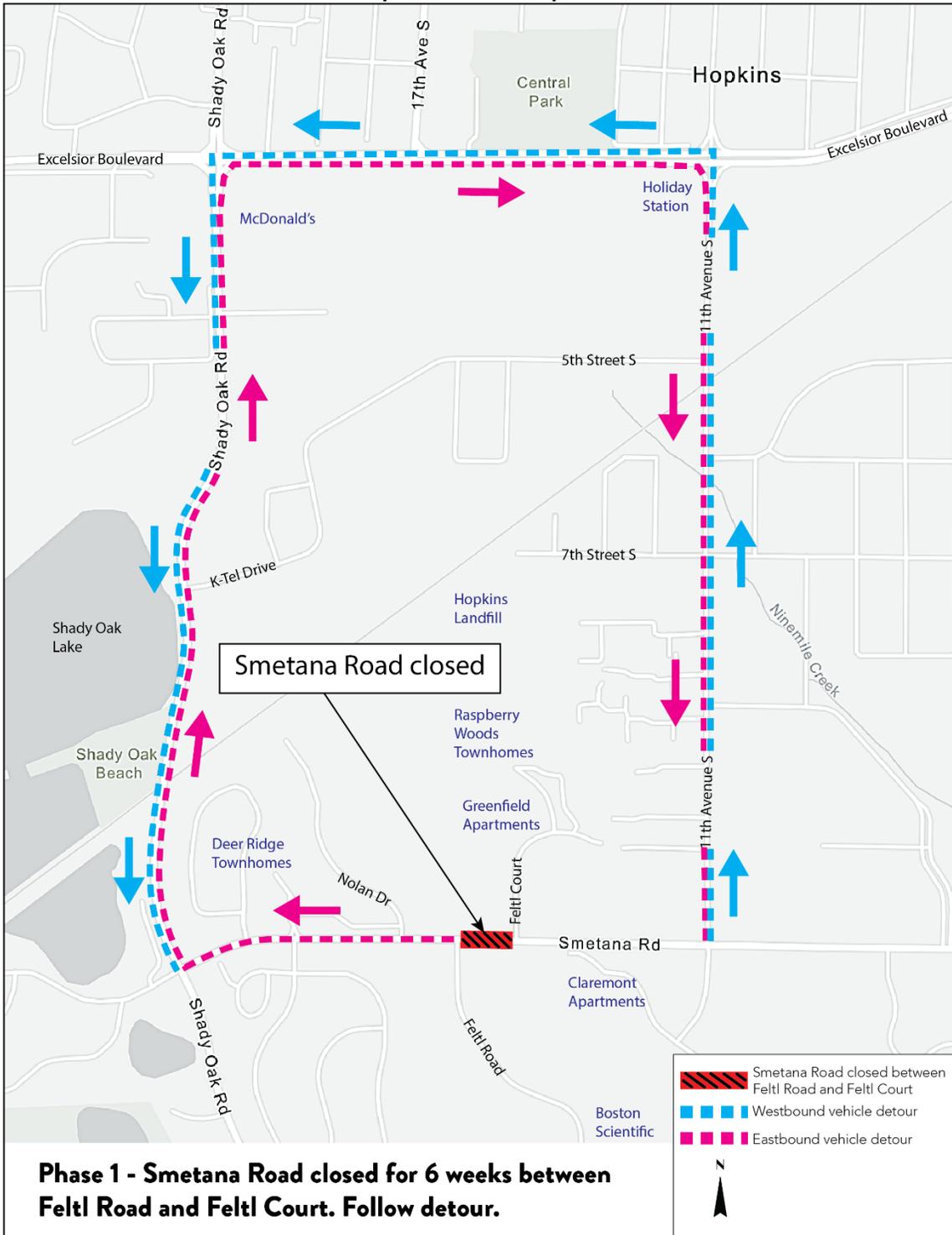
Project staff will host pop-up events and attend community events to share upcoming construction information with residents, businesses and trail users. Follow us on Twitter (@SouthwestLRT) for the latest information.

- Saturday, July 20: Hopkins Raspberry Festival, Mainstreet; 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Saturday, July 20: Metro Transit Police Department Open House, Heywood Campus; 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, July 20: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Depot Open House, Jorvig Park; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Beginning the week on July 16, the Southwest Project Office has been hosting open houses in each city along the project. The open houses are from 4:30 – 7:00 PM, with a short presentation at 6:00 PM. The following events are still upcoming:

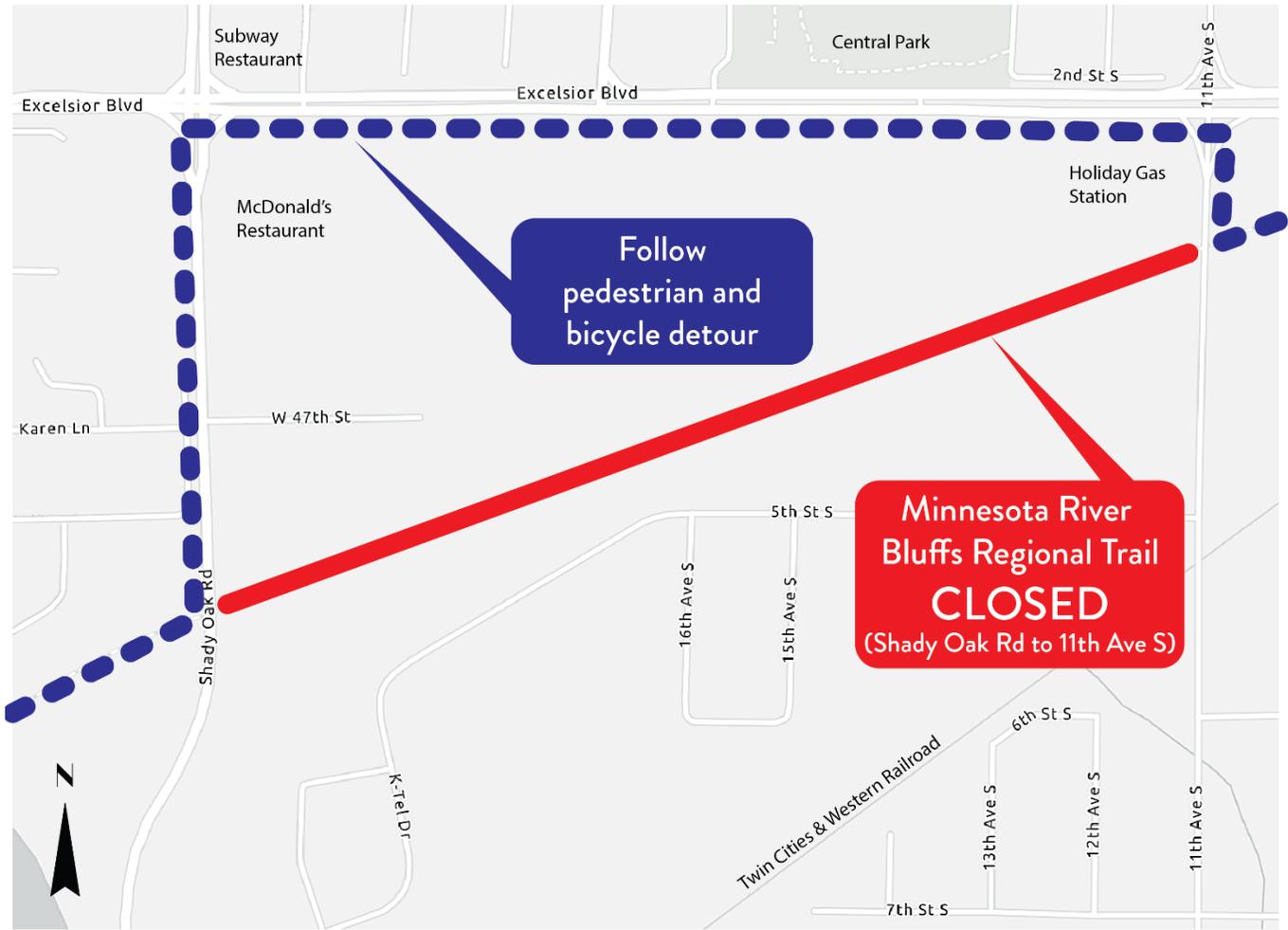
- Monday, July 22: Eagle Ridge Academy School, Cafeteria, Minnetonka
- Tuesday, July 23: Bryn Mawr Elementary School, Cafeteria, Minneapolis
- Thursday, July 25: Hopkins Depot, Railroad Room

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour Map

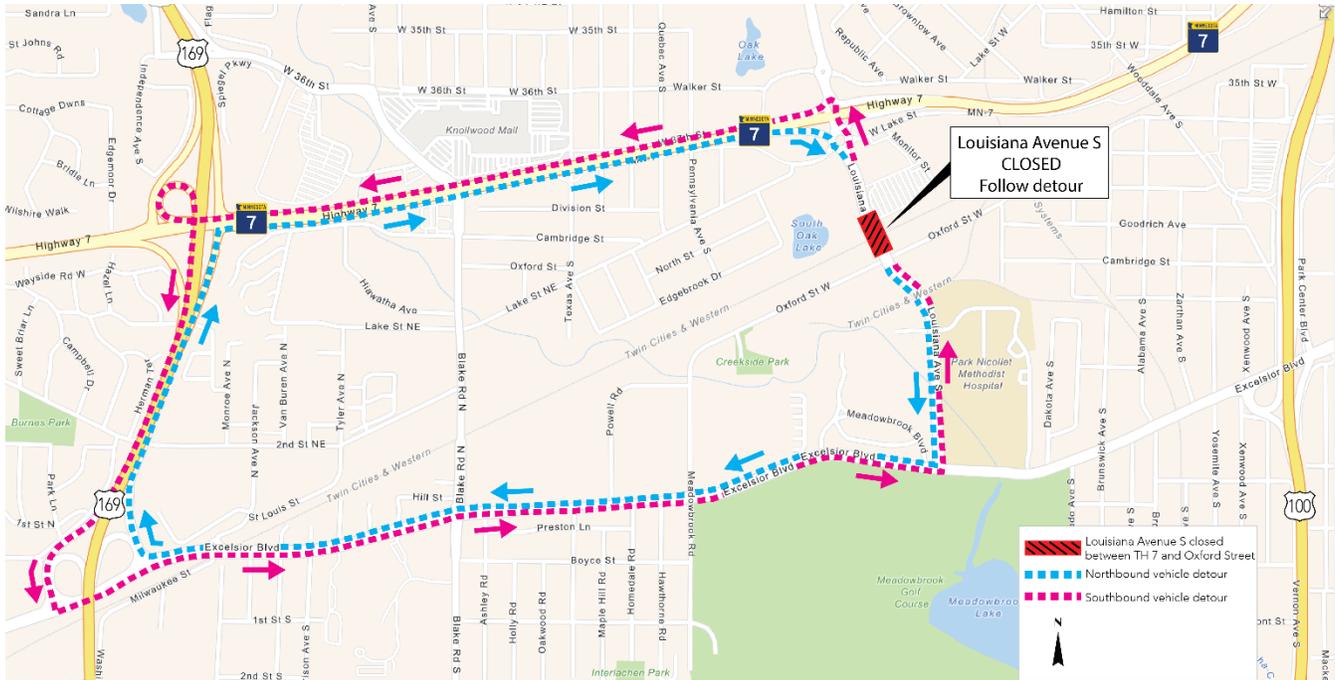


Phase 1 - Smetana Road closed for 6 weeks between Feltl Road and Feltl Court. Follow detour.

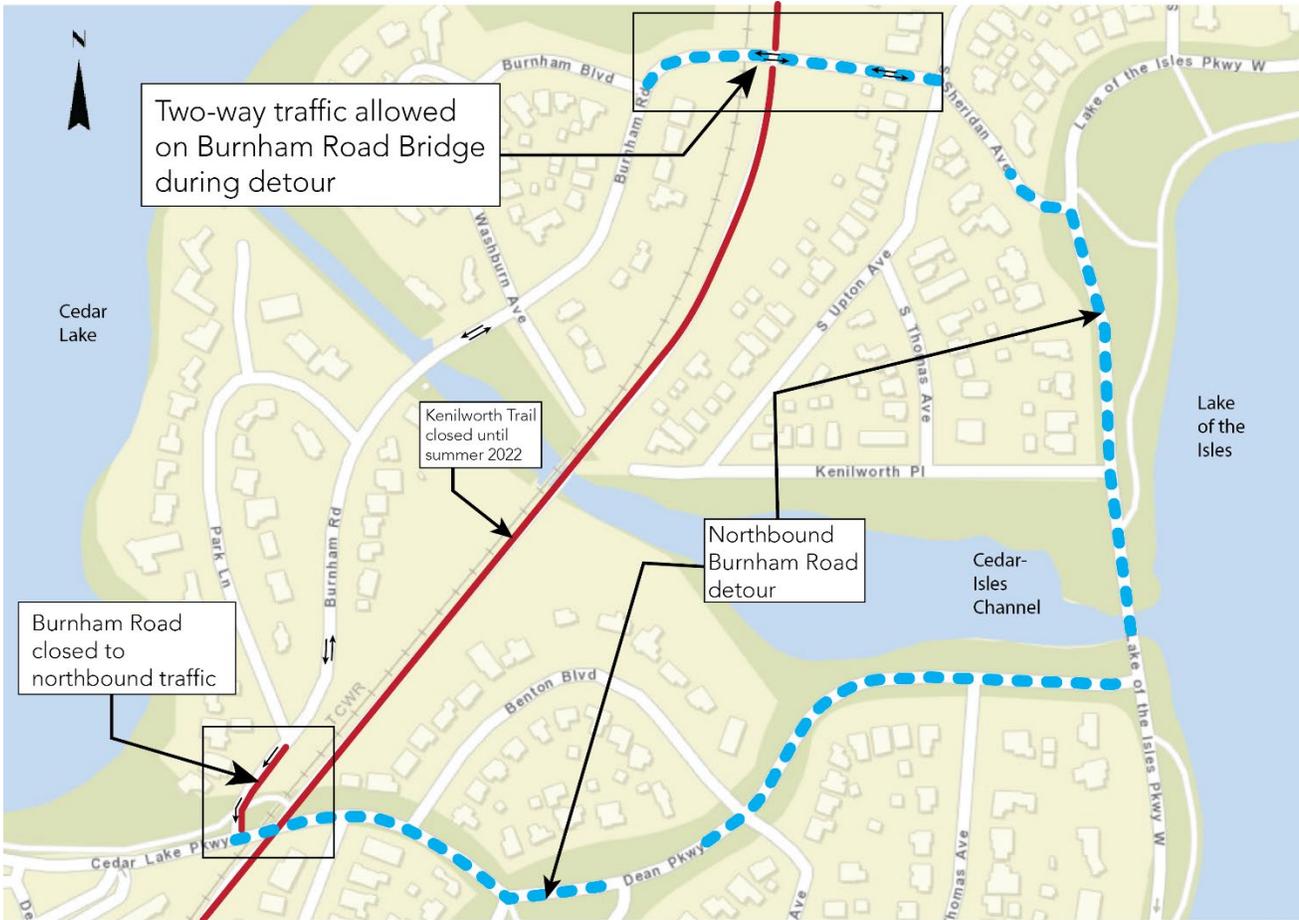
Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Shady Oak to 11th in Hopkins Detour Map



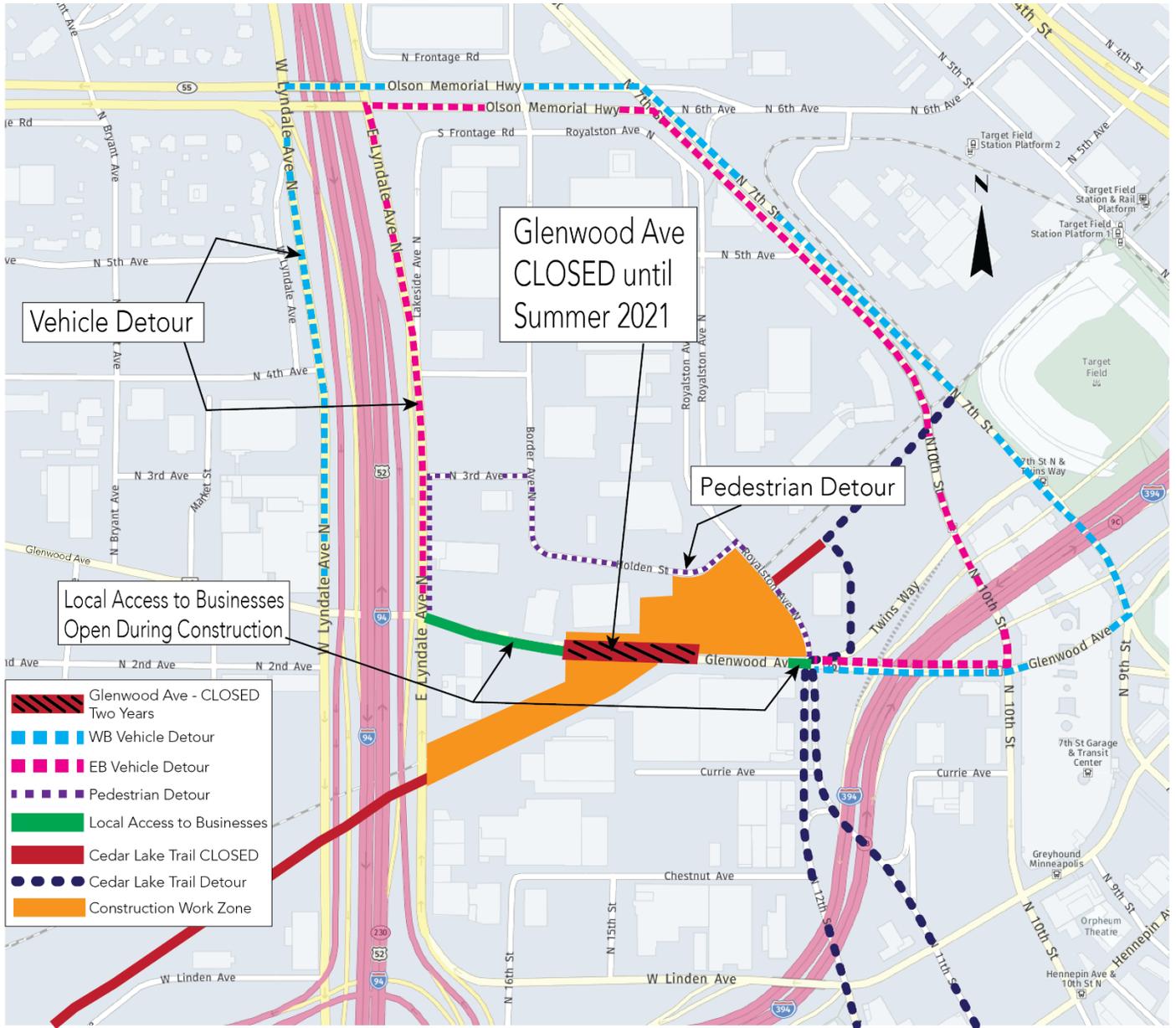
Louisiana Avenue Full Closure at Cedar Lake Trail Detour Map



Burnham Road Partial Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour Map



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour Map



Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis Pedestrian and Bike Detour Map

