



Construction Update: September 6, 2019

Web: swlrt.org

Twitter: [@SouthwestLRT](https://twitter.com/SouthwestLRT)

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Weekend and Extended Work Hours Continue

Saturday work continues along the project corridor, such as SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie, Blake and Excelsior in Hopkins, and Louisiana and Beltline in St. Louis Park. Weekend and extended hours are scheduled in the Kenilworth Corridor in Minneapolis including:

- Saturdays and Sundays, September 7 – 8, 14 – 15 and 21 from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM for freight track work
 - The weekend of September 14 – 15 includes Cedar Lake Parkway related work
- Monday, September 9 from 3:00 AM to 6:00 AM to set-up traffic control and lighting for the Cedar Lake Parkway closure
- During the week of September 9, extended weekday work hours to 8:00 PM to reduce the duration of the Cedar Lake Parkway closure (see below for more details on the construction activities)
- Additional Saturdays to be scheduled for other activities

Behind the Hotline

The construction hotline is answered 24 hours a day, every day by a live operator. When a call is placed to the hotline, the caller is connected to an agent; if the agents are busy, a caller may be put on hold for a very short period. The agent's role is to collect details about the inquiry or issue and direct the call to the appropriate Metropolitan Council and contractor staff to respond. If a call is urgent, an email detailing the issue is sent to over a dozen people representing both the Met Council and contractor. Concurrently, a call tree is initiated to ensure a timely response. Examples of urgent issues include unplanned blocked access or an item that has the potential to cause immediate harm to people or property, like a traffic sign falling onto a roadway. For non-urgent calls, a similar procedure is used but a smaller group is notified via email; an outreach staffer will follow up with the caller within 24 hours. Based on the nature of the issue, the outreach coordinator works with Met Council construction staff or the contractor to address the issue. The outreach team is on call during weekends and continually responds to calls to ensure issues are being addressed.

Weekly Construction Photo: Glenwood Avenue



The old Glenwood bridge is almost fully demolished. Crews removed the deck and girders that once spanned the rail corridor and bike trail. Work on retaining walls, bridge abutments and piers continues in the area. Work activities are coordinated with active freight traffic.

Upcoming Work

Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis: Anticipated September 9

Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Corridor will be closed for up to six days beginning September 9 to shift the freight tracks and conduct watermain work. The closure for freight track work is being coordinated with the watermain work to reduce the duration and minimize the impact to motorists. Pedestrians and bicycles will continue to have access across the Kenilworth corridor during the when Cedar Lake Parkway closure. **See detour map below.** Extended work hours have been approved for these activities including work on weekends, and weekday workhours that last until 8:00 PM.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at 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 has begun.

Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

Watermain work has started on Flying Cloud Drive and in the surrounding area as well as other utility construction activities. Sheet piles will also be installed in this area.

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

Heavy equipment is in the area for construction of the new LRT bridge. A crane is stationed in the median of the roadway. The installation of sheet piling for pier construction for the new LRT bridge has begun and traffic control barriers are in place. The work on the center pier is ongoing and progressing well. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212, which closed the week of August 12, will remain closed for up to seven weeks for this work.

See detour map below. While traffic control barriers will be in place, please remember to observe the posted speed limit to help ensure the safety of our crews.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Pile driving work is ongoing during daytime hours which may include work on Saturdays. In mid-September, night piling work will resume in the area between the hours of 1:00 AM and 7:00 AM. Nighttime work may continue for several months. Efforts have been made to reduce the noise generated by equipment. Residents should anticipate they will be able to hear activity. Pile driving between Golden Triangle and Shady Oak Road is anticipated as an on-going activity until Summer of 2020. Crews will continue to make their way north toward Shady Oak Road, where bridge work will also be conducted.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Preparation work for the LRT tunnel under TH 62 has begun. Crews are working on installing temporary drainage and are preparing the median for future lane shifts to consolidate both east and westbound traffic on one side of the highway. Expect traffic delays as periodic lane closures and traffic shifts occur. Once traffic is shifted to one side of the highway, LRT tunnel construction can commence.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road closed on August 21 for six weeks **(see detour map below)**.

Following this six-week closure, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will be closed for up to a year. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is now closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. **See detour map below.**

- The section between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail may be closed for approximately one year. Crews are looking at options to reduce the duration of this closure.
- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins: Full Closure September 6

Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing closed today, Friday, September 6 to all vehicle traffic and will remain closed for approximately one month **(see detour map below)**. Expect traffic delays in this area. Left turns from Excelsior to Milwaukee Street are also prohibited. Additional closures will be needed later in the Fall to complete this phase of activity. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Blake Road in Hopkins

Blake Road south bound lanes are closed, and traffic is diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, which will last for approximately 6 months. Crews are working to construct a tunnel for the regional trail.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews continue to work on bridge piers. Expect to see traffic lane shifts as crews switch to abutment work. Expect sheet piling activity in the area.

TH 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and build a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Center pier bridge work began the week of August 12 traffic has been shifted to create a workspace in the median area of TH 100. Crews are working to complete construction for the median pier. Nightly lane closures on TH 100 are anticipated. Expect to see fencing and erosion control as well.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new Cedar Lake Trail Bridge has begun. Crews are excavating for bridge abutments and performing pier work.

Cedar Lake Trail

Cedar Lake Trail through Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis is closed in three segments 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 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.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

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 August 26 crews cut into the roadway to continue watermain work. The road is closed for both directions of traffic for up to three weeks. The final stage of watermain work will also include a full closure of Cedar Lake Parkway (this is the same work referenced under the Cedar Lake Parkway notice). During the closure of Burnham Road and Cedar Lake Parkway, City of Minneapolis water crews will also be working along Burnham Road to make connections to the watermain. Water pressure may fluctuate during watermain work. Watermain work is being coordinated with freight rail work. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.**

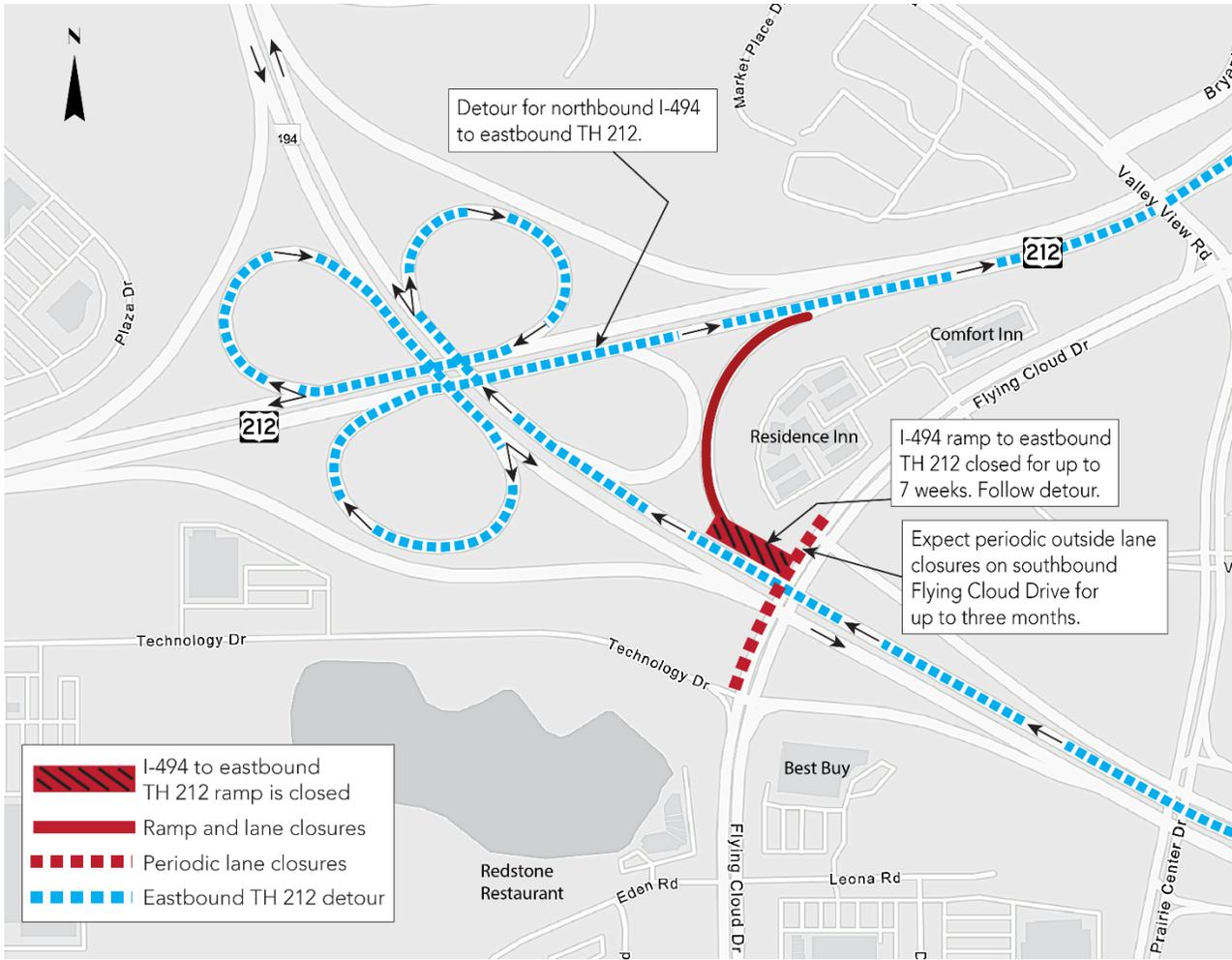
Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Minneapolis

Urgent bridge repair work was completed on Friday, August 30 to install new pile supports and a cap beam. Planned construction activities are now proceeding. Shoring for bridge pier construction is being installed and piling is underway. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake will encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity for approximately three weeks. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this summer; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

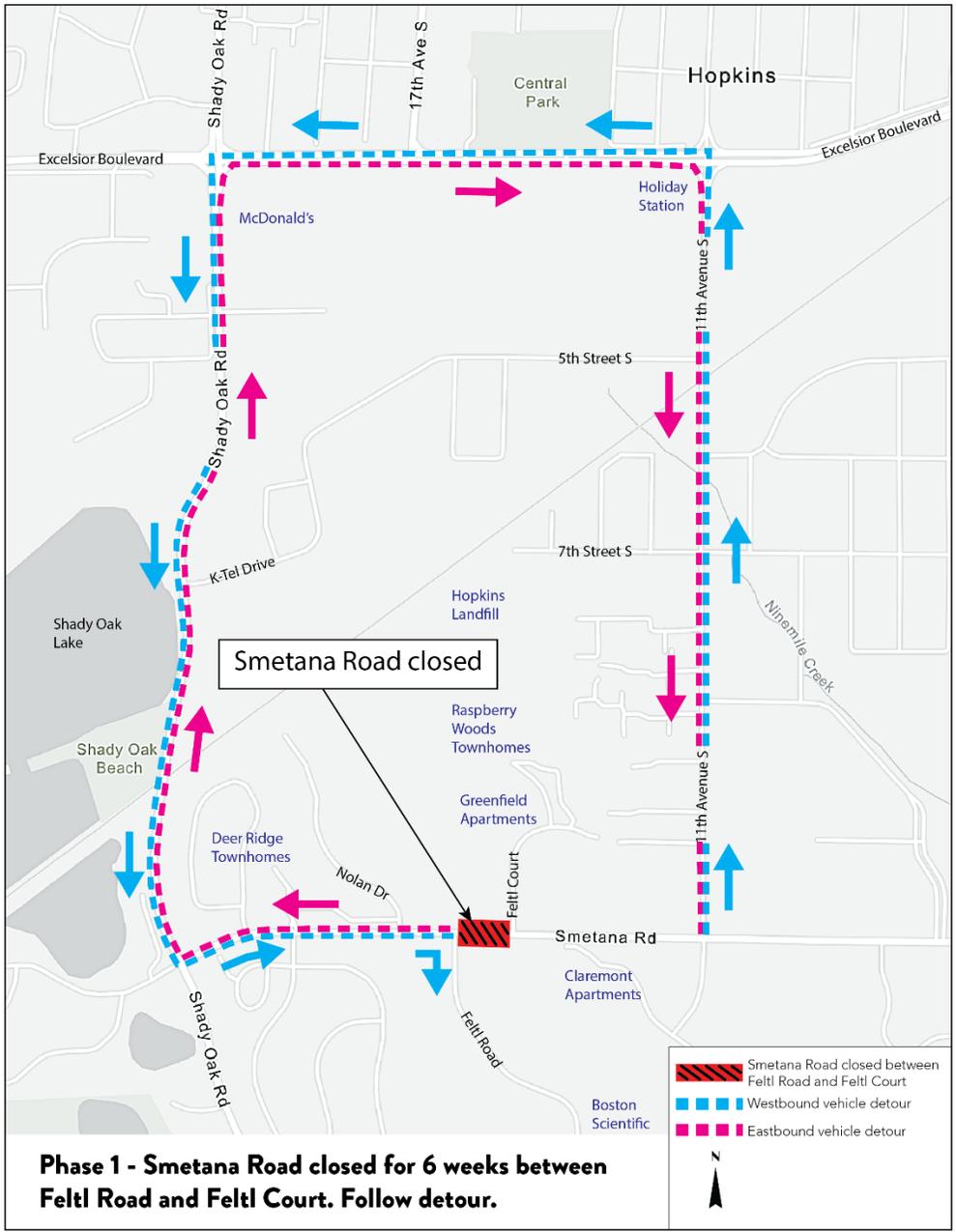
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15 and will last 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.**

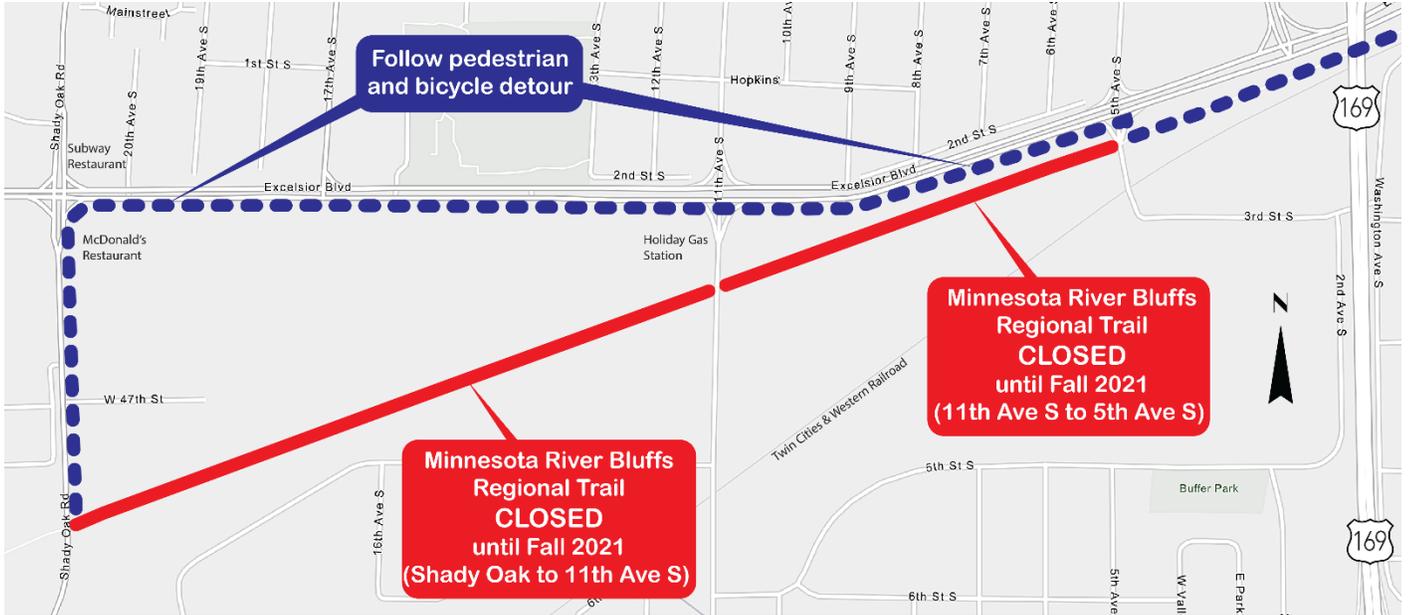
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



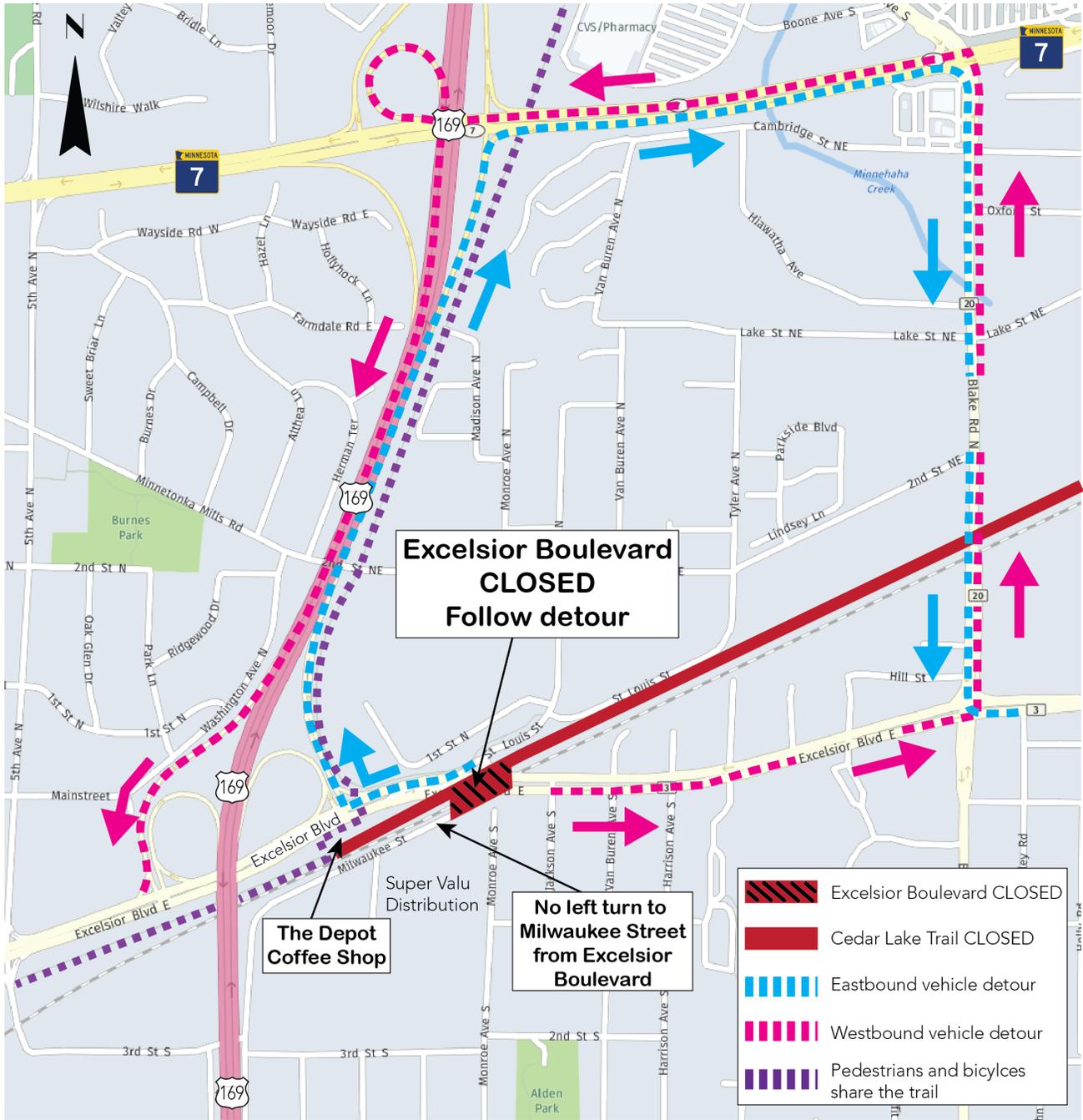
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



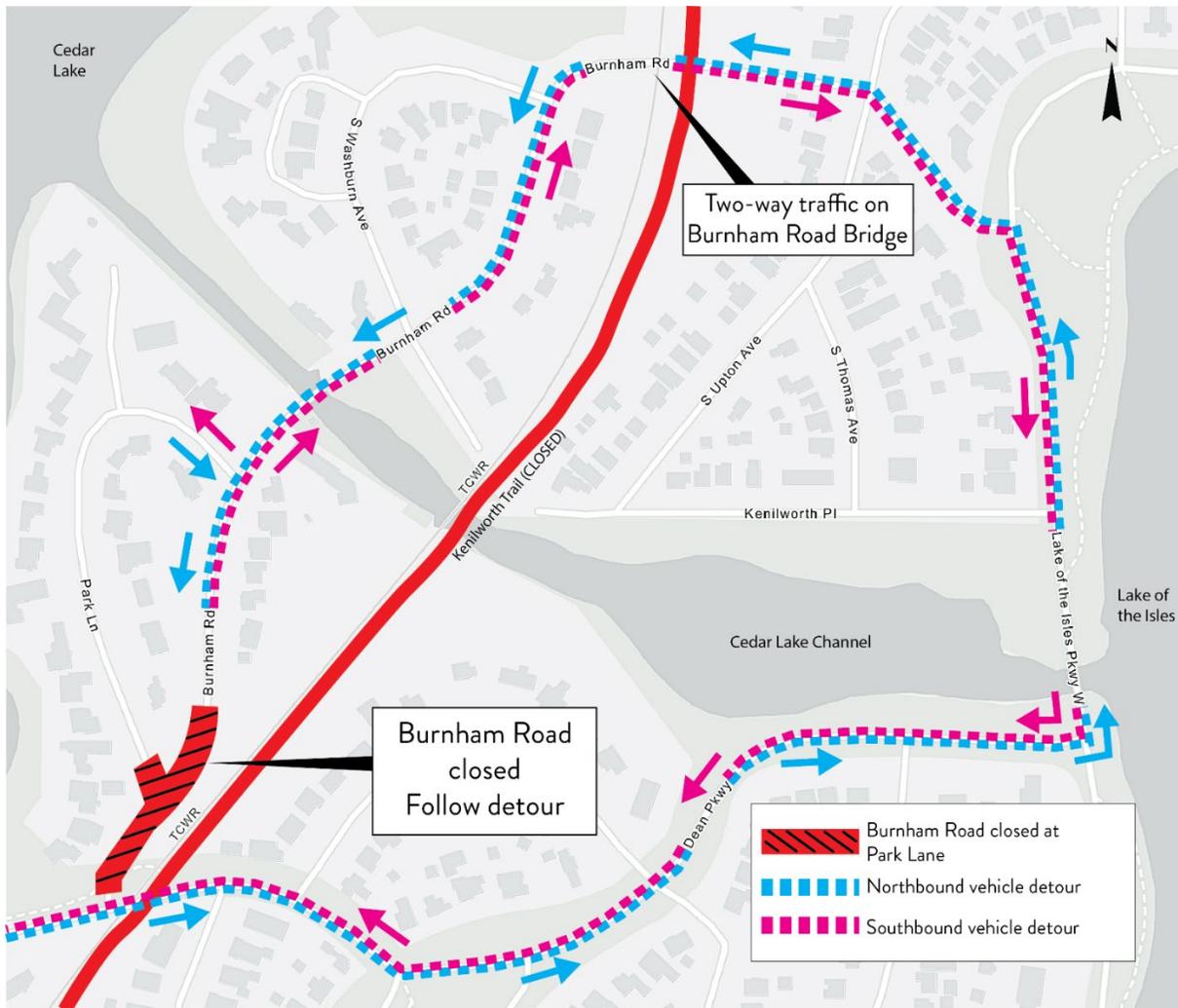
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



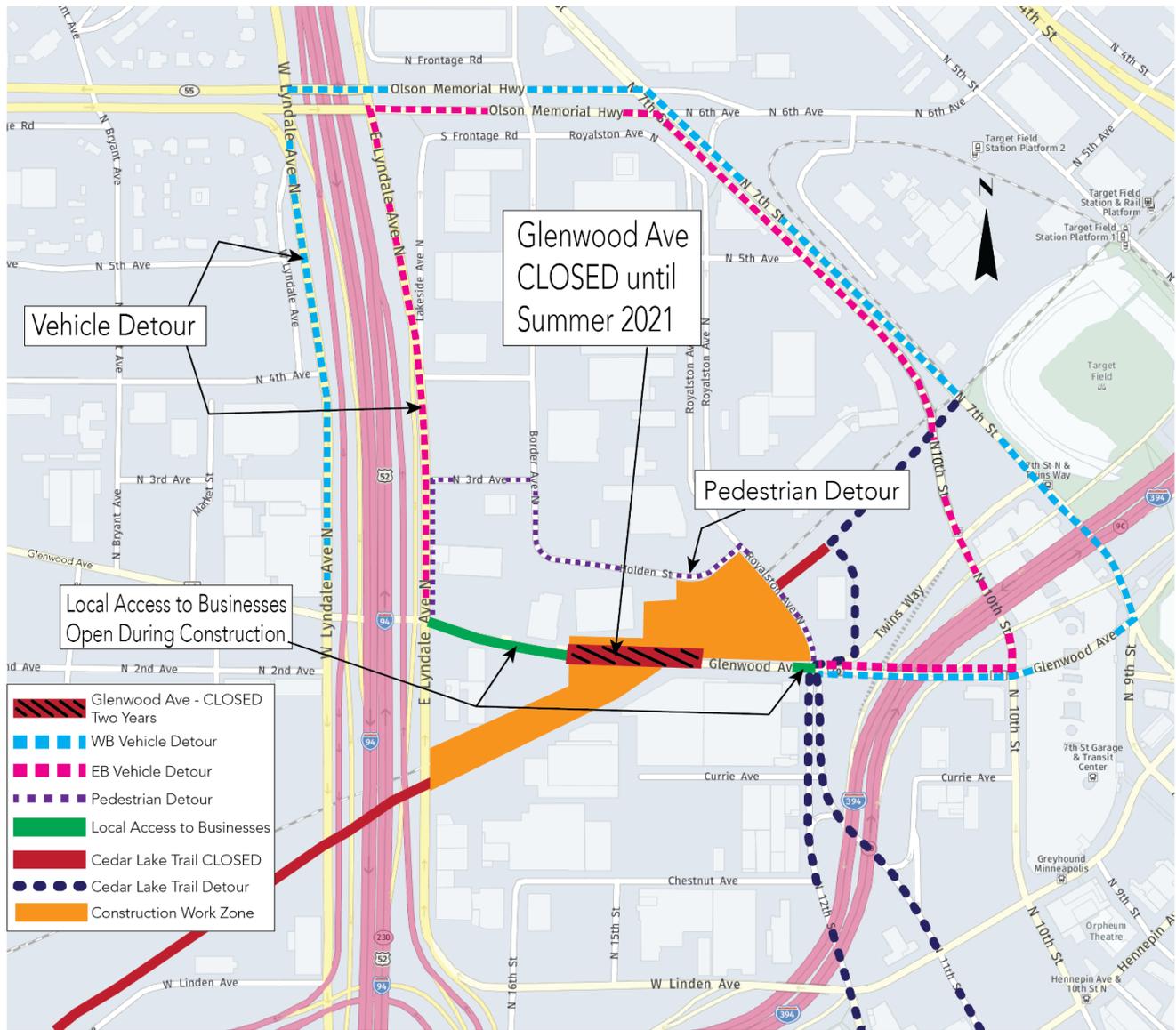
Excelsior Boulevard Detour



Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis Pedestrian and Bike Detour

