



Construction Update: November 1, 2019

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Site Clearing, Brush Removal and Earth Work

Clearing and site prep work continues through the Southwest LRT corridor. While most of the Southwest LRT project is under construction, there are still a few limited areas where crews are mobilizing and beginning site preparation. Site clearing and brush removal can continue into the winter. During colder months in many project areas, earthwork may be suspended.

Weekly Construction Photo: Cedar Lake Channel Freight Bridge taking shape in Minneapolis



Crews build the freight bridge piers and abutments over the Cedar Lake Channel.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station Area in Eden Prairie

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure; bus service continues to operate as usual. Pile driving will continue into 2020 as crews focus on different elements of the station site and the LRT bridge. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area. Crews are constructing a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders that will be completed late November. Then crews will demolish the current SouthWest Transit Station passenger waiting area and former office building through January. The west entrance to the shopping area and parking ramp is temporarily closed and will continue to be closed through late November.

Crews are working near the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build bridge piers. The sidewalk is closed on the northwest corner of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive; please follow detour signage to the southwest sidewalk next to Purgatory Park.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Crews continue to perform grading and retaining wall work. Retaining walls have taken shape in the area. A few of the retaining walls have been completed and crews are beginning to backfill around the wall, which will then allow other construction activities to begin. Utility companies are also working in the area and near Flying Cloud Drive towards the east.

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

Pier construction in the center median of I-494 for the new LRT bridge is nearly complete; traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212 remains closed. **See detour map below.** Work to re-pave the median is beginning this week. Weather permitting, there will be lane closures on Sunday, November 3 to restripe lanes to set-up traffic for the winter configuration in this area. Please remember to observe the posted speed limit to ensure safety for everyone.

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

A lane restriction has been added in the area of Flying Cloud Drive and TH 212, where work has begun on the ramp from Valley View Road to TH 212. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The various piers are at different stages of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork. Earthwork in the area will continue for as long as weather allows.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Piling activities continue in the Golden Triangle Station area during the daytime. Night piling work is anticipated to resume later this Fall. Night work could continue intermittently as the segment between the Golden Triangle Station north of West 70th Street to a bridge over Shady Oak Road and Hwy 212 is completed. As work progresses, the Southwest Project Office will continue to look for opportunities to shift activities to the daytime. Crews are also working on retaining walls and sanitary sewer in the area. The Golden Triangle station is also starting to take shape.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Crews have shifted eastbound traffic to a single lane on new temporary pavement. Crews are working to complete construction activities in the median, where pavement is being widened for the traffic shift. We anticipate that during the week of November 11, both eastbound and westbound traffic will shift to the south side of the highway, two lanes in each direction. Once traffic is shifted crews will begin the construction of the cut and cover LRT tunnel under the westbound lanes of TH 62. Expect traffic delays through the duration of these activities.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive in Minnetonka

Starting in mid-November, Yellow Circle Drive will be temporarily dead-ended where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle will become bi-directional in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road will also be built on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction on TH 62. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road remains closed and is anticipated to be closed for one more week **(see detour map below)**. Crews are working on a storm sewer and will begin constructing a bypass road on Smetana Road, west of Feltl Road. After the bypass is open Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will close for up to a year **(see upcoming detour map below)**. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure. Excavation for the Opus Station, south of this area, is ongoing.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is 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 is closed until summer 2020.
- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins

Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing will remain closed to all vehicle traffic until mid-November. Crews are working on underground utilities, freight rail tracks and the LRT bridge structure. Expect traffic delays in this area. **See detour map below.**

This weekend, November 2 – 3, crews will be completing the freight rail work necessary to reopen the road in the coming weeks. Note that freight rail signal work at the Excelsior Boulevard crossing may have an impact on signals at Blake Road and 5th Street. Flaggers will control vehicle traffic when train cross at those intersections as needed. Please follow directions of construction crews when traveling in the area.

South Cedar Lake LRT Trail

The South Cedar Lake Trail from just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park is closed until Fall 2021 (**see detour maps below**). The South 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.

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel under Blake Road for the regional trail. Southbound traffic continues to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction; this will last for approximately six months. Once tunnel work is complete on the west side of the road, the work will shift to the east side of the road and traffic will be diverted to the west side of the road.

Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park

Crews demolished the regional trail bridge that spans Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. Sheet piling and excavation for the new freight and trail bridge abutments are underway in the area. Flaggers are monitoring recreational water use during times that construction activities make it unsafe to travel through the creek. Individuals using the waterway may encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Vehicle traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews work on new freight and pedestrian bridge abutments; expect piling activity in the area. Another full closure of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated in late November to set bridge beams. Signs will be posted seven days prior to the closure.

TH 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Crews will continue to work on the new LRT bridge abutments. Crews will be working on the east abutment starting the week of November 4.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new South Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are working on bridge abutments and performing pier work. Crews are also working on retaining walls in the area, which includes pile driving. Work in this area will continue through winter.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway to just south of West 21st Street until Summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikes and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street. **See detour map below.**

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis

Storm sewer and watermain work will be the focus of construction activities in this area for the coming weeks. Some tree removal is ongoing. Next week crews will begin to construct a temporary trail as well as the new permanent trail segment. While the trail currently remains open during these activities, flaggers will be on the trail to periodically direct bike and pedestrian movements; expect occasional short-term delays.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel is anticipated to begin the week of November 4. The contractor plans to start tunnel sheet piling work near Park Siding Park and will move north towards Cedar Lake Parkway. Sheeting will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and the press-in-piler will return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheeting installation is expected to last until summer 2020 with two press-in-pilers. Tunnel excavation is currently anticipated to begin Spring 2020, however if weather allows, some excavation could start later this

Fall. For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlrt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique is also available.

Concrete work for the retaining walls south and north of the channel continues.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

The roadway remains closed to through traffic. **See detour maps below.** Next week the roadway will be repaved and then will reopen to traffic. Utility work is still anticipated in the area, with minor impacts to the roadway.

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

Pier construction and piling for the new freight bridge is ongoing. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake may encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this Fall; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

21st Street in Minneapolis

The contractor has completed sheet piling work for the retaining wall immediately north of 21st Street using the press-in-piler. Concrete work on the retaining wall is ongoing. Other earthwork activities in this area will begin later this Fall.

Bryn Mawr Bluffs area in Minneapolis

Work is resuming under I-394 on bridge piers. Permanent trail work will begin in November.

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

The North Cedar Lake trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed for approximately two years until mid-2021 (**see detour maps below**).

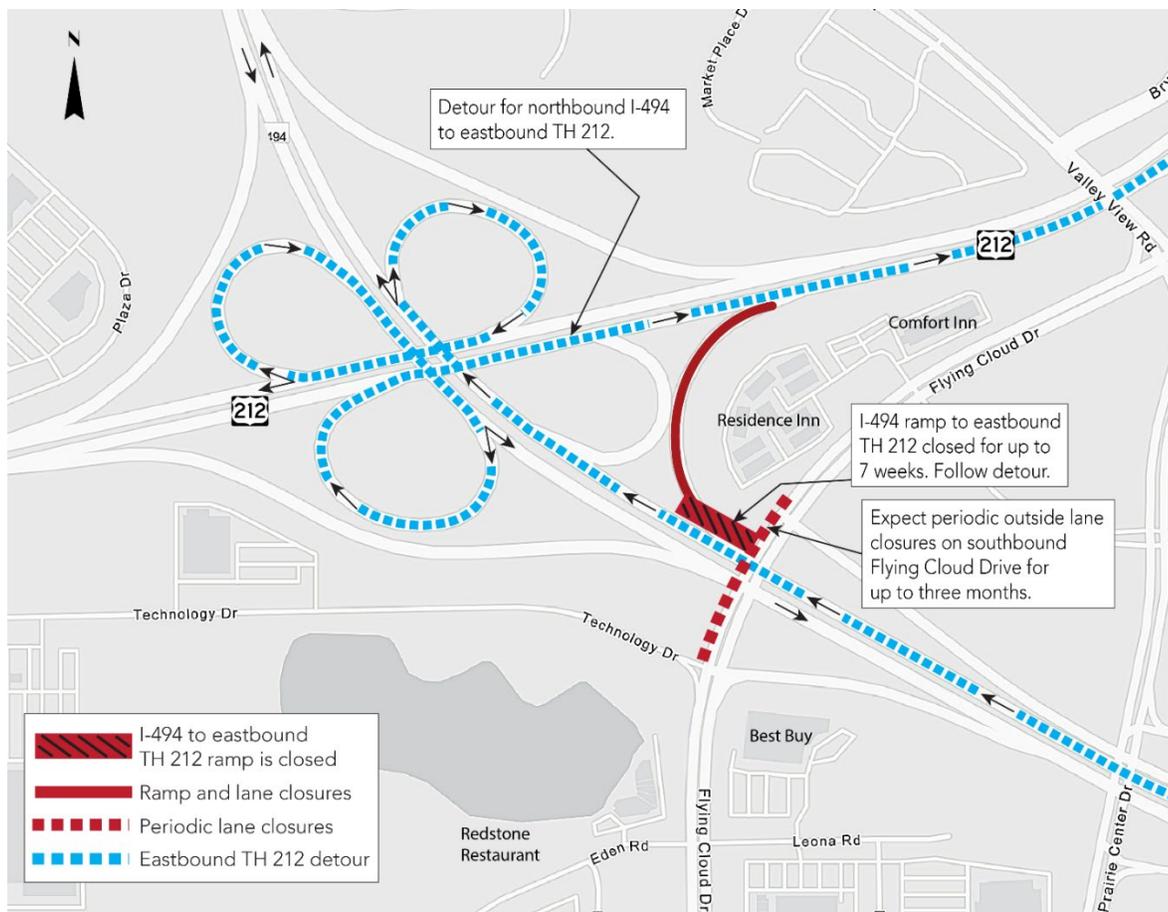
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15, 2019 and is anticipated to 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 continues to utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.** Utility work, retaining wall installation and freight track preparation continues.

Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

Expect utility work on Royalston Avenue beginning the week of October 28. Work is anticipated to last until mid-November. Crews will work on the west side of the road; southbound traffic will be diverted to the east side of the road. After the utility work is complete, work on the LRT bridge piers will begin on the east side of the road.

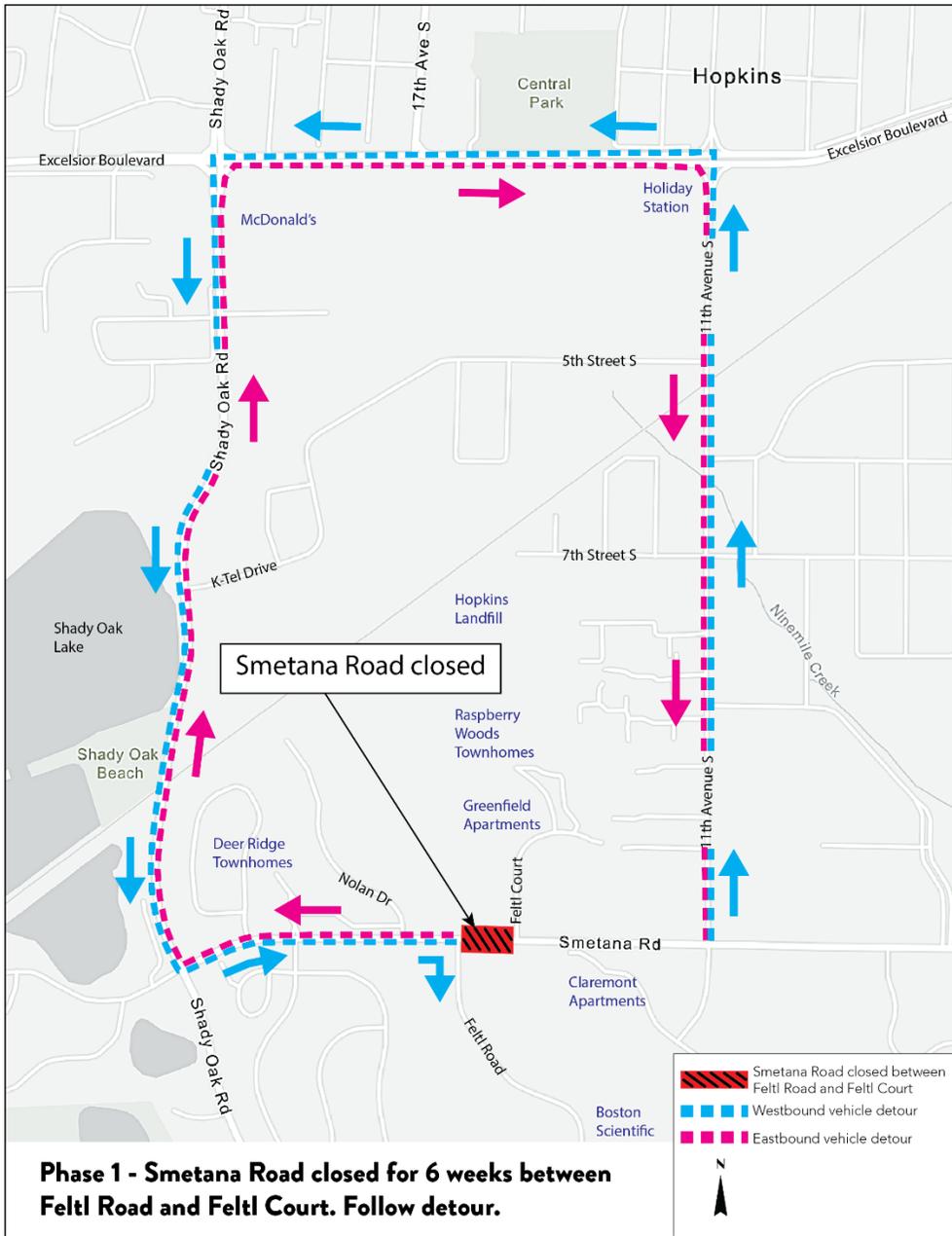
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



Current Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

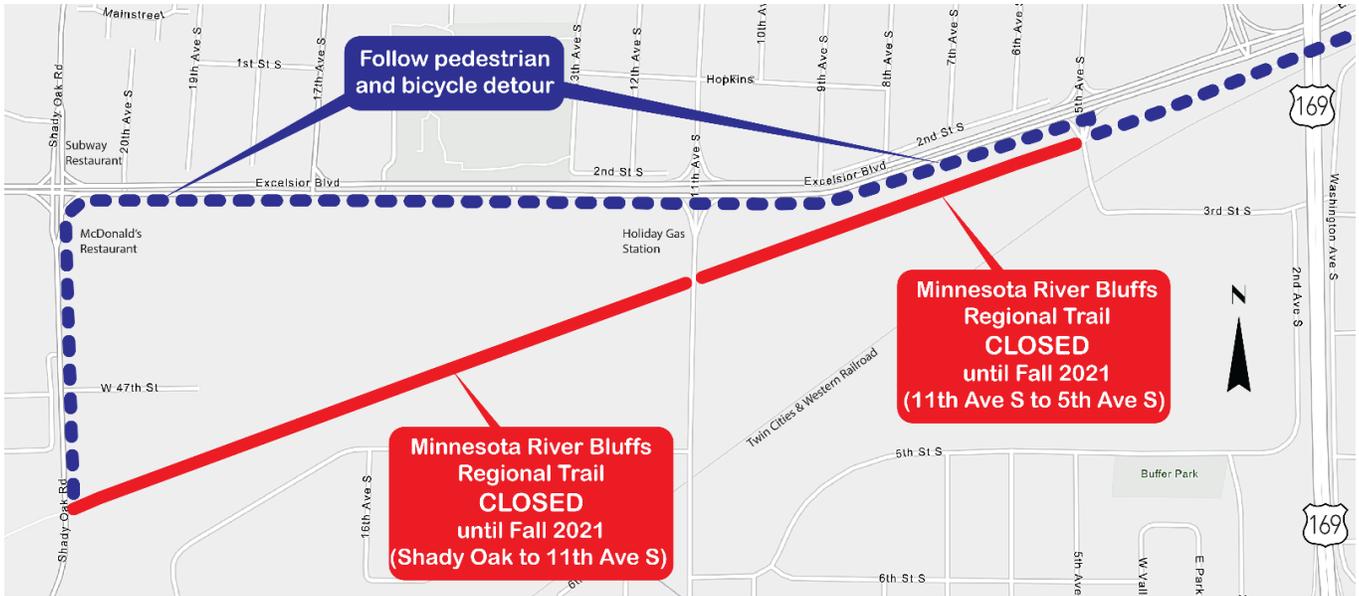


Phase 1 - Smetana Road closed for 6 weeks between Felt Road and Felt Court. Follow detour.

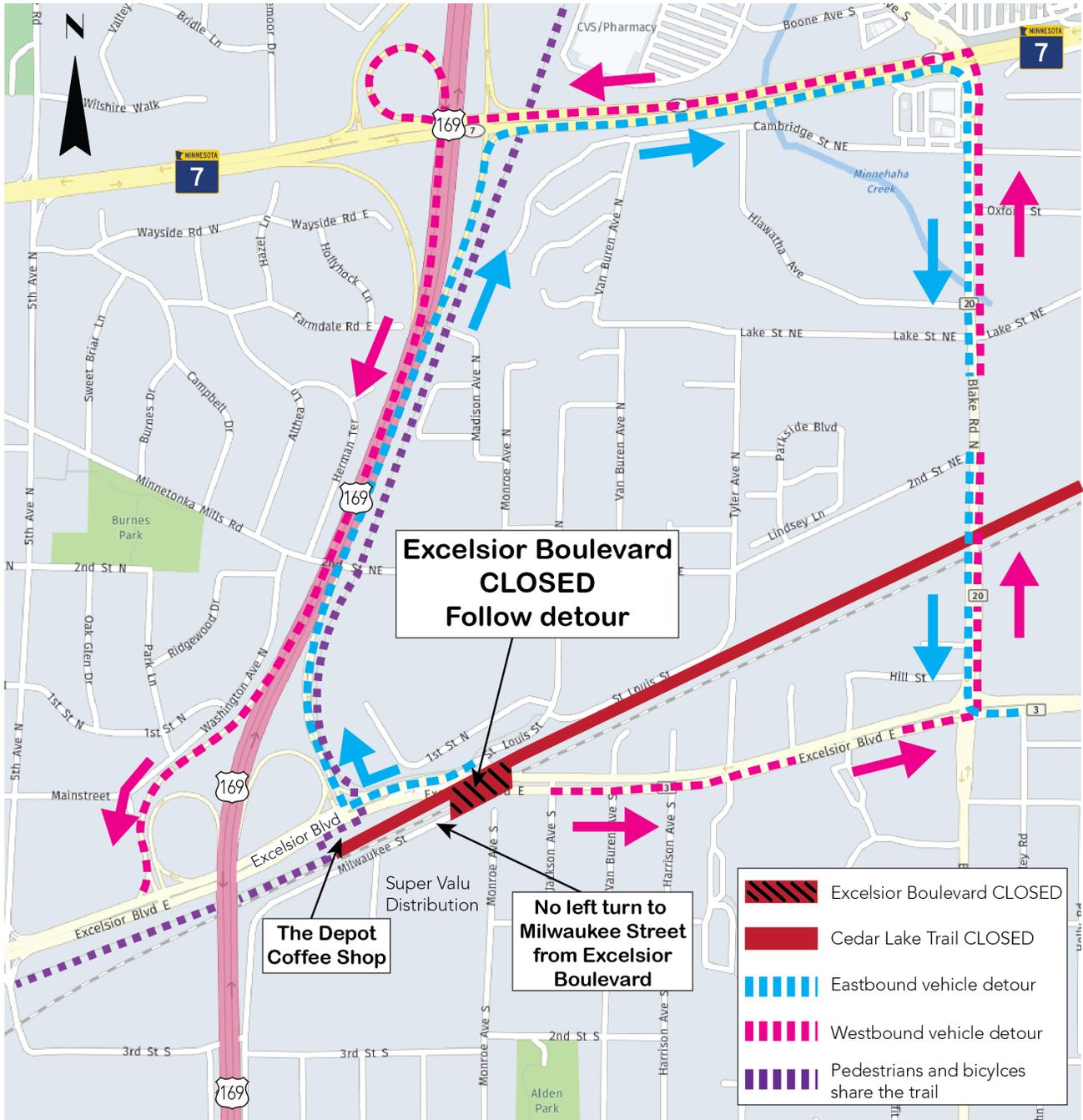
Upcoming Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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

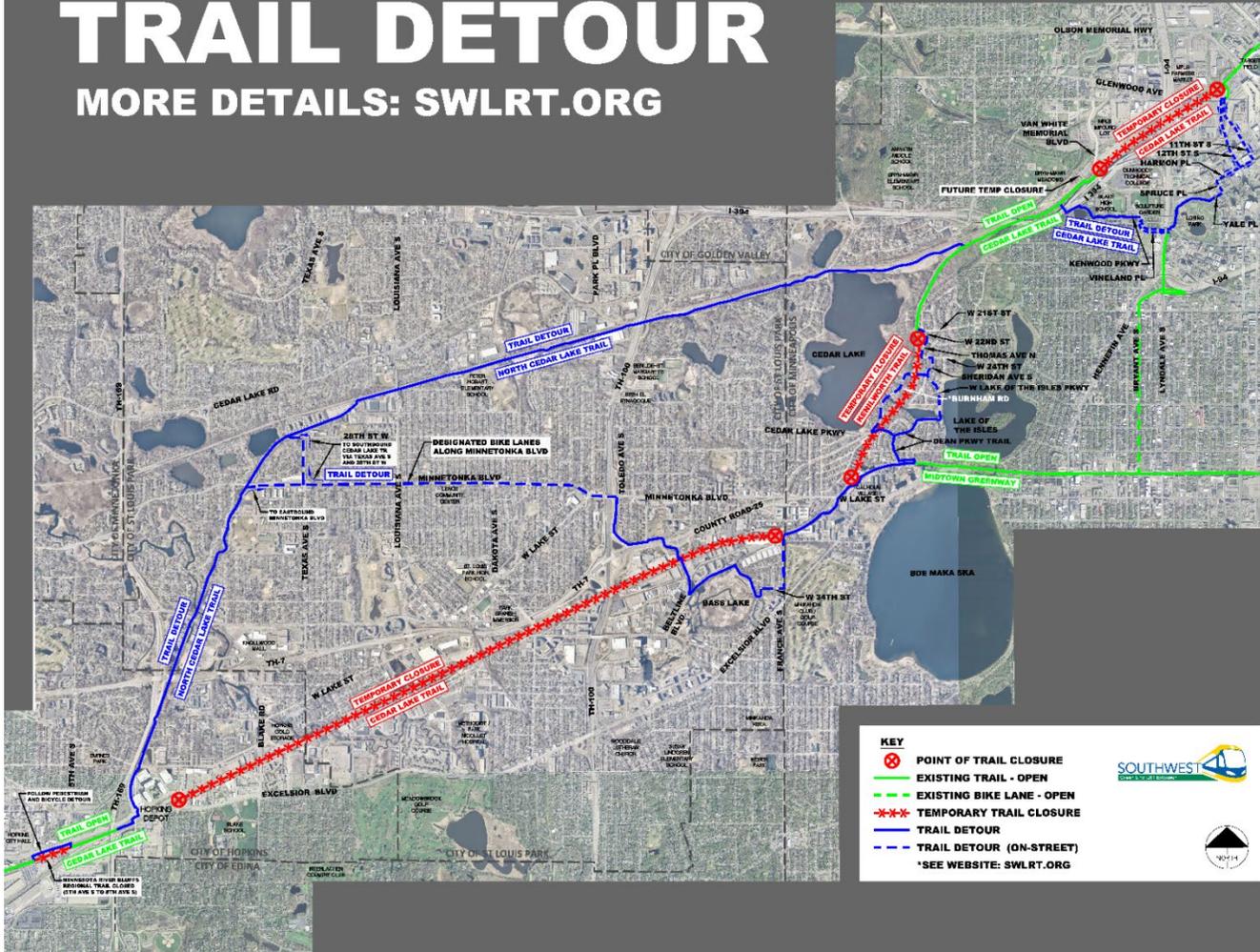


Excelsior Boulevard Detour in Hopkins

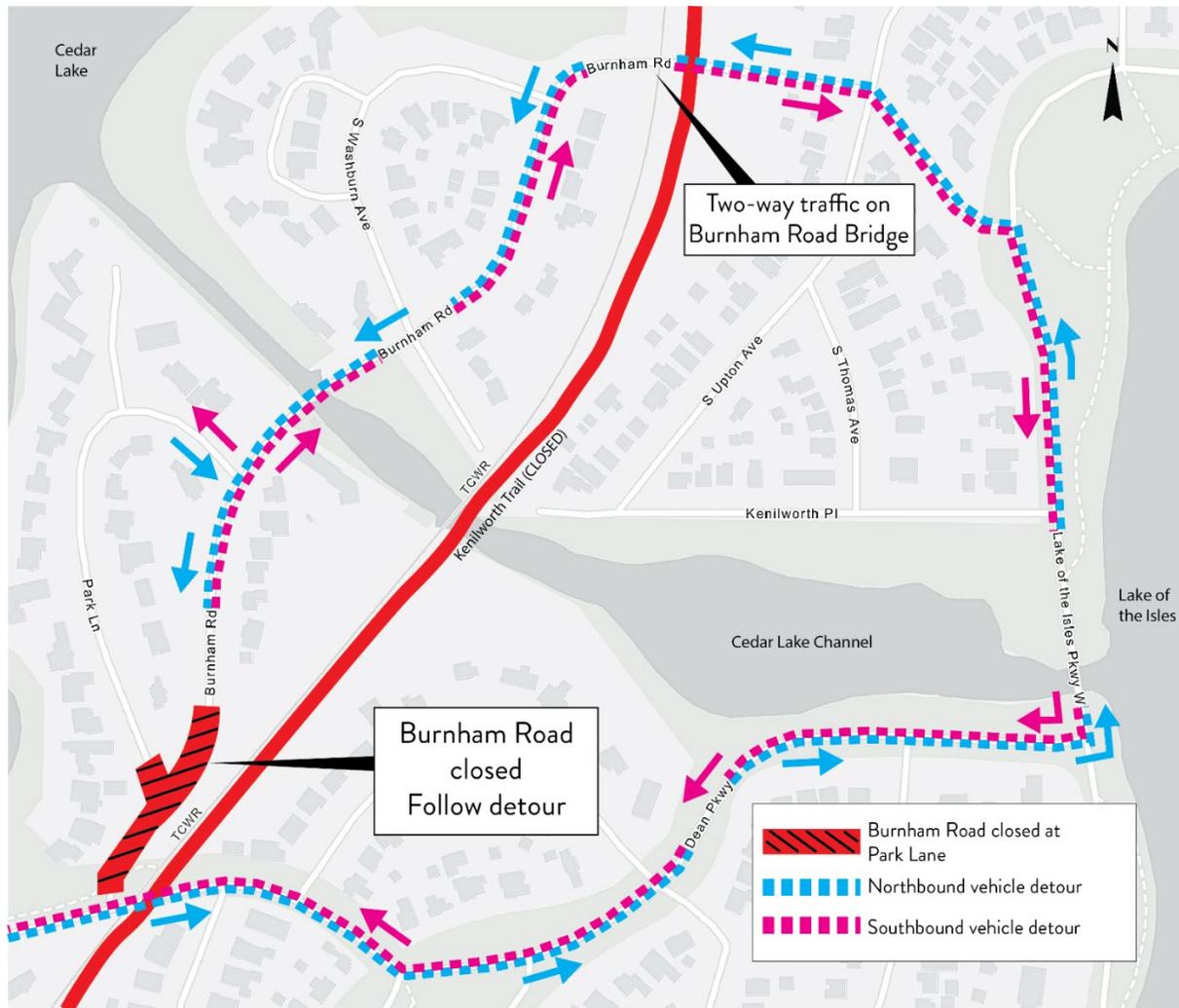


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

