



Construction Update: October 18, 2019

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Kenilworth LRT Tunnel Construction to Begin

The Southwest LRT project will begin sheet piling for the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel in late October or early November. The project has made progress this Fall in completing significant site preparation and temporarily shifting freight rail along the tunnel segment. Due to the complex nature of the tunnel construction site and the overall duration, a press-in-piler is being used; watch it in action in this short [video](#).

The contractor plans to start tunnel sheet piling work near Park Siding Park and will move north towards Cedar Lake Parkway. Sheeting installation is expected to last until summer 2020 with two press-in-pilers active in the corridor. Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin Spring 2020. The most visible civil construction work on the tunnel is expected to take two years.

Weekly Construction Photo: Beltline Boulevard Regional Trail Bridge



Crews build piers for the regional trail bridge that will span over Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park.

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. 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. The west entrance to the shopping area is temporarily closed this week and will continue to be closed for approximately a month.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Crews continue to perform grading and retaining wall work. Retaining walls have taken shape in the area. 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.** Please remember to observe the posted speed limit to ensure your safety and other motorists as well as our crews.

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 to TH 212. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane. Crews are constructing bridge piers and 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. Night work is necessary in some locations due to vibration sensitive businesses in the area. The Southwest LRT project worked with the contractor to develop and test various noise reduction strategies for nighttime pile driving activities,

and activities are continually monitored to minimize noise levels. Residents still may be able to hear construction activities. As work progresses, the Southwest Project Office will continue to look for opportunities to shift activities to the daytime.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Eastbound traffic will be shifted to a single lane on new temporary pavement the night of October 18th. Crews are working to complete construction activities in the median. In mid-November both eastbound and westbound traffic will shift to the south side of the highway. Once traffic is shifted crews will begin the construction of the cut and cover LRT tunnel under the westbound lanes of TH 62.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road remains closed until early November (**see detour map below**). Crews are working on a storm sewer and will begin constructing a bypass road. Following the current 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. 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.**

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 in multiple segments 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. Blake Road southbound 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. Once work is complete on the south-bound side of the road, work will shift to the north-bound side of the road and traffic will be diverted to the other side of the road.

Minnehaha Creek Trail Bridge in St. Louis Park

Crews demolished the regional trail bridge that spans Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. Excavation for the bridge abutments and sheet piling are underway in the area. Flaggers will be 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 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. Center bridge pier work is complete, and TH 100 traffic has been shifted back to the original alignment. Crews will continue to work on the bridge abutments in the area.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

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

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. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street.

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. Crews will construct a temporary trail as well 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

Concrete work is continuing to finish the walls south and north of the channel. After completing the retaining wall north of 21st Street, the press-in-piler will be mobilized near Park Siding Park where sheet piling for the tunnel will begin. As noted above, tunnel sheeting installation is anticipated in the next few weeks.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

The roadway remains closed to through traffic. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.** Road paving work is expected next week and will take a few weeks to complete. Burnham Road will reopen when paving work is complete.

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

Bridge pier construction and piling 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 press-in-piler has completed sheeting piling work for the retaining wall immediately north of 21st. Concrete work will be ongoing to complete the wall.

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**).

MnDOT's maintenance work along the Southwest LRT detour around I-394 will resume at a later date.

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 will utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.** Utility work, retaining wall installation and freight track preparation continues.

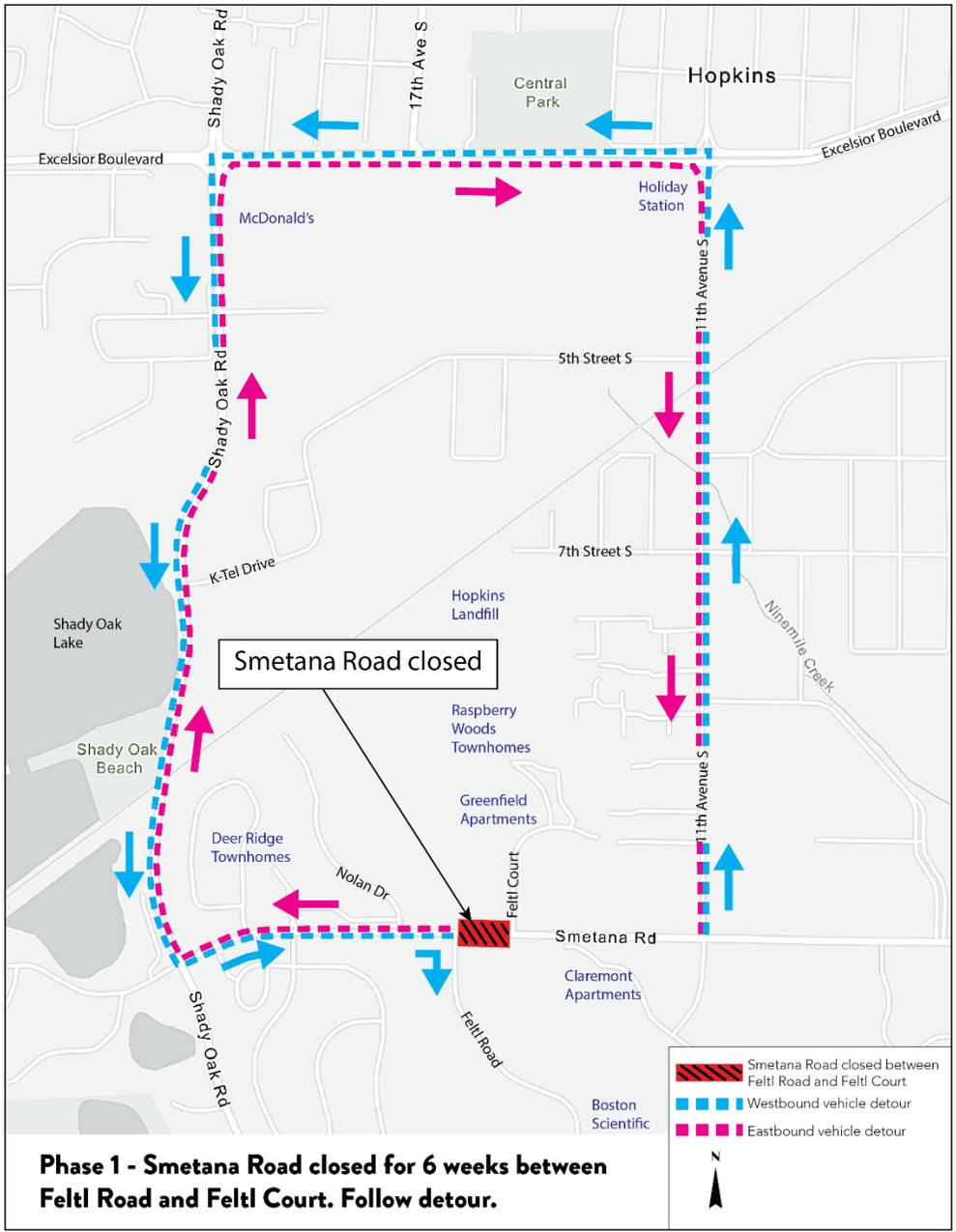
Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

We anticipate work along Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis will begin in late October/early November. Crews will begin work on LRT and bridge infrastructure on the east side of the roadway.

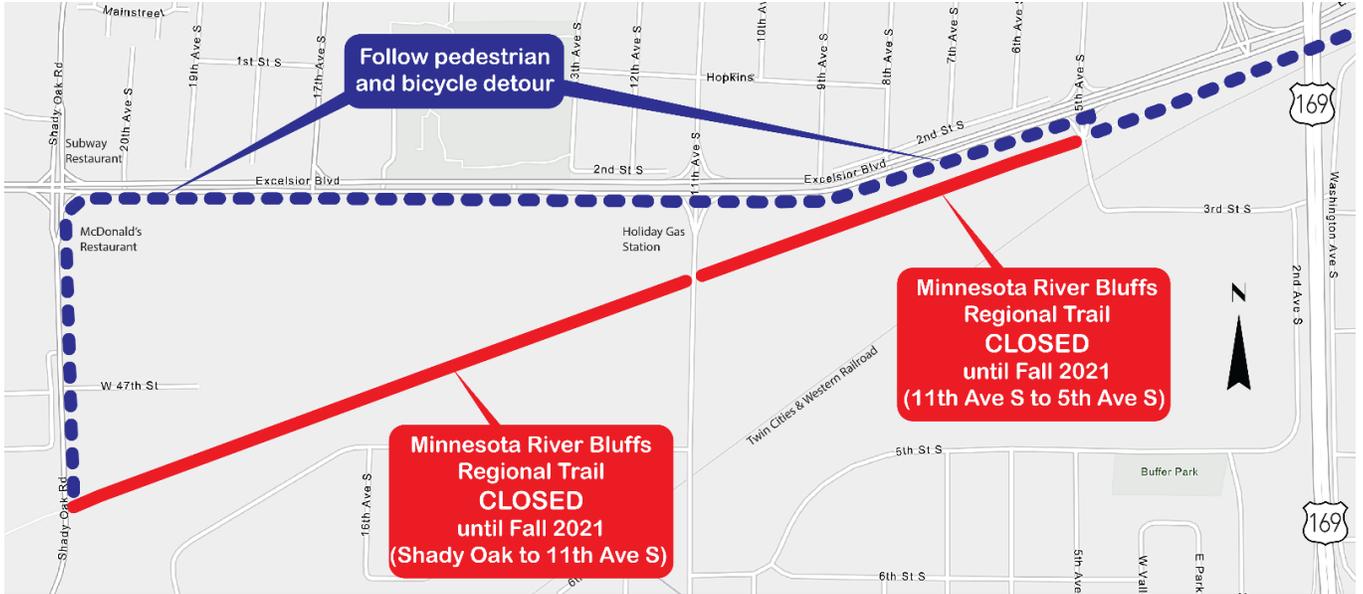
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



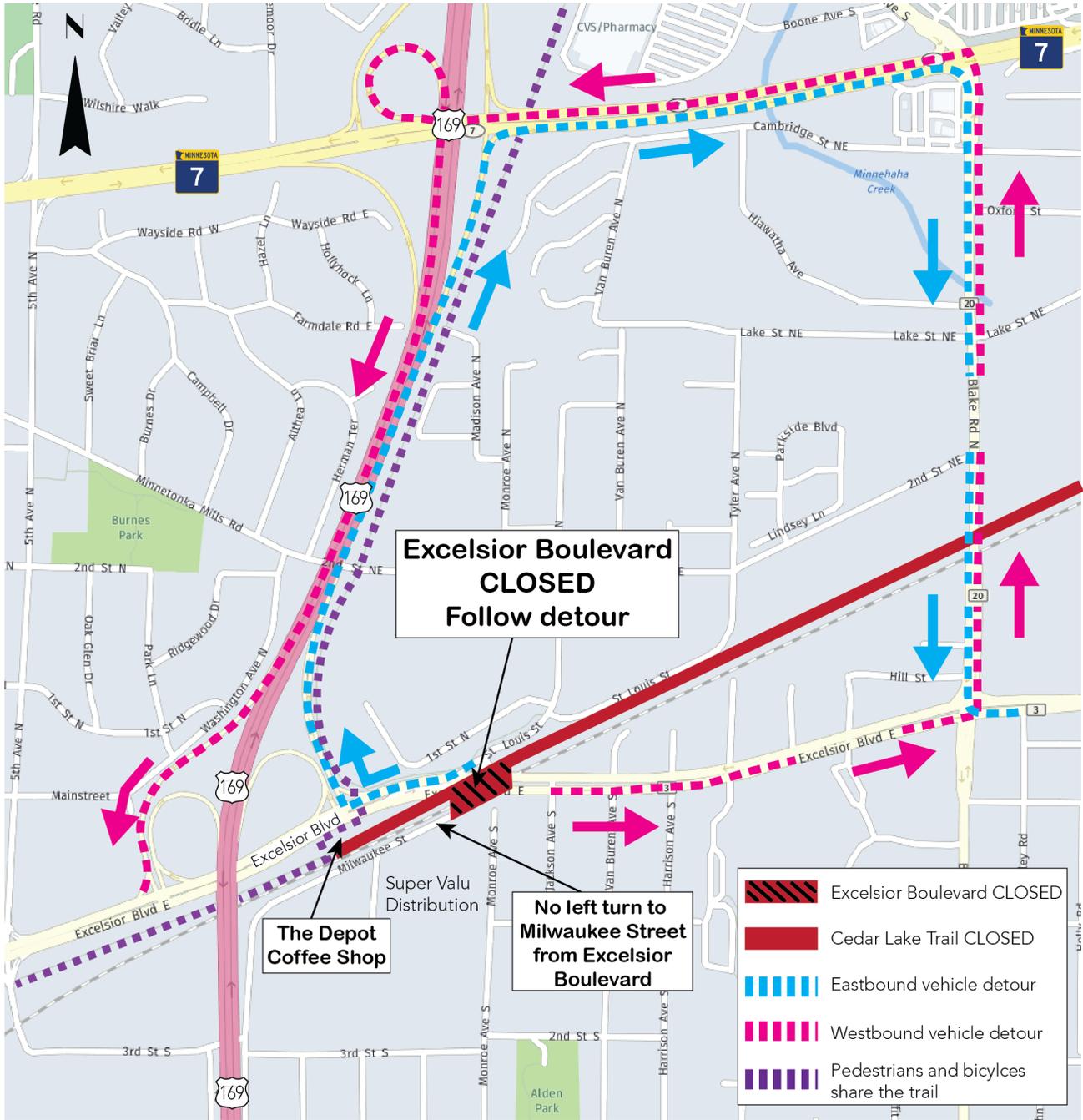
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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

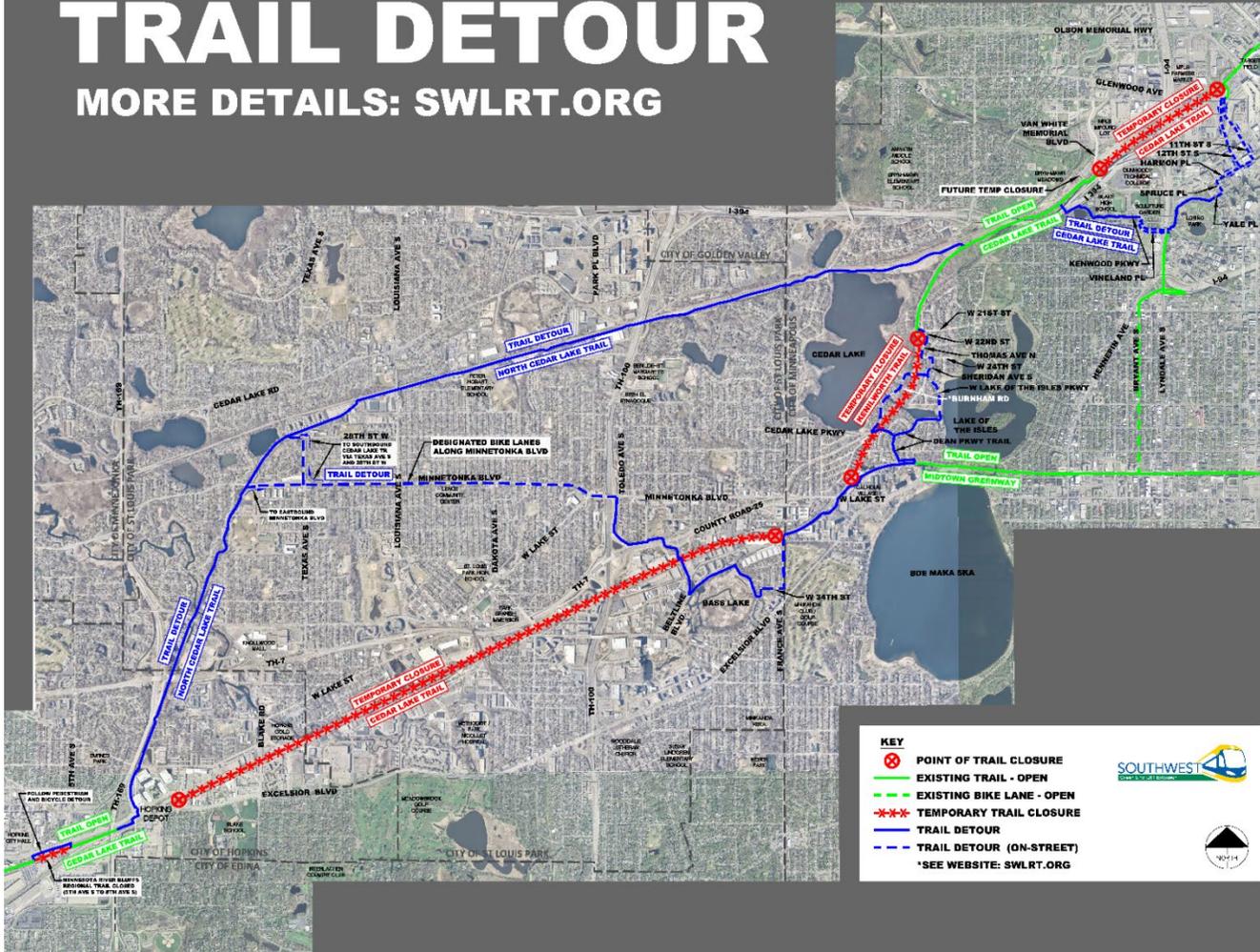


Excelsior Boulevard Detour in Hopkins

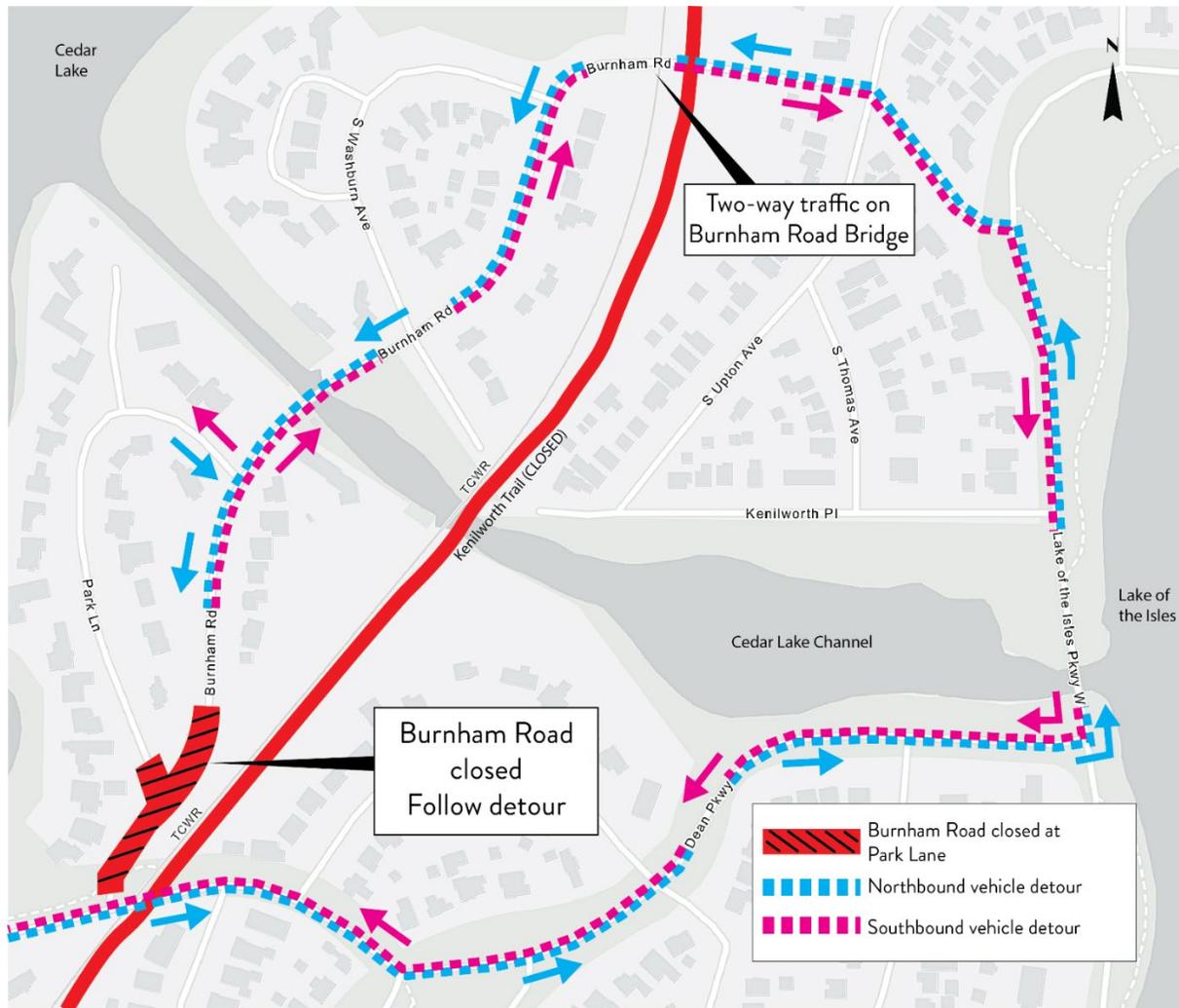


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

