



Construction Update: July 10, 2020
Web: swlrt.org
Twitter: [@SouthwestLRT](https://twitter.com/SouthwestLRT)
Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Freight Railroad Operations in Construction Zones

While Southwest LRT is under construction along freight railroad corridors, we engage onsite railroad personnel (“flaggers”) to help keep everyone safe. Every person that enters a construction job site involving the railroad must first sign-in with the area flagger, where they get information about daily train operations. Flaggers are in communications with railroad control about the arrival of trains and tracks their progress as the trains proceed through construction areas. As trains approach job sites, the flagger connects with onsite construction crews to make sure equipment and personnel are clear of the freight track well in advance of passing trains. In addition to flaggers, signs are also posted along work zones to alert train operators they are entering an active construction zone. Freight railroad regulations call for operators to sound their horns in a specific pattern when entering work zones as an additional layer of safety.

Weekly Construction Photo: Highway 100 LRT and Freight Rail Bridge in St. Louis Park



Crews have almost completed the pier and abutments needed in this area and are working on finishing details. Construction of freight rail infrastructure in the area is also underway. When complete, the freight rail bridge, pictured on the left, will be picked up and moved onto the newly constructed bridge foundation. The LRT bridge will be built where the freight rail bridge is currently located.

Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Construction: **Map 1 of 2**



There are two Eden Prairie maps with each illustrating where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews will be expanding the existing park-and-ride ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. The former SouthWest Transit facility is demolished, and crews are working on excavation and utilities in the area. Expect pile driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls, utilities and the new parking ramp. Crews have erected a stationary tower crane to assist with ongoing work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge begins by SouthWest Transit, crosses over Technology Drive, follows the east side of Purgatory Creek Park and then crosses Prairie Center Drive to land north of Bachman's on the east side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction until fall 2020, however all of the piles to support the bridge pier have now been installed. There are close to 500 piles supporting this bridge, making the completion of piling a major milestone. Work on last remaining bridge pier is going in the median of Prairie Center Drive. Look for Eden Prairie scenes on many of the piers along Prairie Center Drive. Bridge deck work will start in July.

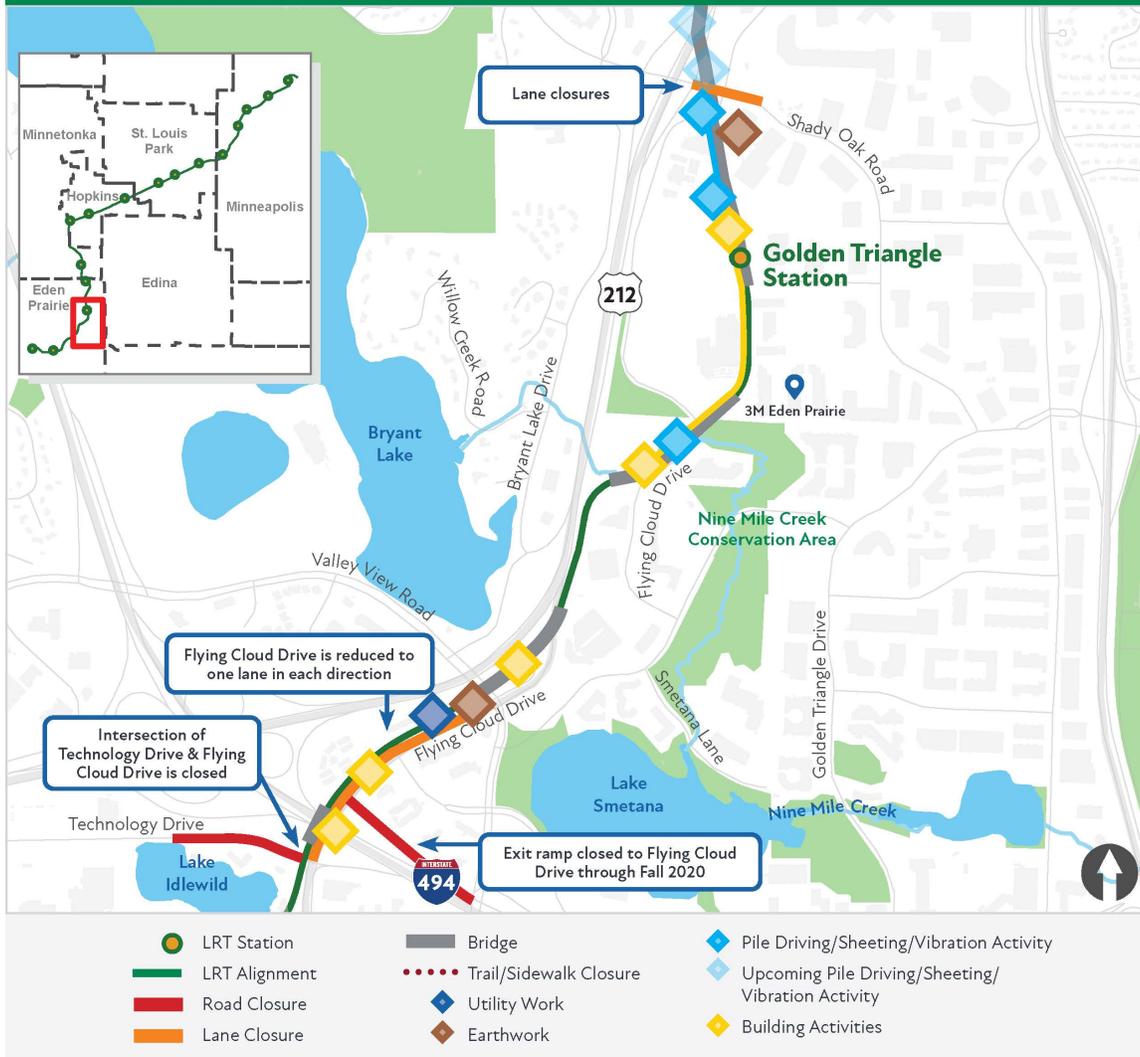
Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow signage to ensure your safety. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. ([See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map](#)).

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area continues. The intersection of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive is closed and will remain closed until mid-July. Eden Road will be closed west of Glenn Lane toward Singletree Lane starting in mid -July.

Clearing and ground cover removal for the Eden Prairie Town Center Station has begun.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Abutment work is nearly complete, with crews removing the supports for excavation and backfilling. Work continues on the walls for the approaches to the bridge. Traffic control barriers are in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone. Two overnight closures of I-494 at Flying Cloud Drive to install bridge girders is anticipated on Thursday, July 16 from 10:00 PM – Friday, July 17 at 5:00 AM and Friday, July 17, 2020 from 10 PM – Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 5 AM.

Flying Cloud Drive

Along Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road crews are conducting major utility work while the roadway is under construction. Crews are also beginning work on the LRT track guideway. Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures to complete the

construction of LRT and associated utility work. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season.

Phase two of planned traffic changes continues on Flying Cloud Drive. Traffic is shifted to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive will remain closed until mid- to late July. The off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remains closed into the fall. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).** Crews are currently grading the LRT track alignment. Access to area businesses on the north of the roadway remain open, follow posted signage.

Valley View Road

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. The on ramp from Valley View Road to eastbound Highway 212 has been reconstructed and opened to vehicle traffic this week.

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the summer. Crews have advanced abutment work and continue to complete piers. Deck work for the bridge is getting underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

Golden Triangle Station

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity including pile driving in the area as these elements advance.

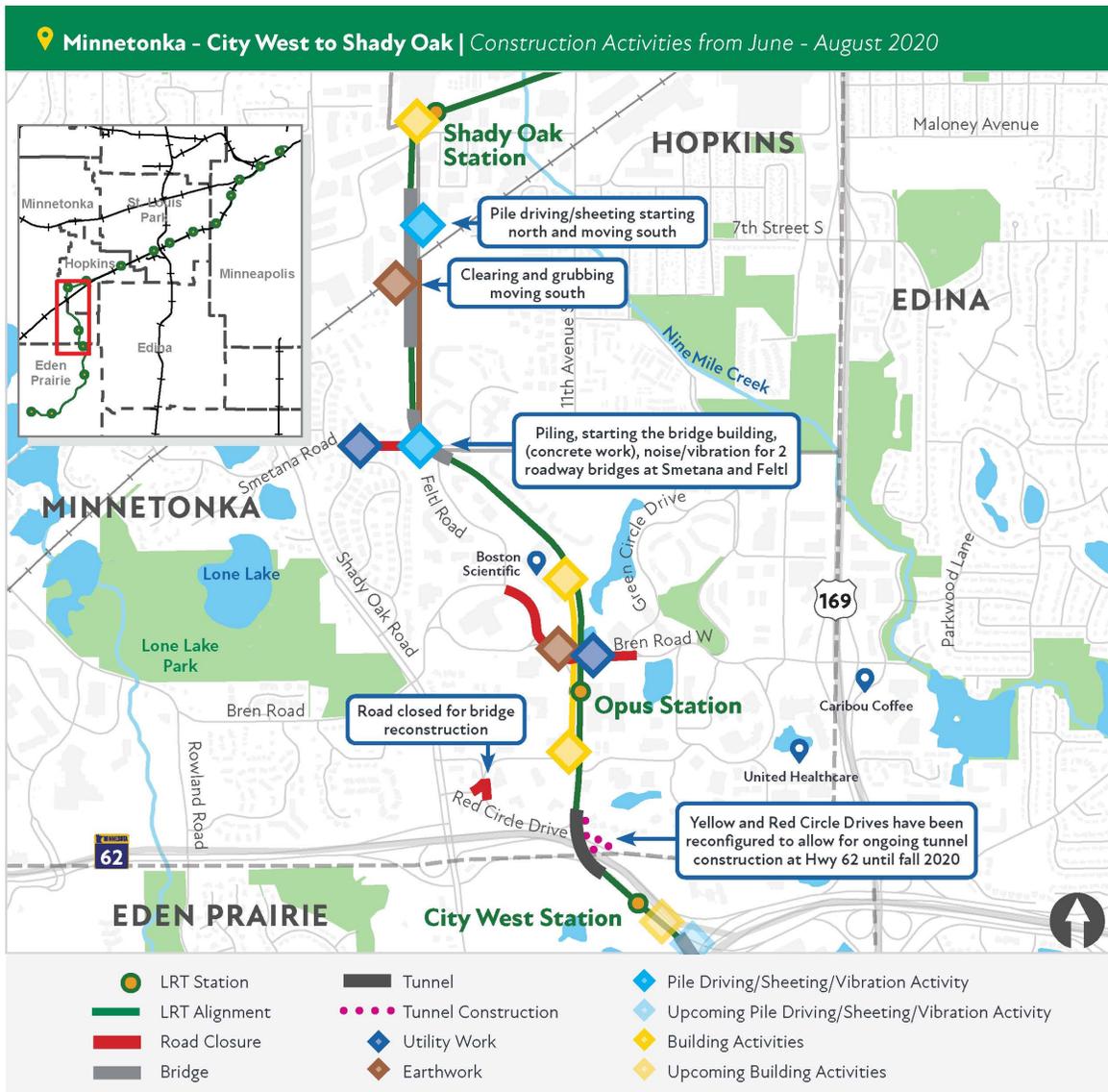
Current activities include piling and concrete work for retaining walls and the LRT bridge. Work on the Golden Triangle Station and the adjacent track slab is also being advanced.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road will close the week of July 13 to begin construction pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect into the fall. Work in the median of Highway 212 will also start later this month to advance the LRT bridge. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road will close later this summer for about a month and a half. Expect construction activities on the west side of Highway 212 in the coming months, as work progresses north.

Minnetonka

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



This Minnetonka map illustrates where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. Traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway corridor to accommodate LRT tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through the fall of 2020. Crews finished constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section, have advanced concrete and waterproofing work, and are starting structural work for the tunnel walls.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured to allow for ongoing tunnel construction at Highway 62. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive. Yellow Circle Drive has temporarily become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road is complete on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will be in place until fall 2020. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).**

Additional work has begun on Red Circle Drive for bridge reconstruction. The southern portion of Red Circle Drive is modified temporarily to two-way traffic. Red Circle Drive is a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle Drive access. Yellow Circle traffic connects to the southern portion of Red Circle Drive to travel west until the cul-de-sac closure point. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).** Additional information about area activities is also available on the city's website [here](#).

Opus Station Area

Crews are working on utilities in the area. Station foundation construction is complete and structural steel is beginning to emerge. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including a significant portion of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl Roads. The installation of the soldier pile retaining wall is complete and crews are advancing overall wall construction.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians through the 2020 construction season. **See Minnetonka detour map [here](#).** Crews are advancing utility work in the area. Piling for retaining walls near the roadway is ongoing.

From Bren Road to Smetana Road crews are also grading and doing other preparation work for LRT track construction. Expect earth moving equipment in the area.

Smetana Road

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath the Smetana and Feltl roadways. Utility work is ongoing in this area. Excavation continues for bridge abutments and approach walls. Sheet piling installation is occurring and piling for the bridge abutments has begun. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.

Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed through 2020. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. **See Minnetonka detour maps [here](#).**

Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge Area

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge is located east of Nolan Drive and west of the Hopkins Landfill and will cross over the freight tracks to the north. The bridge will take multiple years to complete. Excavation and pile driving continue at the north end of the bridge south of 5th Street South. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area. Piling activities for the bridge will move north to south. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



This Hopkins map illustrates where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

Shady Oak Road Station

Foundation work for Shady Oak Station is underway. The station structure will begin to emerge in July.

11th Avenue South

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11th Avenue South. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5th Street South, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The roadway is reduced to one lane in each direction. The LRT crossing panels to transverse the roadway have been placed on the east side. In mid-July traffic will be swapped

to other half of the roadway so crews can complete work. The LRT tracks will be pulled across the intersection at a later date.

Once work on 11th Avenue South is complete, the reconstruction of 5th and 8th Avenues will begin.

On 5th Street South, utility work is expected to begin later this summer. Roadway impacts are anticipated. More detail will be provided as the closure dates nears.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab. Currently crews are working on plumbing and roofing.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. With the LRT bridge piers nearing completion, the structural forms to take the bridge over the roadway and freight rail are starting to take shape. Crew are building “pier tables”, which taken quiet literally means the base or “table” for the bridge to be placed on the piers. Concrete work for the top of the piers is advancing and concrete work for the spans is upcoming in the next months. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The initial shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway.

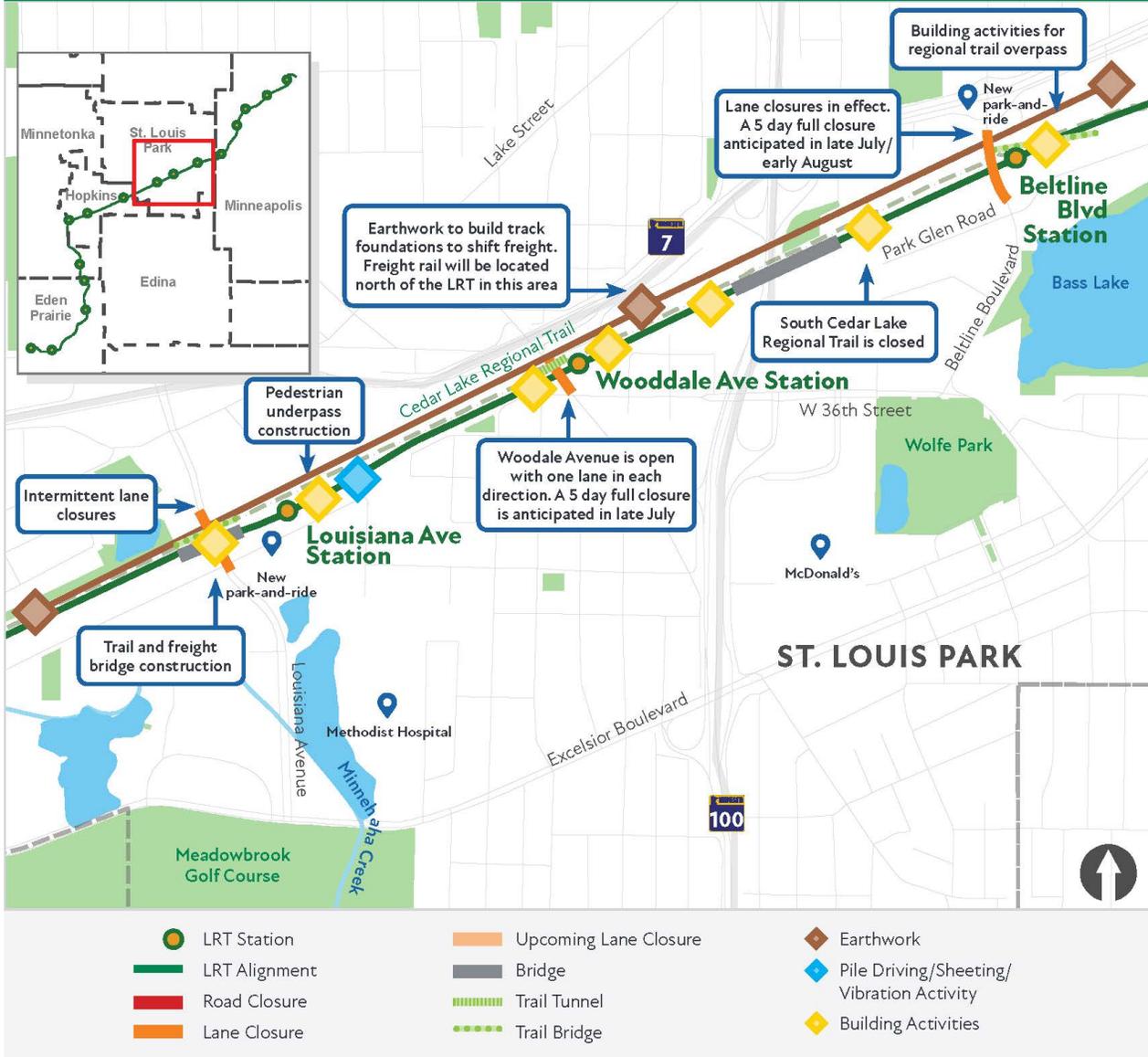
Blake Road

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are constructing the trail underpass on the west side of Blake Road. Sheet piles have been driven to almost the center of the roadway. The southbound lanes on Blake Road are closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed through the summer. Vehicle traffic continues to be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#)**. Crews will start to build the top of the regional trail tunnel, which will allow the area to be reconstructed later this summer. Once this portion of Blake Road is complete, traffic will be swapped to the other side and a single lane will be allowed in the southbound direction so crews can complete the underpass.

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: [Map 1 of 1](#)

St. Louis Park - Louisiana Ave to Beltline Blvd | Construction Activities from June - August 2020



This St. Louis Park map illustrates where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in the area. Crews are advancing deck work, with much of the concrete work completed. Crews continue earthwork activities to prepare the area for permanent freight rail track. Retaining wall work in the area is advancing.

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station and park and ride areas, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicyclist underpass (which connects the regional trail to the station), and a new Southerly Connector for freight rail to connect to the MN&S freight line. View the area's [visualization](#) to see how this all comes together.

Crews are working on the trail underpass. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly freight rail connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street is well underway with the abutment taking shape.

The abutments for the regional trail and freight rail bridge at Louisiana Avenue are complete and bridge beams have been placed across the roadway. Additional lane closures will occur to advance deck work. No detours are expected.

Wooddale Avenue

Wooddale Avenue has reopened to vehicle traffic with one lane in each direction. Finishing details at the intersection continues. A five-day closure towards to end of July is anticipated to complete freight railroad infrastructure.

Highway 100

The project will re-position the existing freight rail bridge and build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 later this year.

Crews are working on storm water management, erosion control, freight rail and trail infrastructure from Highway 100 to Beltline Boulevard.

Beltline Boulevard

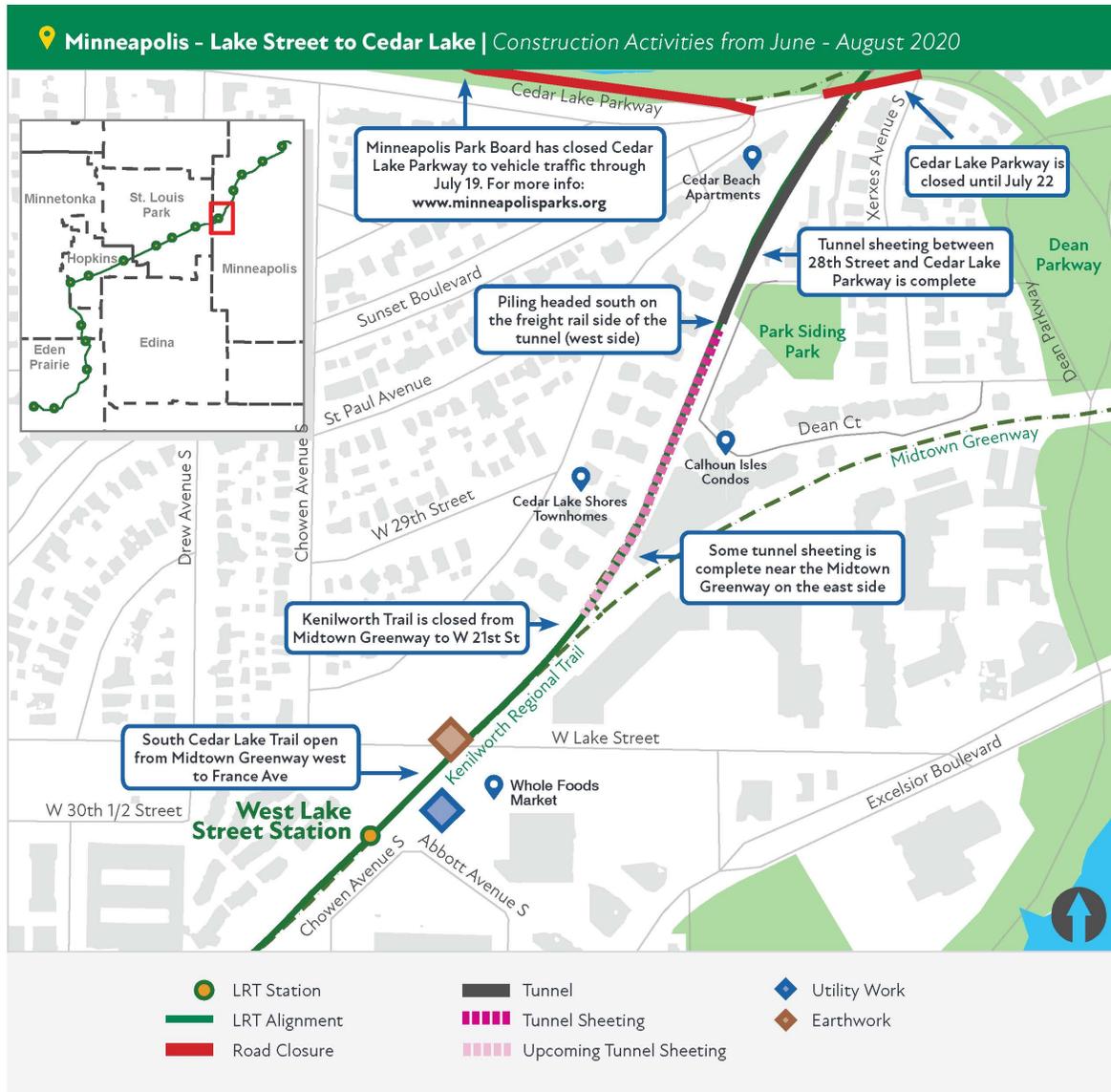
Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set and work on the trail bridge deck continues. To complete the bridge crews will need to move the freight rail tracks. Preparation for that move is ongoing.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard in this area has begun. Beltline Boulevard has been reduced to one lane in each direction for utility work. Expect shifting lane closures as work moves through the intersection. A full road

closure is anticipated in late July or August for installation of freight infrastructure. Signage will be posted in advance of the lane closures.

Minneapolis

Minneapolis Construction: **Map 1 of 5**



There are five Minneapolis maps with each illustrating where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

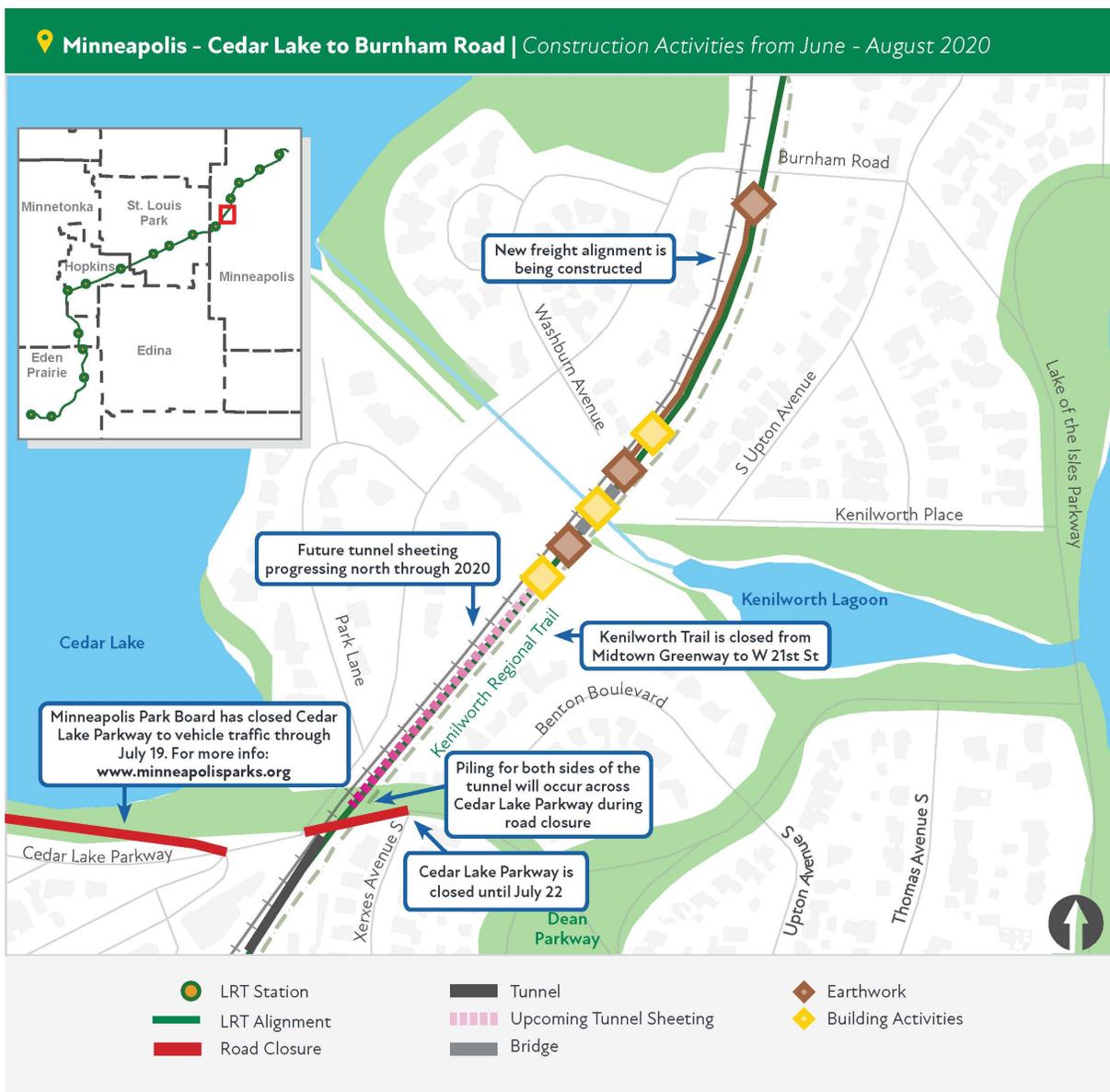
For the 2020 construction season, this area will experience major utility work, soil correction activities, pier protection work on the Lake Street Bridge, West Lake Street Station construction and the realignment of Chowen/Abbott roadways. Utility work is ongoing in the area.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

From the Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022. One press-in piler is moving south from 28th Street to Lake Street on the freight rail side. Overall, sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through 2020.

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 that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

Minneapolis Construction: **Map 2 of 5**



Cedar Lake Parkway

Cedar Lake Parkway is closed and will reopen by July 22. [Detour information](#). Crews are installing tunnel sheeting through the Cedar Lake Parkway intersection. Those sheets will be cut to the proper height, and then the roadway will be restored. A longer closure of approximately six months will be needed to excavate and construct the tunnel. Tunnel excavation west of the Cedar Lake Parkway is expected to begin later this summer. We will provide updates as additional work is scheduled.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel

Three bridges will be constructed over the channel for freight, LRT, and the Kenilworth trail. Construction for the freight rail bridge is underway and will be completed first and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Crews are almost complete with freight rail bridge deck work. Crews are also advancing earth work and track building activities on the approaches to the bridge. Crews are installing timber ties to support the track. Freight is anticipated to be shifted permanently onto the new bridge in late-July or August. A date is currently being coordinated with the freight railroad. After the freight rail is shifted, the existing freight bridge will be removed and piling for the LRT bridge will begin. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete this next phase of work. When the closure occurs, flaggers for boat traffic are expected to be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



21st Street

Temporary surcharge continues to be in place south of 21st Street for the station. Surcharge work consists of periods of moving soil activities followed by periods underlying soil consolidation. The surcharge is currently in a settlement period into the summer. Additional dirt may be needed periodically.

West 21st Street Station construction is expected to begin this summer after surcharge removal.

Minor grading and trail paving work around 21st Street is complete and additional fencing is being installed between the trail and haul route.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



Bryn Mawr Station Area

To accommodate the LRT station, crews will construct a pedestrian bridge on the northern bluff (near Penn Avenue and Highway 394) to the station. In addition, crews need to do a significant amount of earthwork in the area to construct the new trail alignment, regrade the contours of earth in the area and build a stable foundation for the LRT tracks.

The temporary surcharge for the station remains in a settlement period. This work will remain into the summer to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station.

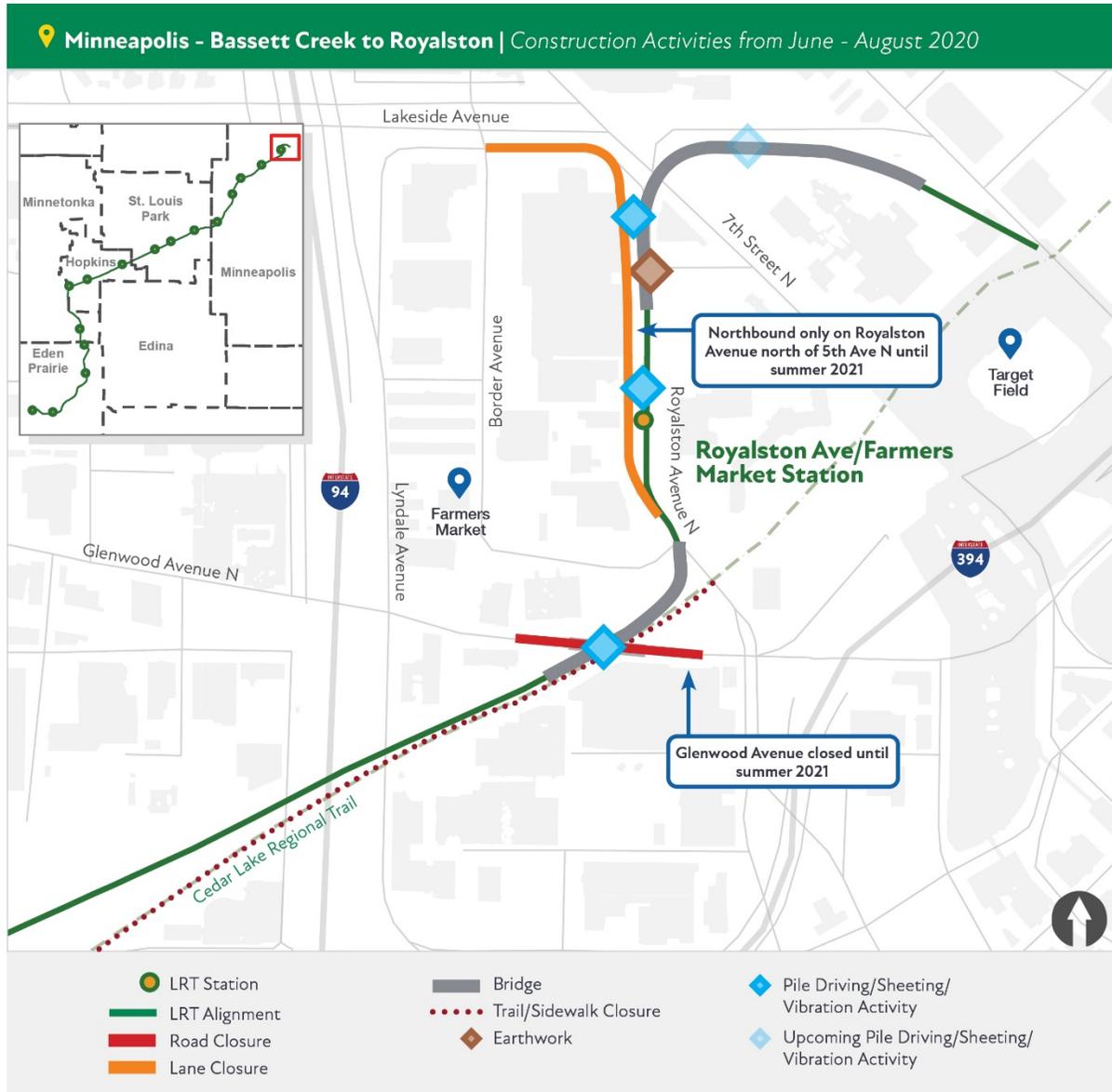
I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Construction to move the trail to its permanent location in the area will occur later this summer.

Linden Yards

Utility work continues in the area. Construction of the Bassett Creek Valley Station will begin later this year.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, LRT will cross Glenwood Avenue at grade. To make that happen three bridges need to be constructed, freight rail shifted, and extensive retaining walls built. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North is closed until mid-2021. The roadway is closed to vehicle,

pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. **See detour map [here](#)**. Local access to businesses is maintained. Crews continue to work on retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment for the new roadway bridge continues.

Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over 5th Avenue and 7th Street and connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed. Much of the pavement on the northern portion of Royalston Avenue has been removed and piling for retaining walls is ongoing. Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the summer. Expect pile driving activities in this area. The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from 5th Street to Holden Street is closed; the closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map [here](#)**.

Regional Trails

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. **See detour map [here](#)**.

- The section between Shady Oak Road and 11th Avenue South is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail is closed through summer 2020.
- The section between 11th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until fall 2021.

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. 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, bikers and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. **See detour maps [here](#)**.

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, bikers and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. **See detour map [here](#)**.

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 until mid-2021. **See detour maps [here](#).**

Please note, construction vehicles cross the trail as they enter and exit staging areas. Construction vehicles yield to trail users but please be aware that you may encounter construction traffic in this area.

The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is detoured to Kenwood Parkway until late July or early August. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. **See trail detour maps [here](#).** Crews are conducting utility work in the area.

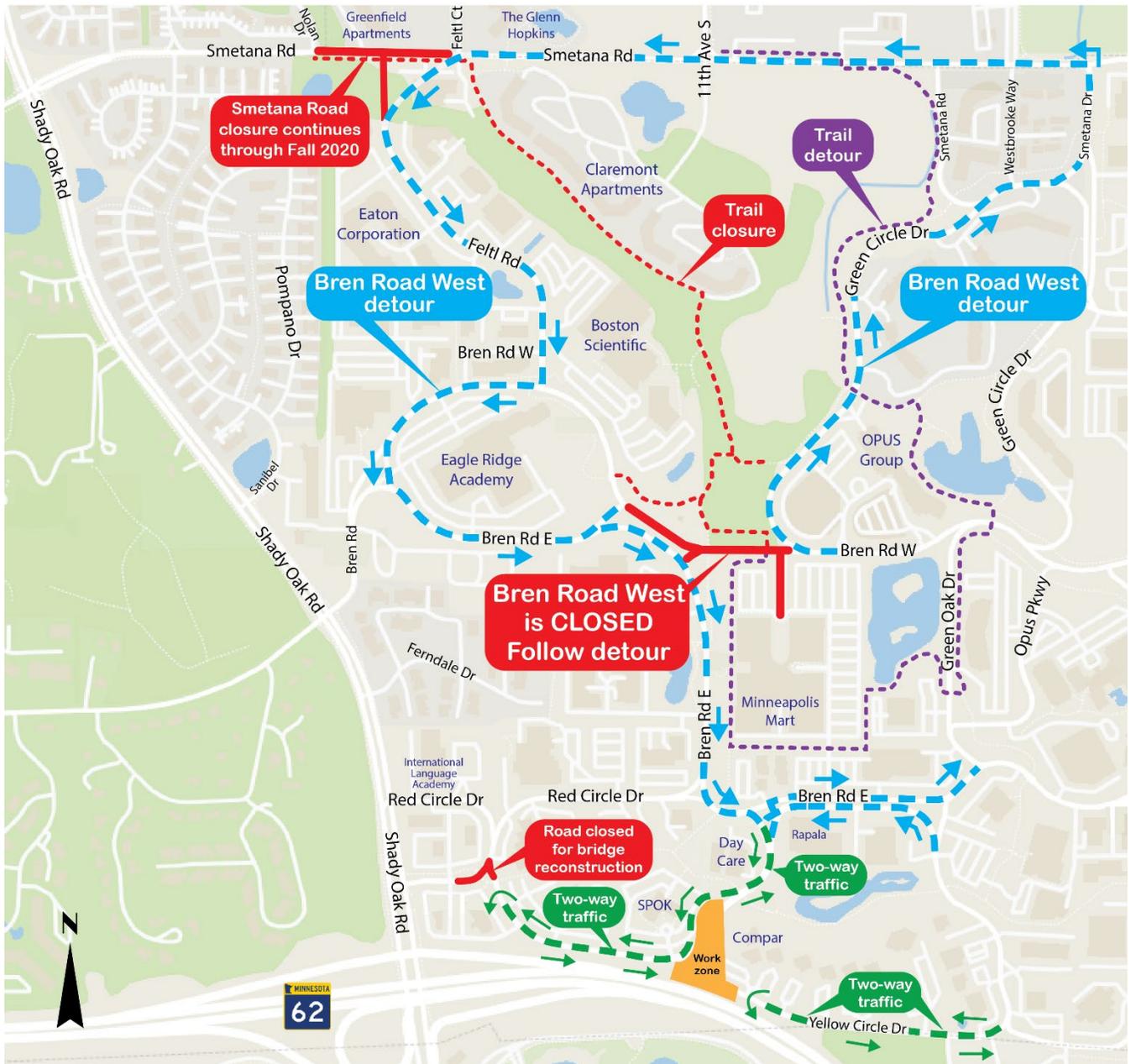
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



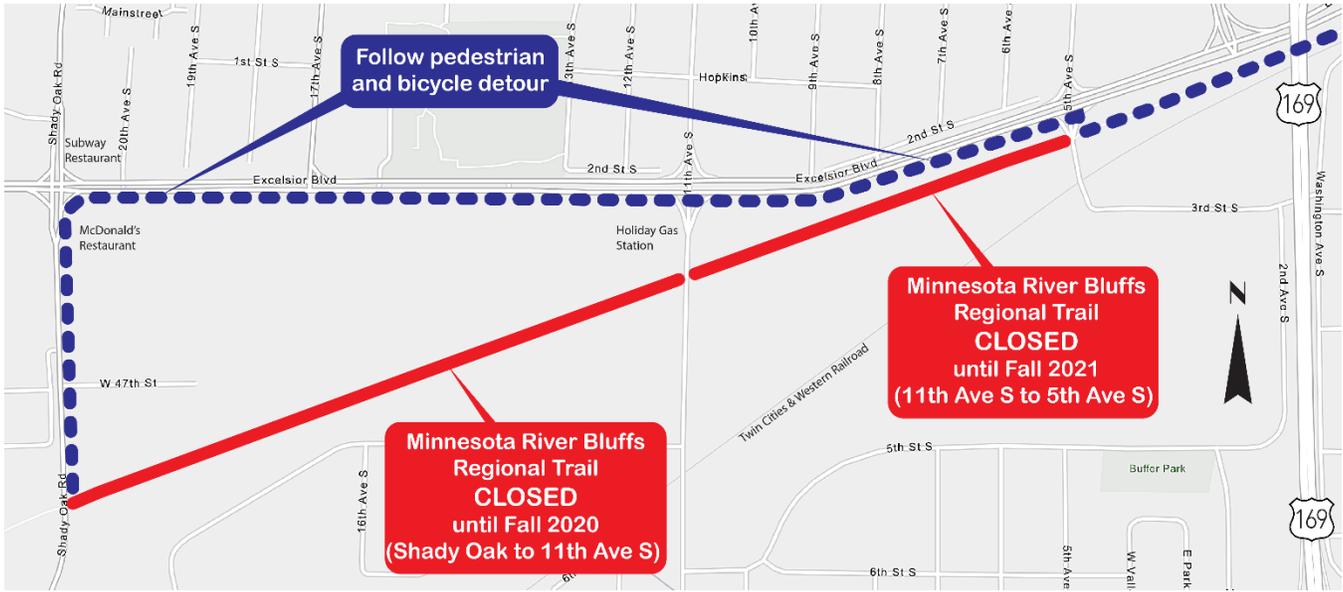
Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles

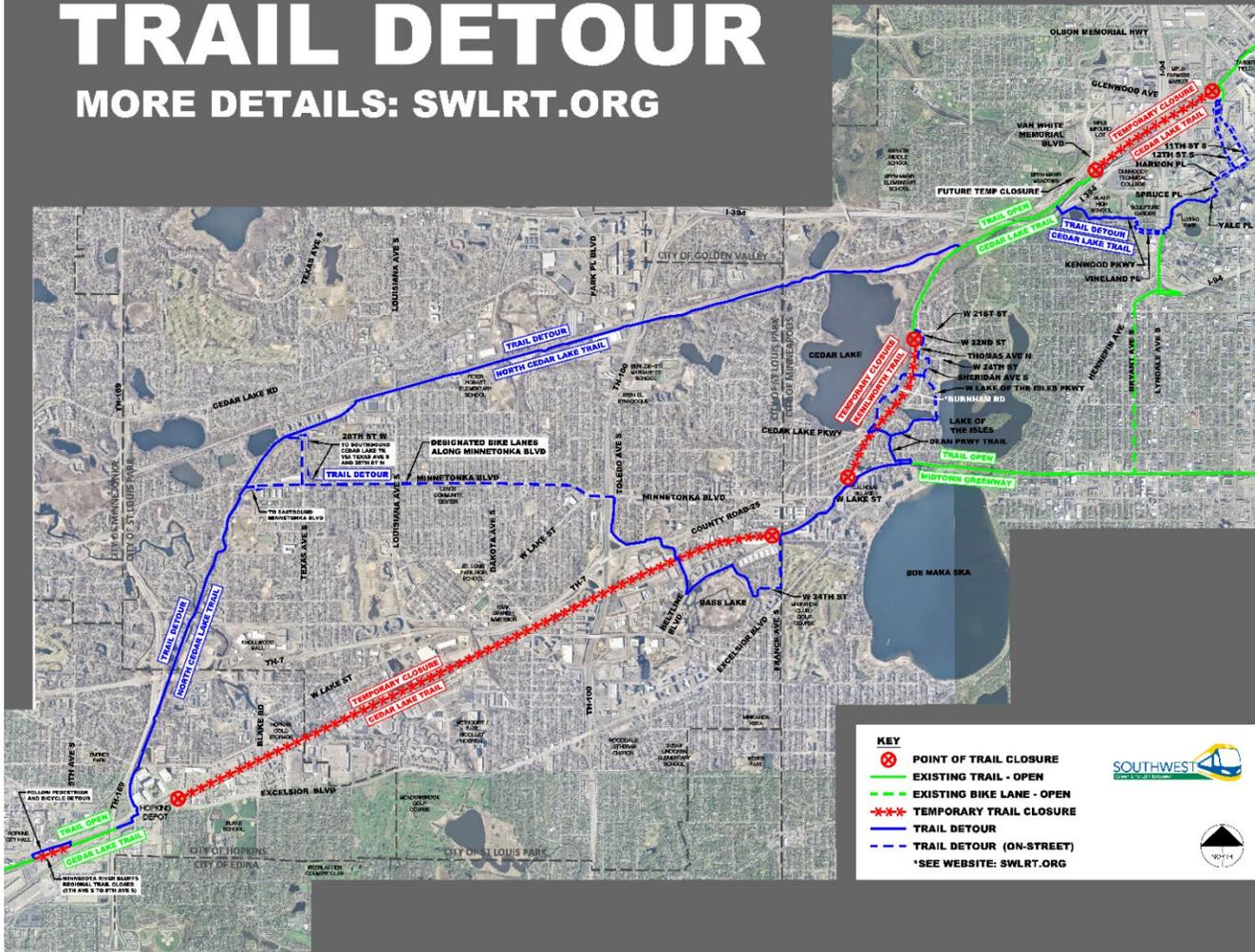


Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

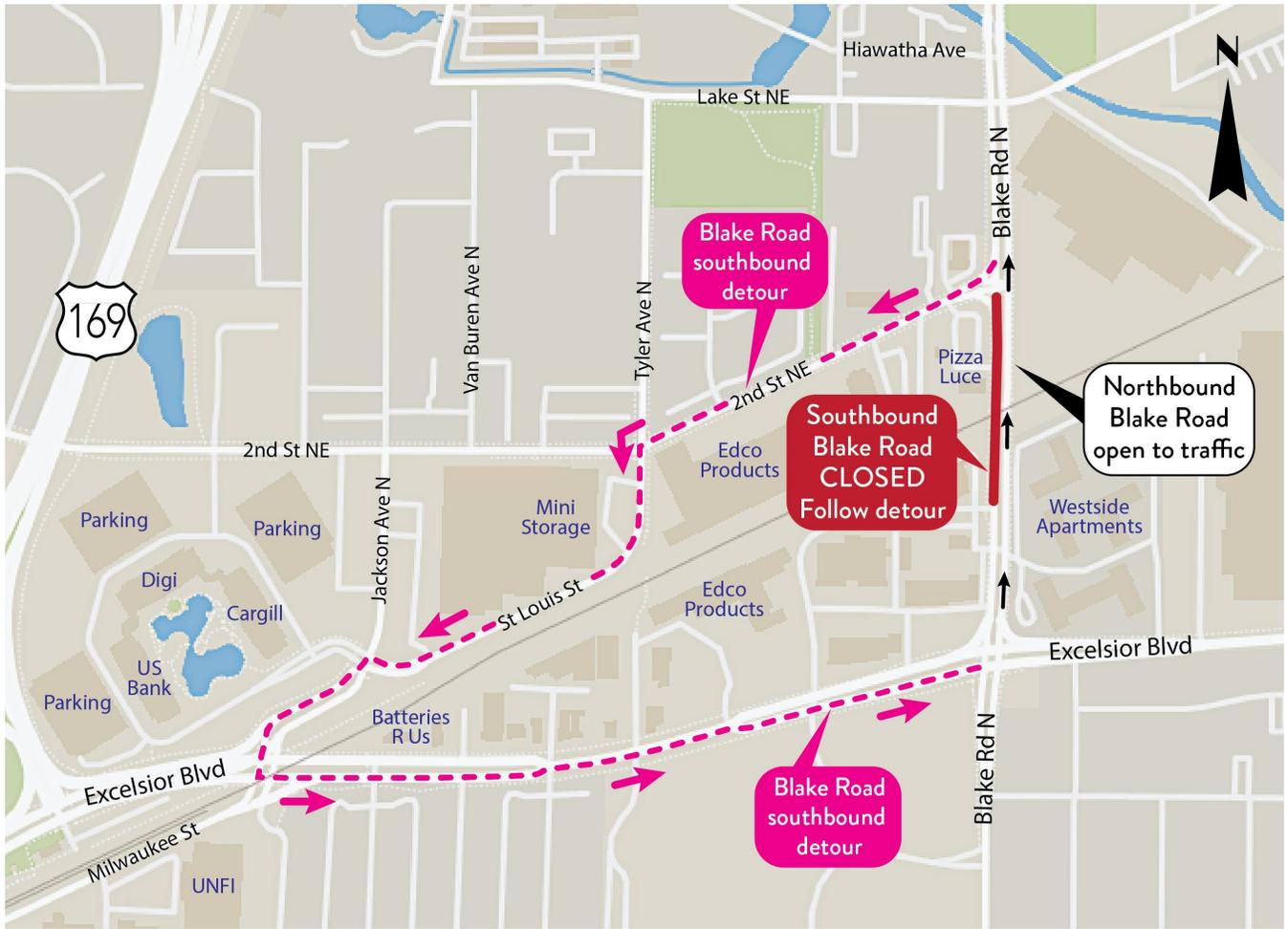


TRAIL DETOUR

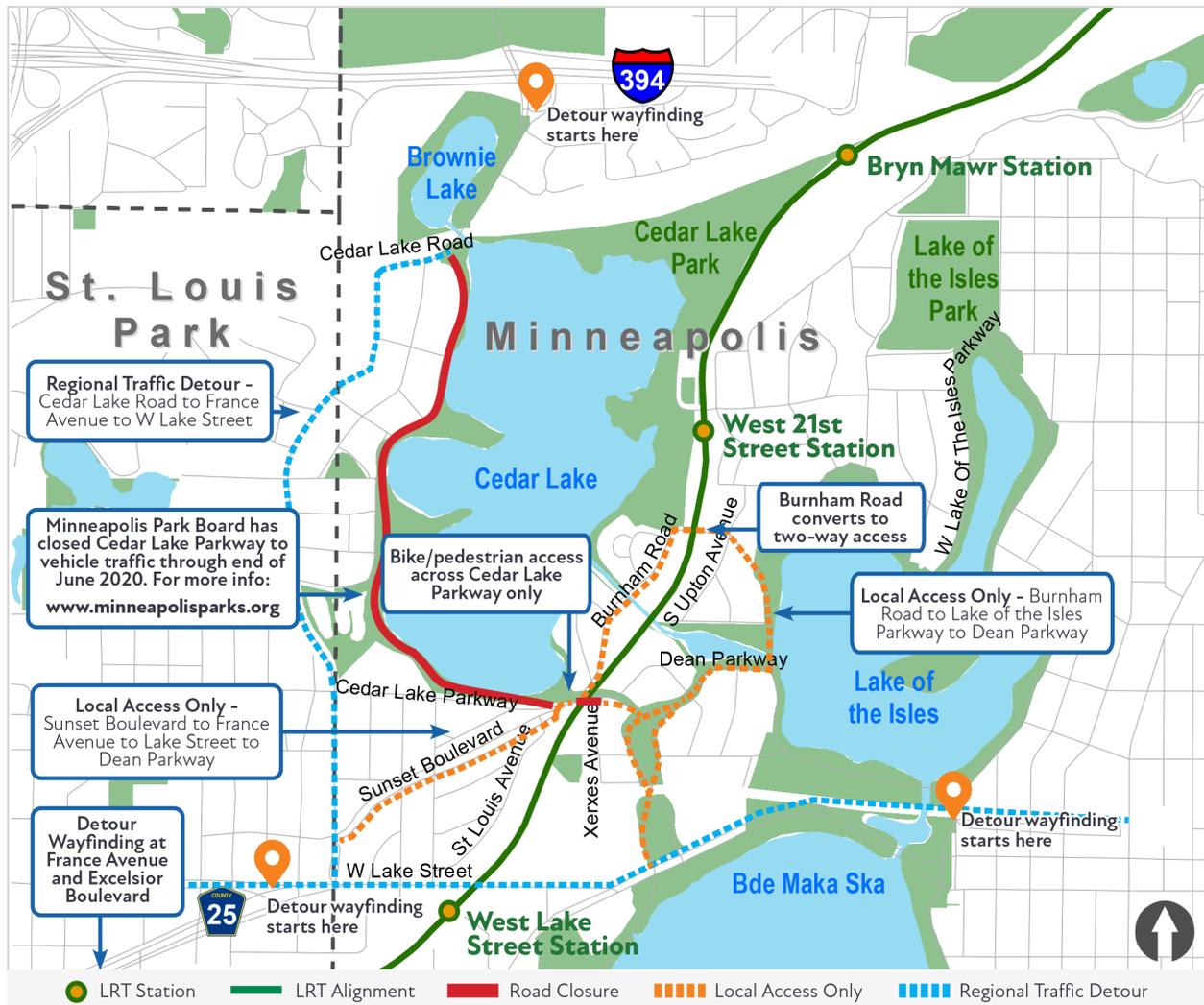
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



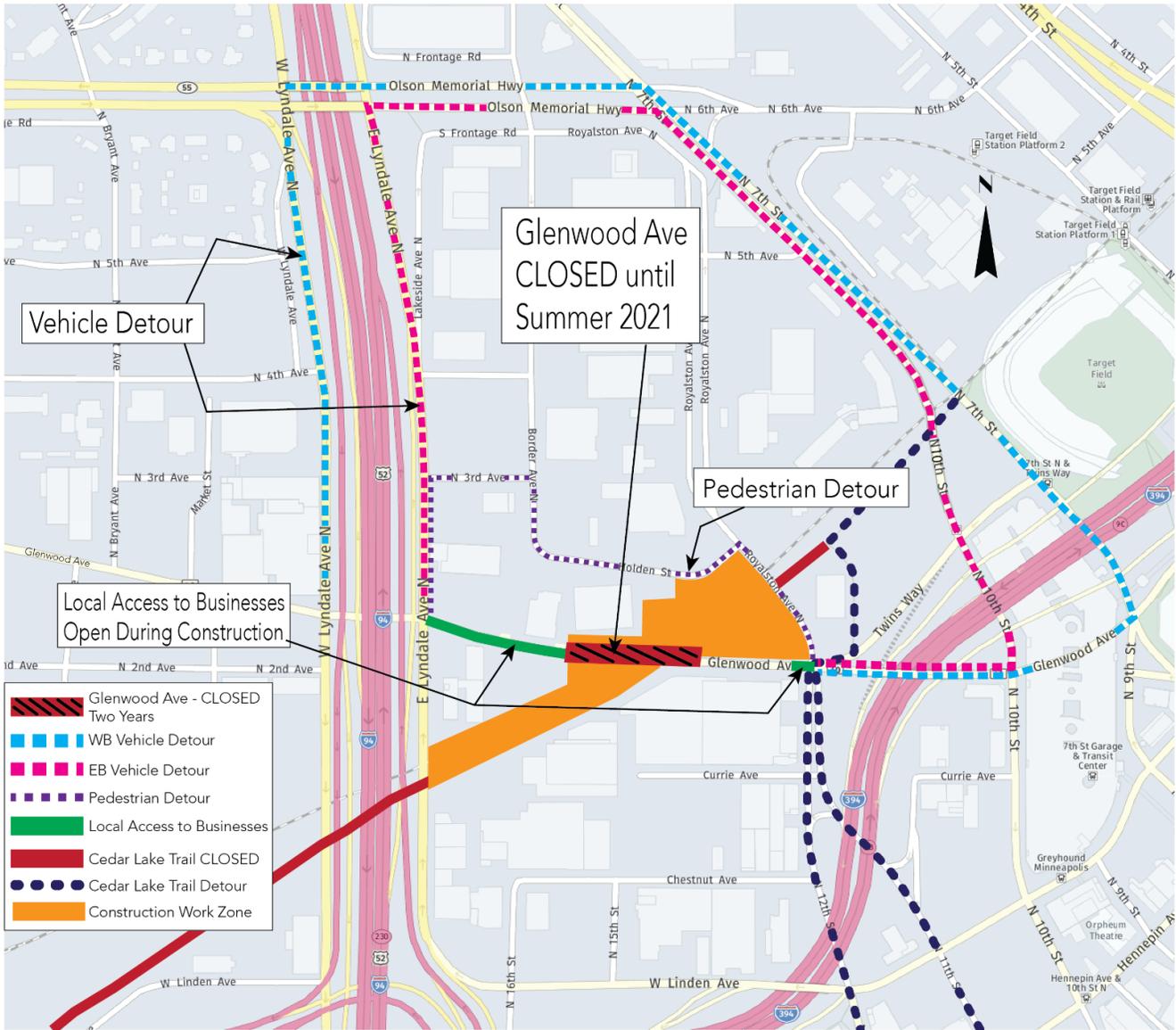
Cedar Lake Parkway Detour in Minneapolis



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

