



Construction Update: March 13, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Earthwork: What to Expect

As the snow melts and the ground warms up, construction activity that will become more prevalent is earthwork. With over 14 miles of construction, there is a lot of earth to prepare and move. A portion of the existing freight rail tracks have been shifted in the corridor but there is still more to do, as well as preparing for LRT track installation. There are also LRT and trail tunnels to dig. Expect excavators, dump trucks, skid steers and other heavy equipment working and moving in and out of the corridor with construction materials.

Weekly Construction Photo: Regional Trail Underpass at Blake Road in Hopkins



Crews are building the walls for the regional trail underpass at Blake Road. This photo shows the wall texture a trail user will see as they pass through the tunnel. The tarps are used to help keep the concrete warm, as it cures in colder temperatures.

Highlights

- Today, March 13, Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park is closed for up to two days to set bridge trusses for the regional trail. The roadway is closed to vehicle traffic. Flaggers will be on site to ensure pedestrians and bicyclists are able to pass through the work area - you may encounter extended wait times if you arrive as they are placing trusses.
- The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis, from 5th Street to Holden Street, is anticipated to close on March 16. This closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map below.**

On-going Activities Update

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

SouthWest Transit bus riders continue to use the temporary facility (**see pedestrian detour map below**). Utilities have been disconnected in the former facility and demolition activities have commenced.

Pier work, including pile driving, for the new LRT bridge that wraps around the SouthWest Station park-and ride structure will continue into Spring 2020. Sidewalks along Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until Spring 2020, to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. The retaining wall is nearly complete, crews continue backfilling the wall and will then remove sheeting.

Prairie Center Drive

On the west side of Prairie Center Drive, near Purgatory Creek Park, piling for piers is ongoing. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. The inside lanes (one in each direction) on Prairie Center Drive, between Technology Drive and Singletree Lane is closed. Private utilities need to be relocated in the area and then the pier will take about six weeks to be constructed (**a map with the roadway impacts is included below**). Additional lane closures will be needed in the spring as work for piers advances.

Eden Road Area

Expect activity in the work zone as crews prep for major spring construction including earthwork.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

Crews continue working on both the south and north abutments. Concrete work is underway for the north abutment and pile driving activities will continue into mid/late March for the south abutment. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed for the next month, depending on temperatures. **See detour map below.**

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

The lane restriction on the ramp from Valley View Road to Highway 212 continues. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane and will remain in this configuration into the spring. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The piers are at different stages of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork. In late-March, overnight road closures on Valley View Road to set bridge girders (support beams) are planned. A date has not yet been set; we will give notice at least seven days in advance. **See the upcoming detour map below.**

In March, Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road will have four phases of different traffic impacts, specifically lane reductions and closures, as crews build LRT infrastructure along the north/west side of the Flying Cloud Drive. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season. This work will also have impacts on connecting roadways at various times. The initial phase, which will begin late March and will last for about a month, will close the two inside lanes and traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on Flying Cloud Drive. The west bound exit from Highway 494 to Flying Cloud Drive will also close for the 2020 construction season. **See the upcoming traffic map below.**

Nine Mile Creek

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

Golden Triangle Station

Piling is ongoing in the area for LRT bridge work as crews make progress on piers. Crews are also advancing concrete work on the piers.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Storm sewer work will resume in area after other utility conflicts are cleared. Expect minor traffic impacts on the east side of the Shady Oak/Highway 212 intersection. The storm sewer work will take four months.

Minnetonka

Highway 62

The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway corridor to accommodate LRT tunnel construction which is underway on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. Crews continue excavation and sheet piling work for the LRT tunnel. Later in March crews will begin laying the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle has temporarily become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road has also been completed on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction at Highway 62 and will be in place until Fall 2020. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Opus Station Area

Earthwork continues in this area. Retaining wall work is ongoing, north of the station area.

Smetana Road

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 traffic in this area. **See detour maps below.** Watermain and sanitary sewer work continues in the area.

Hopkins

Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge Area

Preparation work including tree clearing and ground cover removal for the Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge continues. Crews started clearing work closest to the railroad line and will move south. In addition, crews started to build an access road and preparation for bridge construction.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Work is complete on the station's structural steel elements that support the walls and roof canopy. Other station work activities will pick up as the weather gets nicer.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue to work on the LRT bridge and underground utilities in the area. Piers and abutments continue to take shape. Pile driving, sheeting and concrete work is ongoing in the area.

Blake Road

Crews continue constructing a cut and cover tunnel for the regional trail on the west side of Blake Road. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the spring.

St. Louis Park

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and trail bridges will continue in this area. The abutments are complete. With warmer weather in the forecast, crews will begin backfilling retaining walls in the next few weeks. Work will also pick up in the spring to set bridge girders.

Louisiana Avenue

This spring crews will begin work to place bridge beams over the roadway, two overnight closures are anticipated but not yet scheduled. East of Louisiana Avenue, crews are working on the pedestrian/bike tunnel to the station. Piling driving for the tunnel that will extend under the freight tracks to the station is underway. Shoring and sheeting work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye track, along Oxford Street is beginning in late March.

Wooddale Avenue

Wooddale Avenue between West 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest Project, is reduced to one lane in each direction. Pedestrian access is maintained. Crews are constructing the west approach for the regional trail tunnel. A full road closure will be needed for 30 days, anticipated in late spring, more details to follow. Utility work also continues in the area, with roadway impacts to the southwest.

Highway 100

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 later this year. Bridge abutment work is ongoing.

Beltline Boulevard

Today, March 13, Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park is closed for up to two days to set bridge trusses for the regional trail. The roadway is closed to vehicle traffic. Flaggers will be on site to ensure pedestrians and bicyclists are able to pass through the work area - you may encounter extended wait times if you arrive as they are placing trusses.

Minneapolis

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Utility work continues in the area.

Kenilworth Area Construction

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel continues. One of the press-in-pilers will continue working south from 28th Street. The second press-in-piler is moving north from 28th Street on the freight rail side. It will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheeting installation is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin spring 2020, we will provide notice in this update and through the efforts of our outreach coordinators before this work begins. For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlрт.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services sanitary sewer force main needs to be temporarily relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. After this work is complete, Dean Court will become a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration for six to eight weeks. We anticipate the roadway reconfiguration will be implemented late March. We will provide updates as work progresses.

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

Temporary sheeting is being removed from the channel area as abutment and retaining wall work has been completed. This activity also generates vibration. Then focus will switch to continued concrete work, bridge spans and utility work.

21st Street

No additional work is anticipated in this area in March. Construction equipment continues to move through the corridor.

Bryn Mawr Station Area

Crews continue earthwork in the Bryn Mawr Station area in Minneapolis to construct a surcharge. This work will remain for five months to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station. In late March/early-April earth work will also begin for the new trail.

I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Pier protection work has resumed on the I-394 bridge.

Glenwood Avenue

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 as the bridge has been removed. **See detour map below.** Local access to businesses continues to be maintained. Crews have made significant progress on utility work and retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment for the new roadway bridge continues.

Royalston Avenue

Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the spring. Expect pile driving activities in this area. The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue, from 5th Street to Holden Street, is anticipated to close on March 16. This closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map below.**

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 below.

- 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 until 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, bikes and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. **See detour maps below.**

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 West 21st Street. **See detour map below.**

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

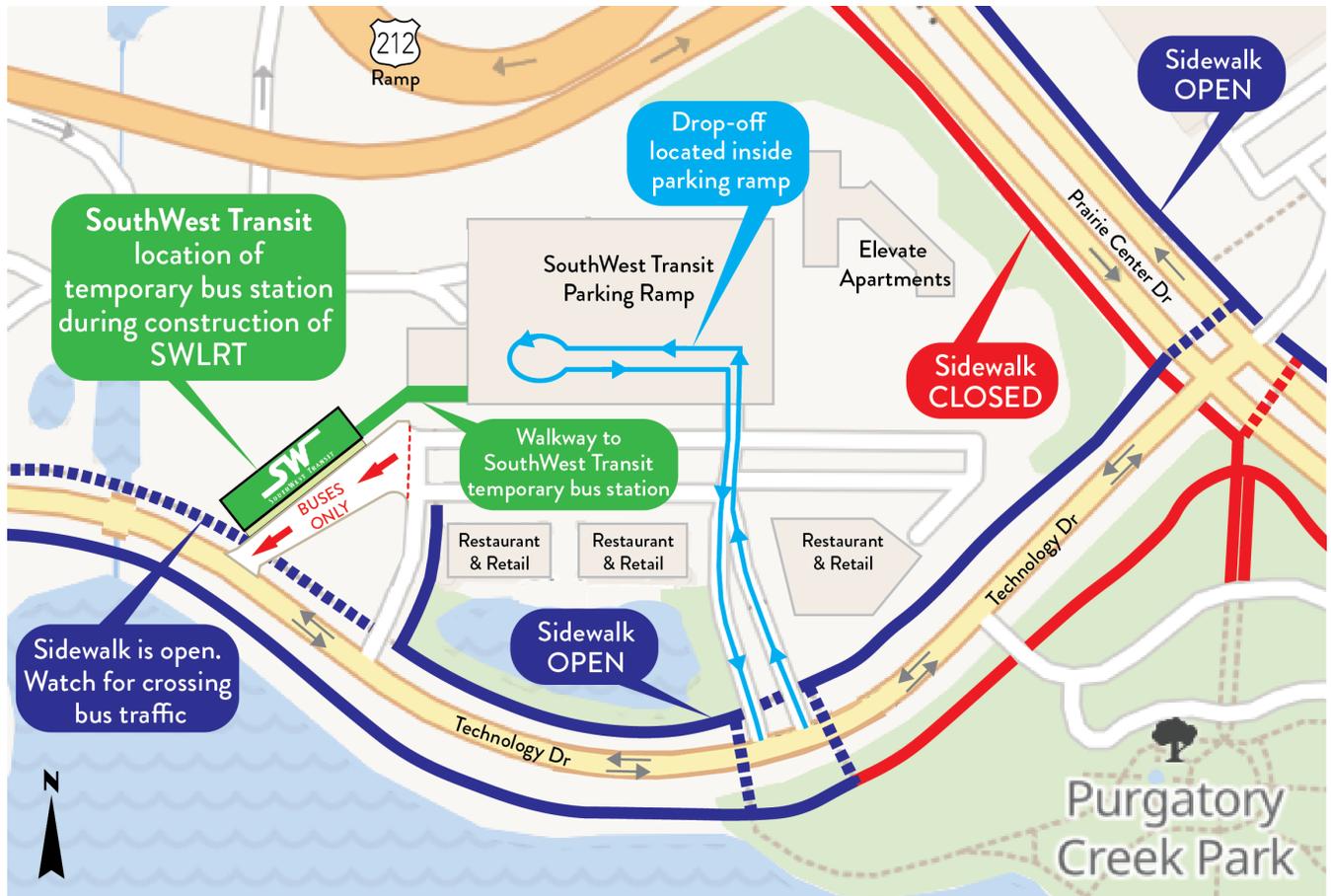
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. **See detour maps below.**

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. Anticipate flaggers in this area as earthwork activities continue in the Bryn Mawr Station area.

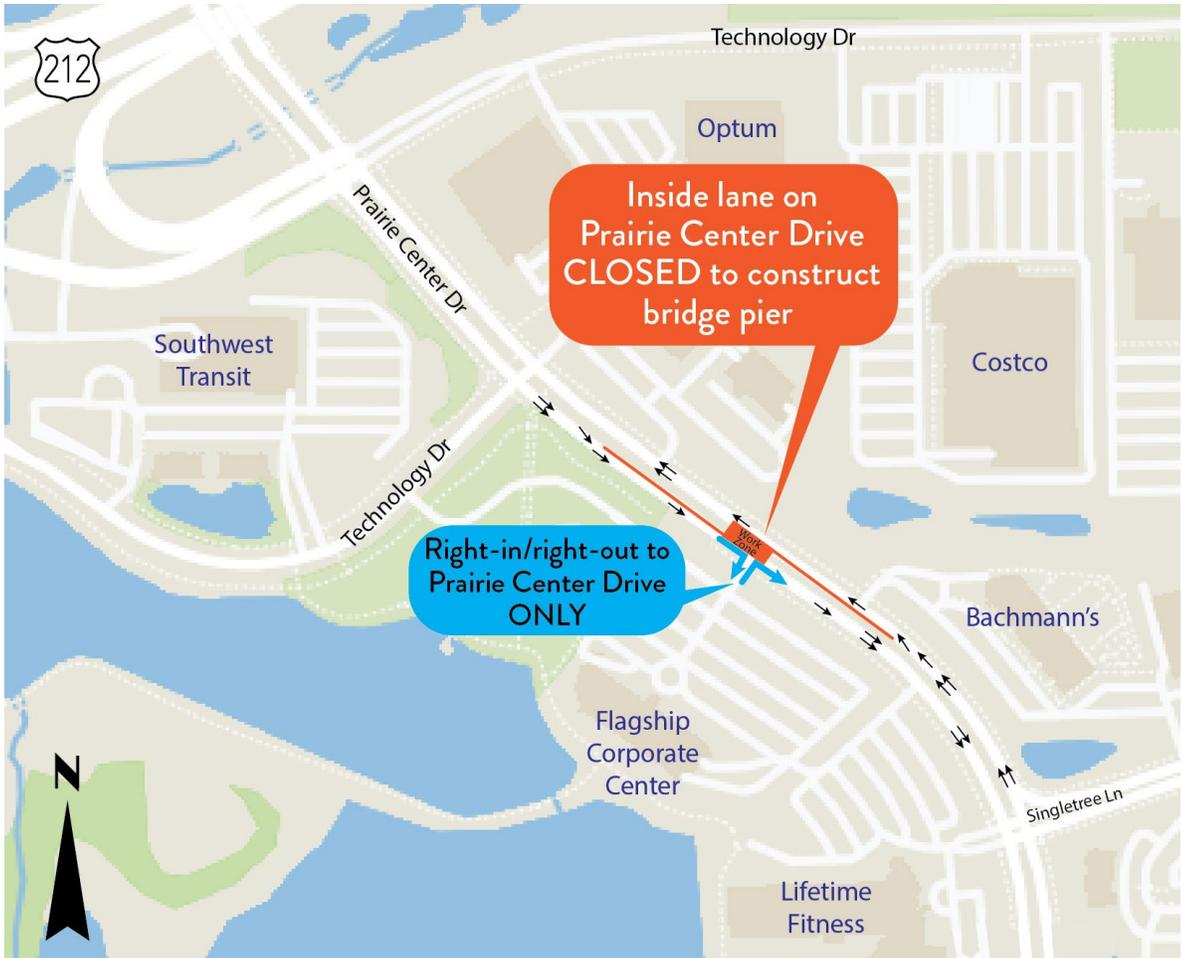
Workforce Opportunities

- Lunda Construction Company and C.S. McCrossan Joint Venture (LMJV), along with their subcontractors, community-based organizations, and unions are holding a Southwest Light Rail Transit Construction Career Fair to discuss potential trade positions within their organizations. The event will be held March 26, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis. Questions can be directed to Sannyang Vang at: svang@lundaconstruction.com or 952-209-2123 ext. 246.

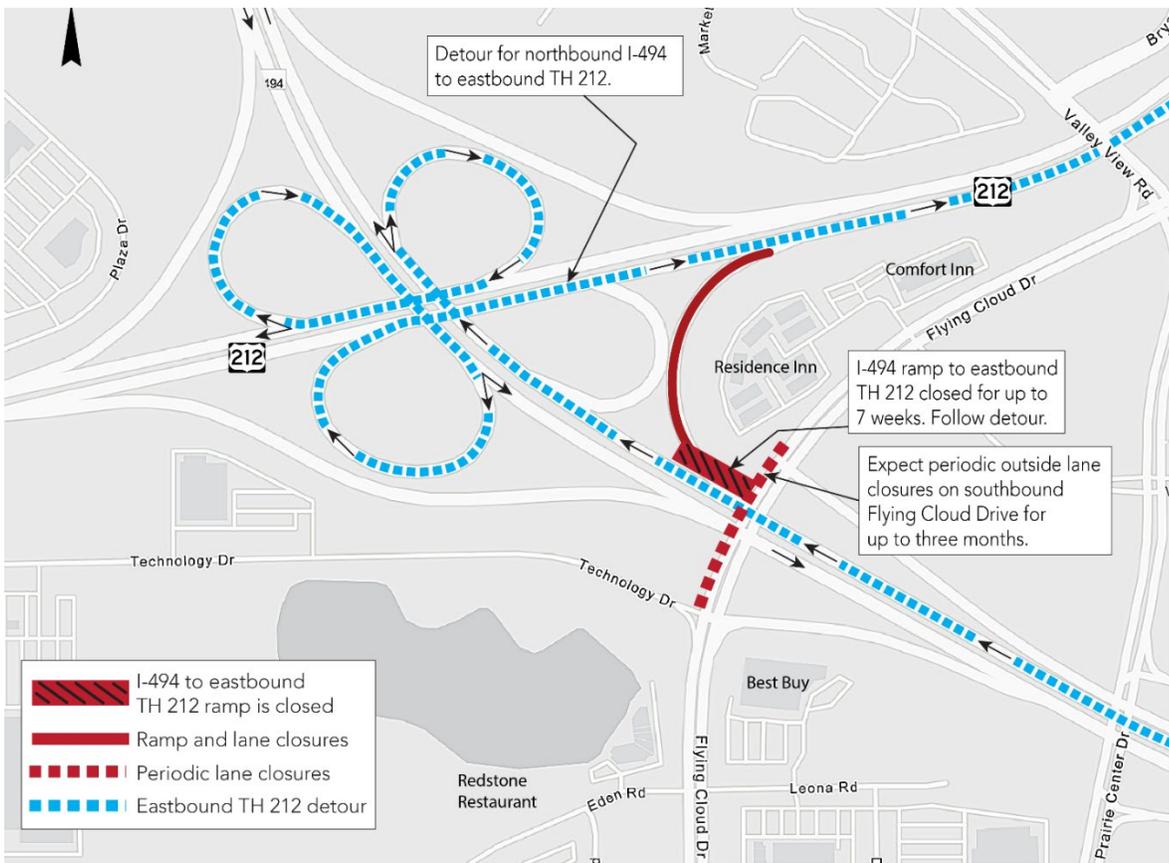
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



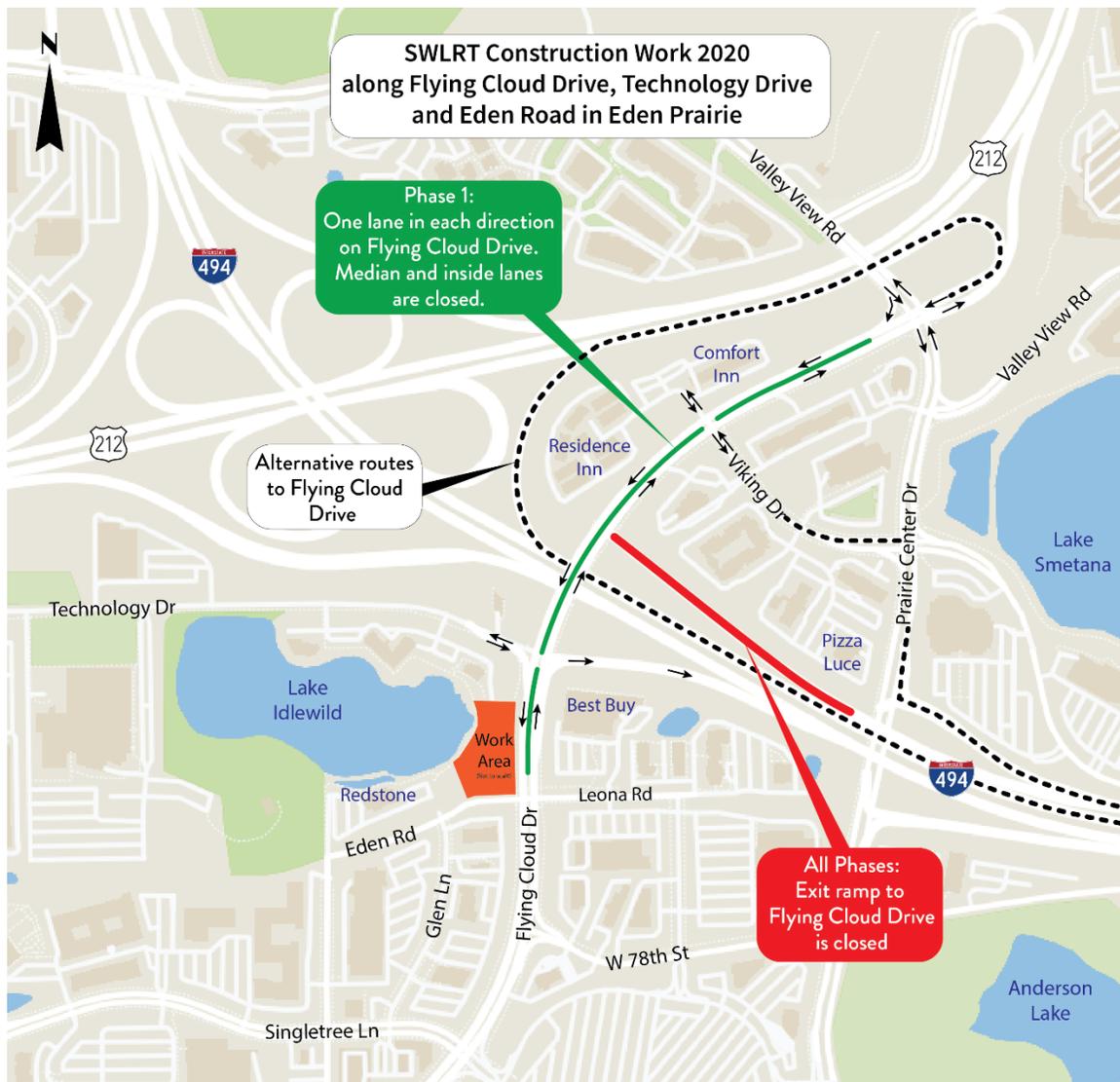
Prairie Center Drive Lane Reductions



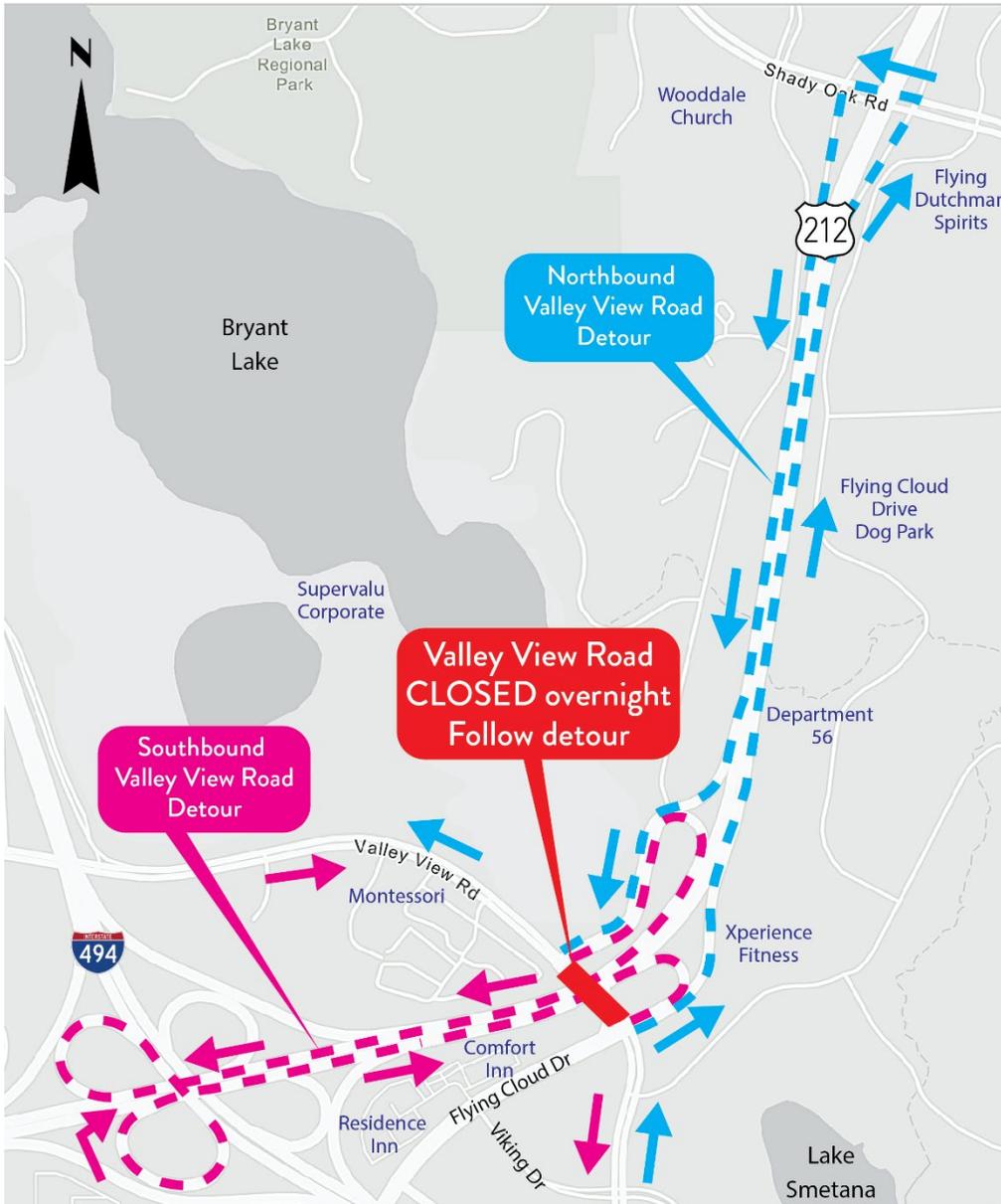
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



Upcoming: Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



Upcoming: Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie. Seven-day notice of the closure will be given.



Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

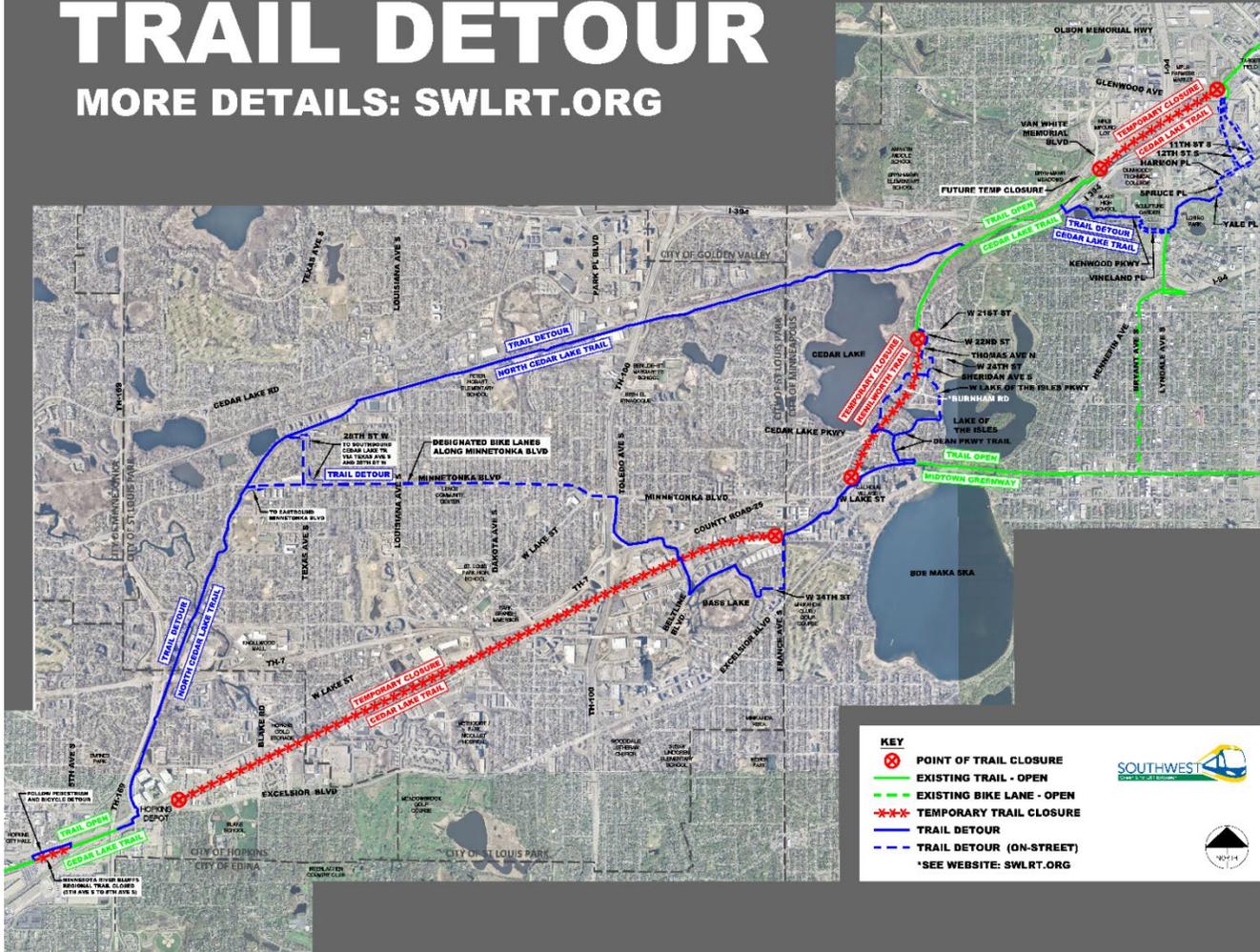


Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



TRAIL DETOUR

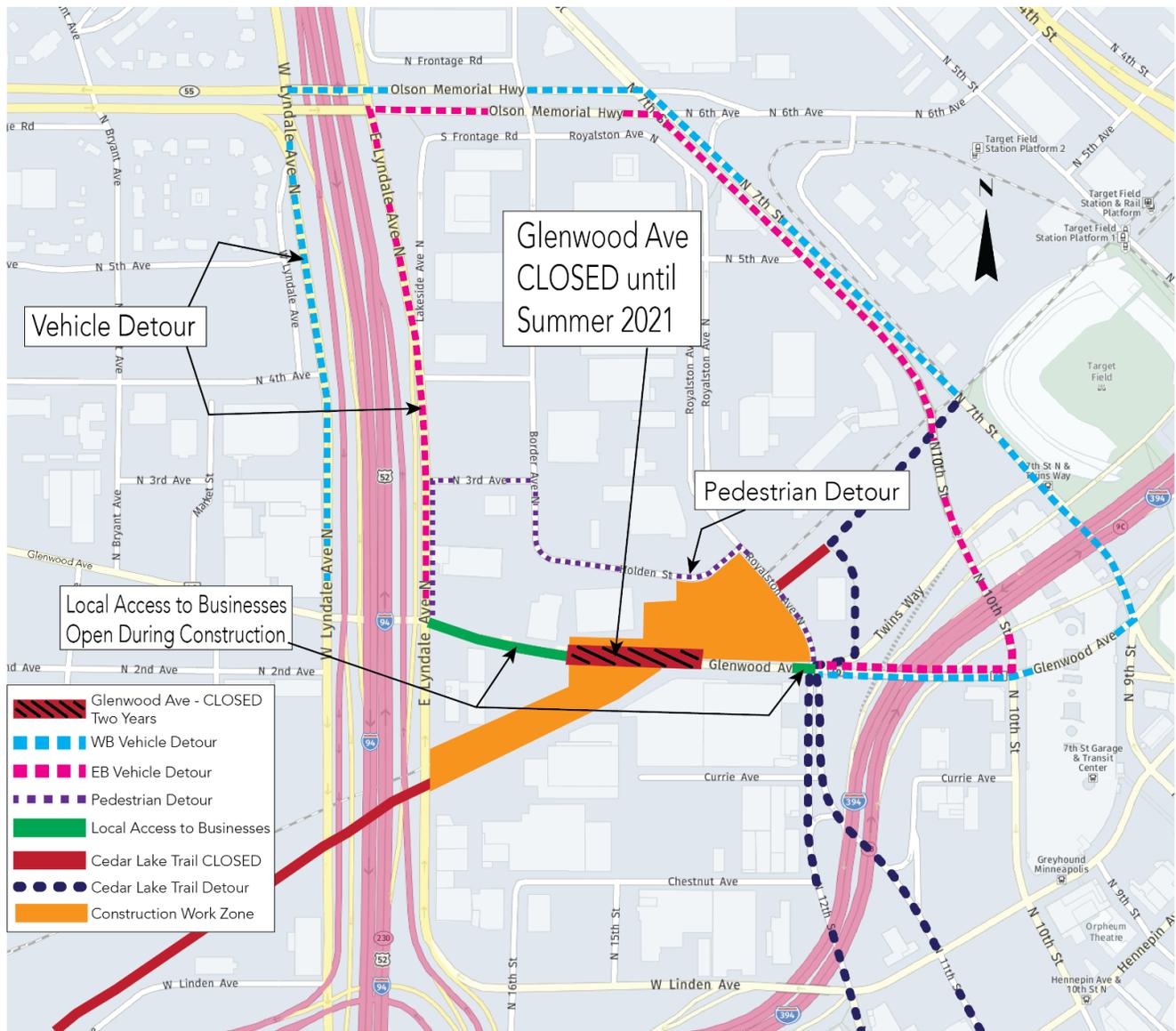
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park Vehicle Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis: Upcoming

