



Construction Update: October 2, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Upcoming Highway 100 Closure

On Friday, October 16 at 10:00 PM to Monday, October 19 at 5:00 AM Highway 100 will close between Highway 7 and Highway 62. This closure will allow crews to set beams for the LRT bridge. Highway 100 closed earlier in September to shift the freight rail bridge to make way for LRT construction. Overnight work can be expected.

[See St. Louis Park Detour maps.](#)

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



Crews have almost completed the western portion of the regional trail underpass at Blake Road, allowing them to remove the excavation supports. Work on the tunnel will continue into next year.

Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews are building a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. Crews are working on excavation, utilities, and pile supports for foundations for the structures, the bus loop and utilities. Some of the new structure is starting to take shape. A stationary tower crane is assisting crews with the work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

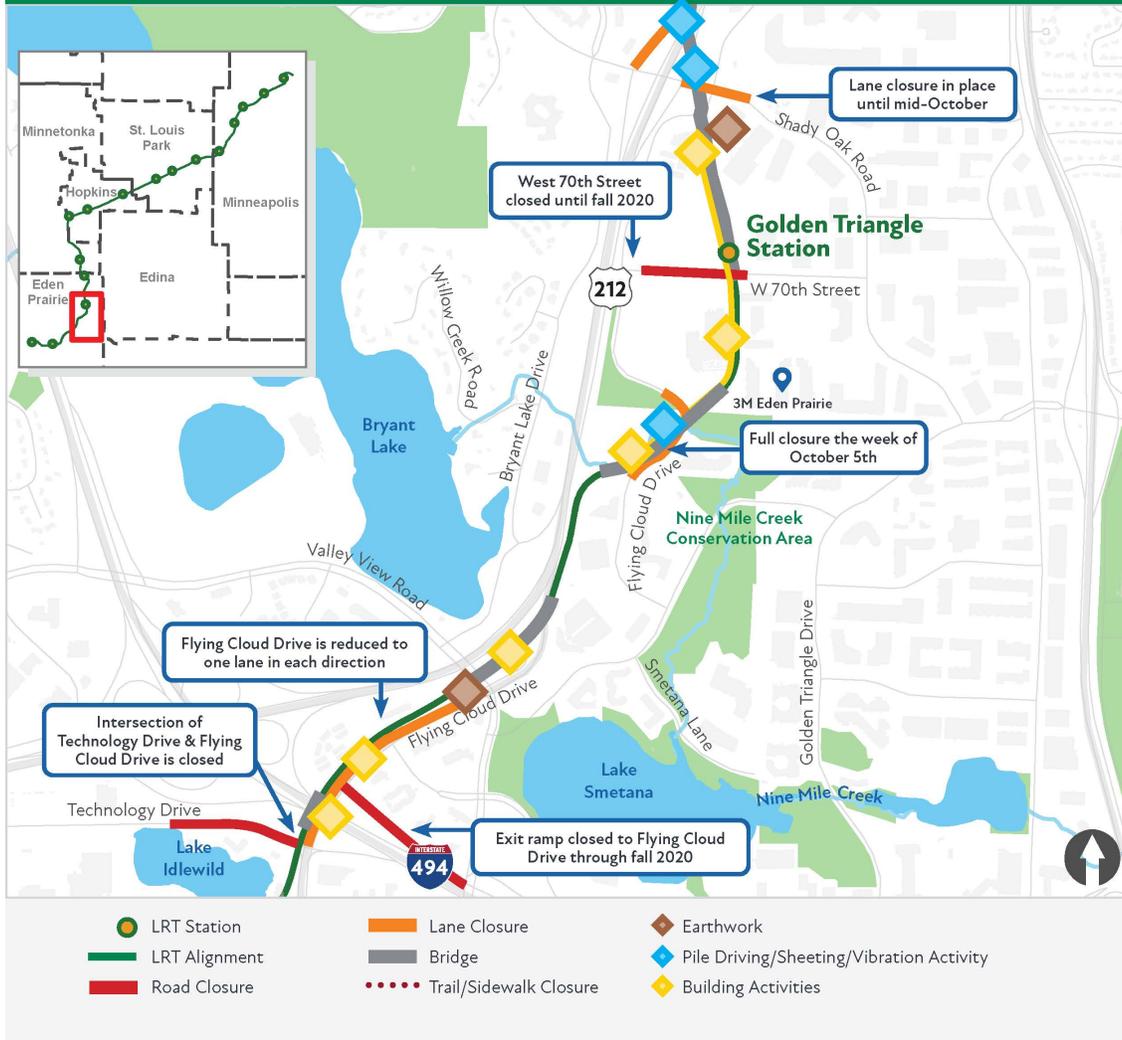
The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWest Transit station, crosses over Technology Drive, follows the east side of Purgatory Creek Park and then crosses Prairie Center Drive to land north of Bachman's on the east side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction until fall 2020, the bridge structure is nearing completion with all the piles driven and beams set. There are close to 500 piles supporting the bridge, making the completion of piling a major milestone. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar, falsework and concrete work. Prairie Center Drive is now open to vehicle traffic, however, expect ongoing, intermittent lane closures.

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

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work continues in the area. Eden Road is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction is advanced in that area. Just west of Eden Road, preparation work and utility construction are beginning for the Eden Prairie Town Center Station.

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. Work to complete the bridge deck is ongoing.

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 grading for the LRT track guideway and building retaining walls.

Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road through November. Traffic will then be open on both sides of the roadway until spring 2021 when traffic will be shifted to the north or west side. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp

from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remain closed into the fall. [See Eden Prairie detour maps here](#). Access to area businesses on the north of the roadway remain open, follow posted signage.

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. We are currently in phase two. These four phases will extend into the 2021 construction season.

Valley View Road

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. Work at this time can be completed without impacting the roadway below.

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the fall. Many of the piers are complete with deck work underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side. Flying Cloud Drive, south of West 70th Street will close for the week of October 5th to set bridge beams for the Nine Mile Creek LRT bridge.

West 70th Street at Flying Cloud Drive is closed into November to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway. Access to businesses in the area will be maintained.

Golden Triangle Station

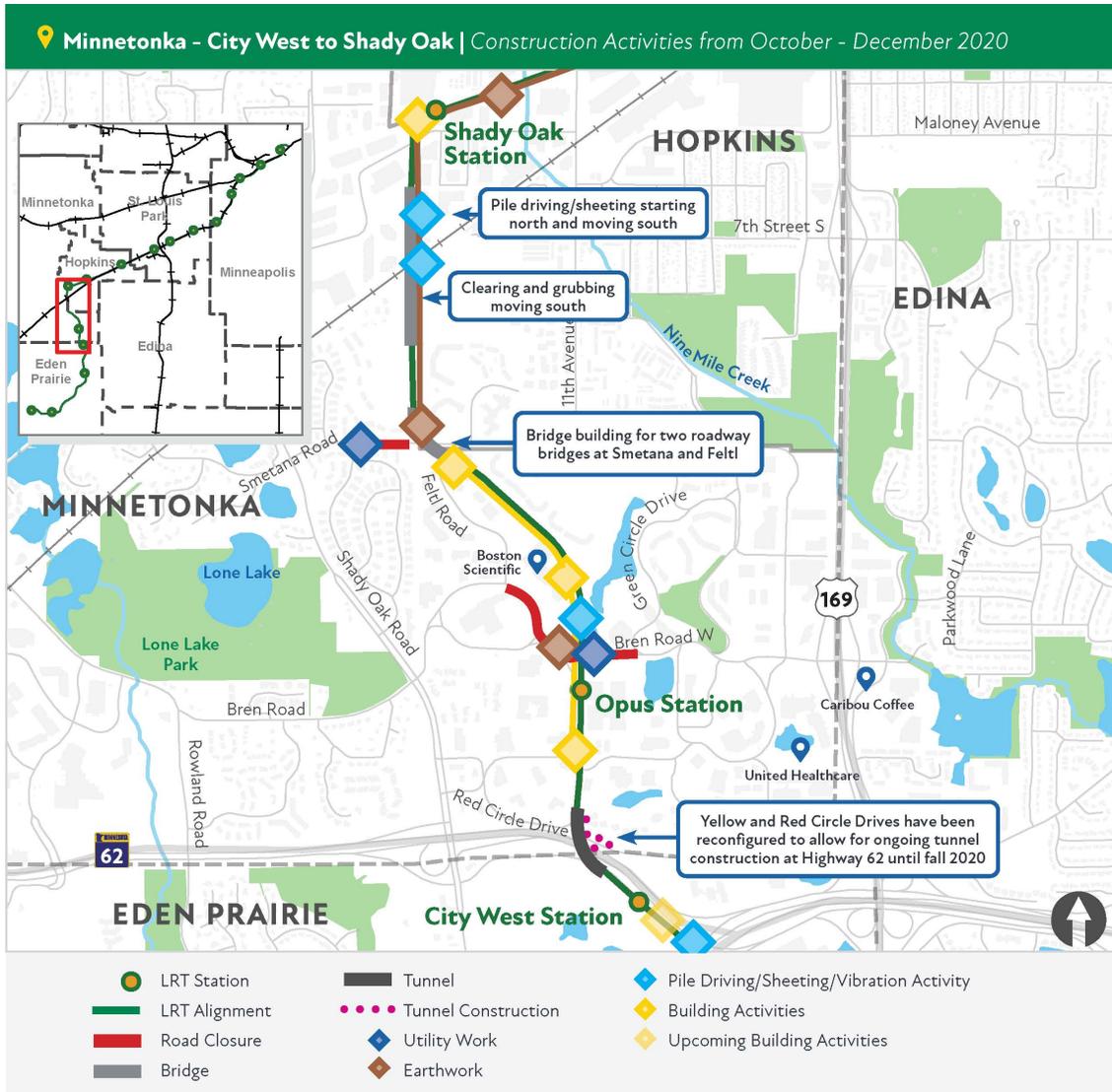
Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge for the LRT tracks north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Crews are working on details for the Golden Triangle Station and completing the construction of area bridges.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for 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 start later in the fall to advance the LRT bridge, expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed through the fall. 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



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 2020. Crews finished constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section and continue to advance work on the tunnel walls and roof and will begin to backfill sections.

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. [See Minnetonka roadway changes here](#). The eastern portion of Red Circle Drive changed direction the week of September 21 as City of Minnetonka construction crews finished bridge work that allowed a portion of the roadway to reopen.

Opus Station Area

Station construction will continue to advance with crews working on the station roof. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area and along the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roadways.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians into the fall. [See Minnetonka detour map here](#). Crews are advancing utility work in the area.

From Bren Road West to Smetana Road, crews are 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. Work on the Smetana Road bridge continues to advance.

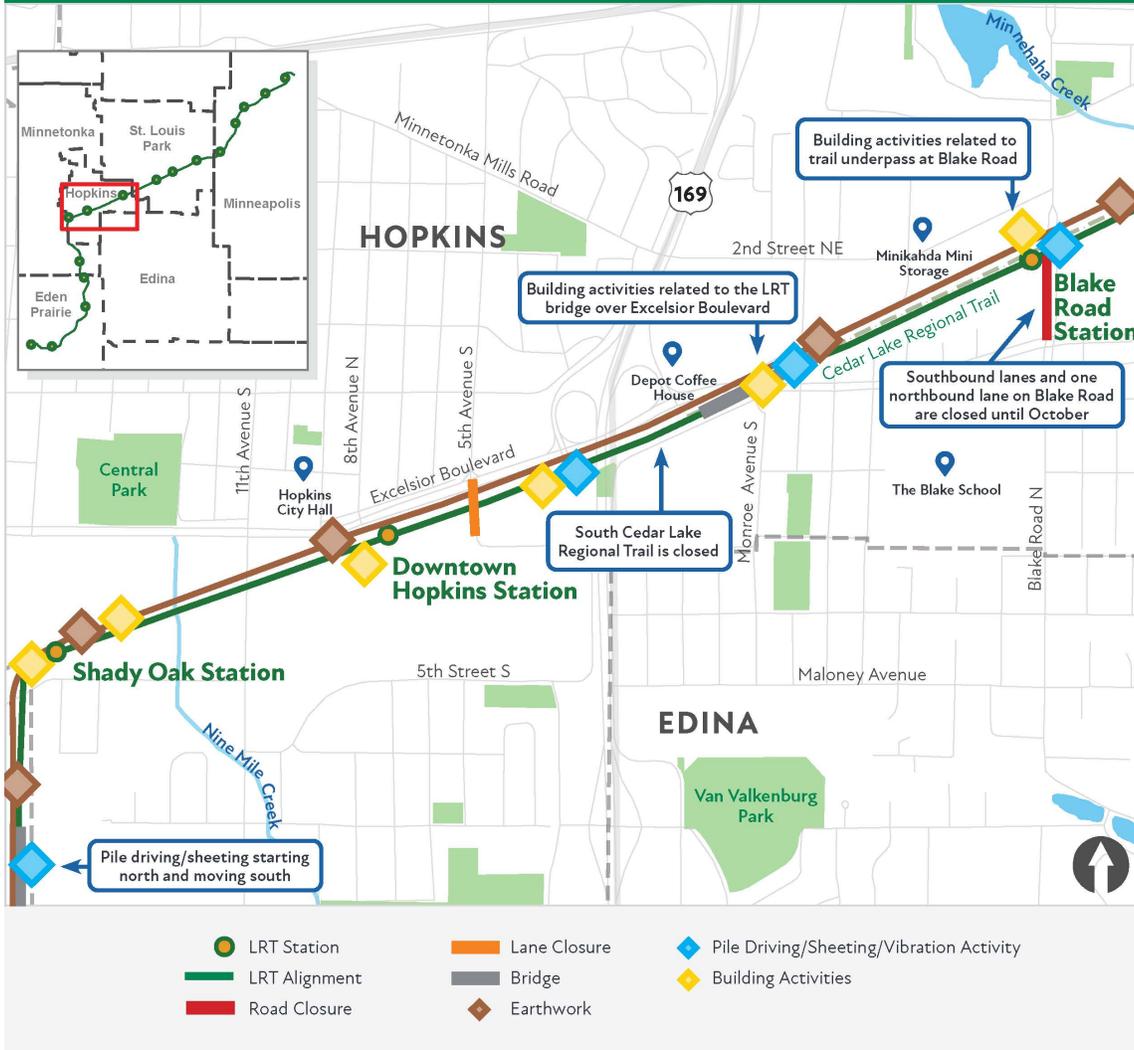
Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed through 2020. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here](#).

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 near K-Tel Drive. Work on the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through into spring 2021. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



Shady Oak Road Station

Shady Oak Station construction continues, and the station structure has emerged.

11th Avenue South

All lanes of traffic have been restored at the LRT crossing at 11th Avenue. LRT tracks will be pulled through the intersection at a later date.

5th Avenue South

Reconstruction of 5th Avenue has begun and will be ongoing through October. Work on 8th Avenue will occur next spring.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab.

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 tracks are starting to take shape. Crews are also progressing with the assembly of the form-traveler system. Initial grouting and stressing have occurred, and work is progressing to full spans. 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.

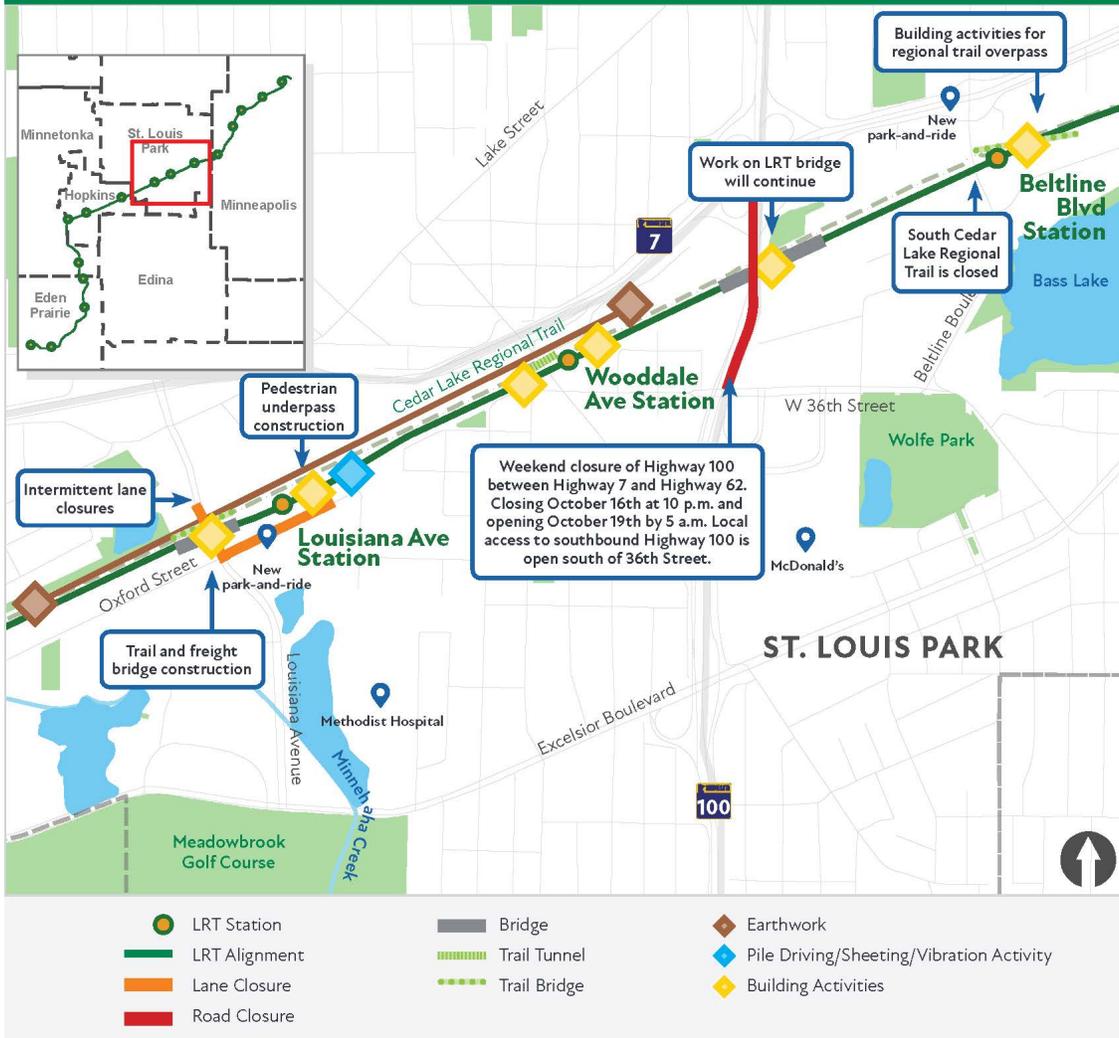
Blake Road

The project is improving safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are completing the west segment of the underpass under Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road remain closed to vehicle traffic. 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. [See Hopkins detour maps here](#). Later this fall vehicle traffic will open to one lane in each direction. Crews will work to complete the regional train underpass in the spring.

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1

St. Louis Park - Louisiana Ave to Beltline Blvd | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges is nearing completion, tracks just need to be pulled across the freight bridge, anticipated this fall. Crews are finishing details of the bridges and area retaining walls.

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. Work 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. The freight tracks will be shifted onto the new bridge later in the fall and then the old bridge will be demolished.

Wooddale Avenue

Construction of the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure is complete. An additional closure will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection. Work continues in the area to advance various construction elements.

Highway 100

On Friday, October 16 at 10:00 PM to Monday, October 19 at 5:00 AM Highway 100 will close between Highway 7 and Highway 62. Lane closures on Highway 100 are also anticipated on Saturday morning, October 3 so that crews can pour concrete for the bridge pier. **See St. Louis Park detour maps.**

Beltline Boulevard

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. Work on the west half of the bridge structure is complete and with freight rail moved the east half of the bridge can be completed later this fall or spring 2021.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard is being completed and all lanes of traffic will reopen this Friday or next week.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5



Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Work on area utilities is nearing completion and crews are building the new permanent trail in this segment. Retaining wall work has started in the area along Chowen Avenue.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

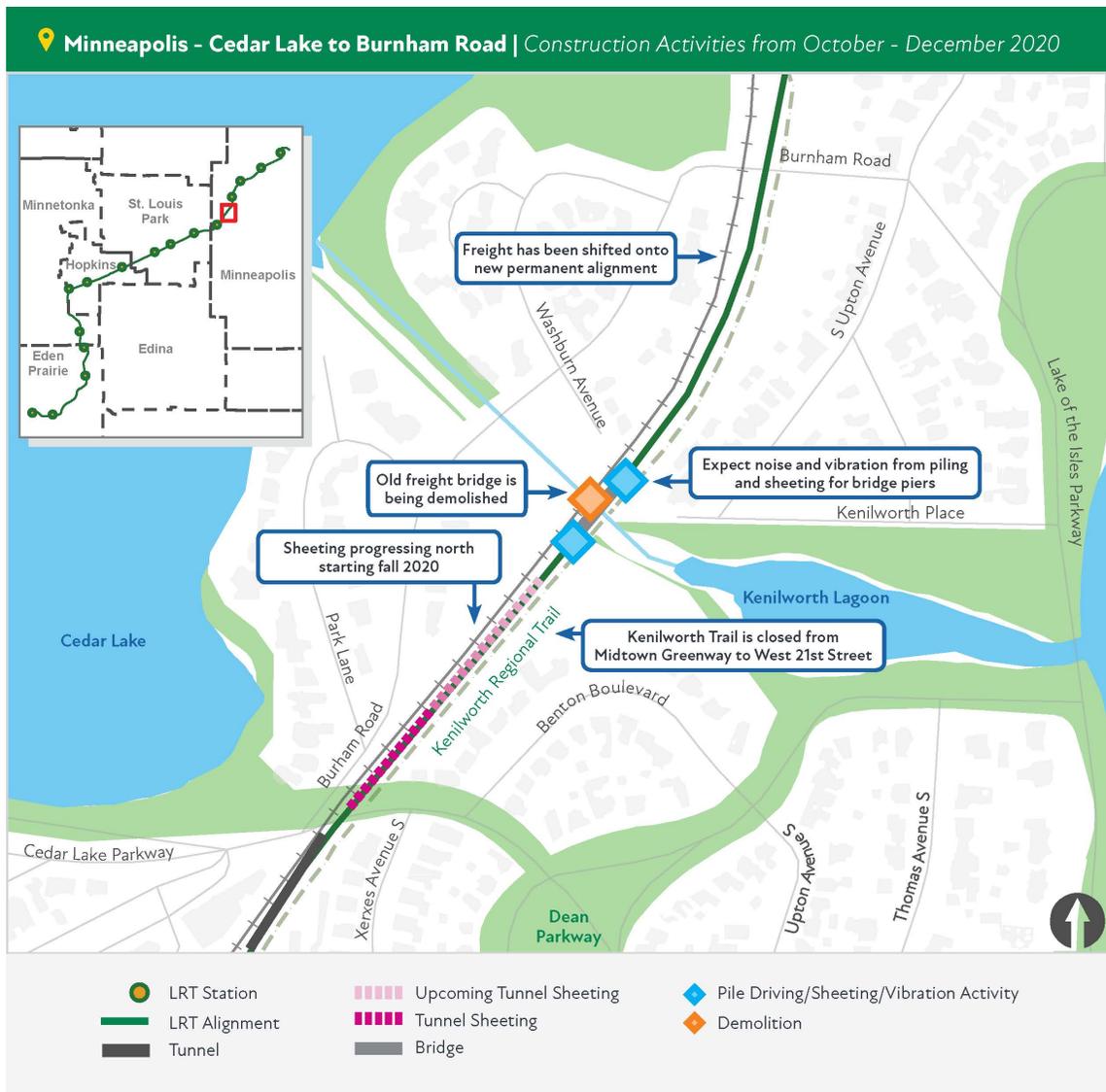
From the West Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022.

In the coming weeks expect that one press-in-piler will be north of Cedar Lake Parkway and will move towards the channel installing sheets, the other piler will continue to work near Lake Street. Residents should expect ongoing work in the area, including occasional vibration when obstructions are encountered. Crews also

continue to progress with the first stages of tunnel excavation. Crews will be excavating material and installing cross braces called struts.

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

An approximately six-month closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed at a later date to complete tunnel excavation and construction, currently anticipated in Spring 2021.

Burnham Road

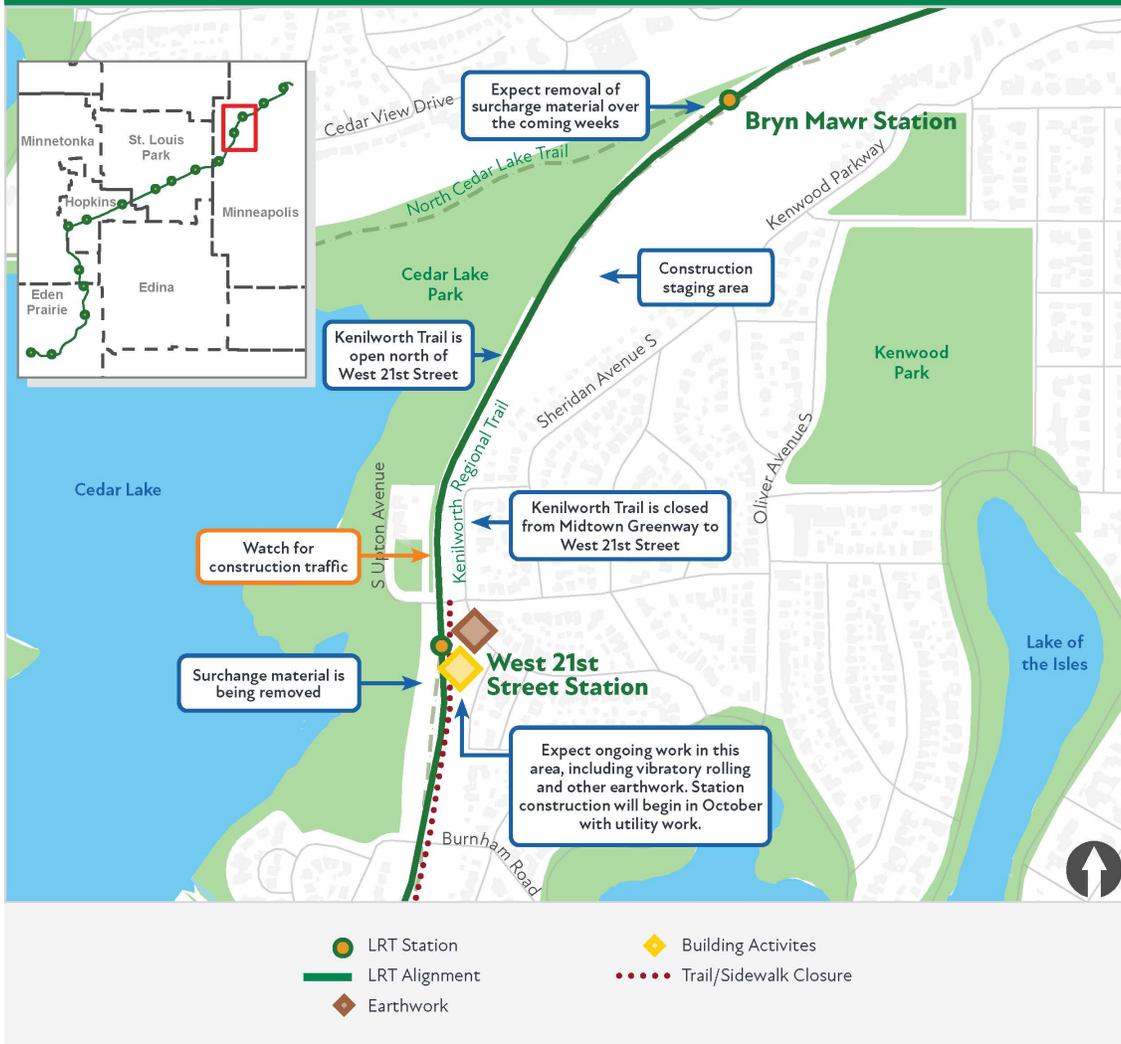
The northbound lane of Burnham Road reopened on Friday, September 18 after being closed for approximately three weeks.

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 complete and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Freight rail is now operating on the new track alignment and bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel. Demolition of the old freight bridge has begun and will be completed the week of October 5. Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel will follow the removal; expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete this next phase of work. Flaggers for water traffic will be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed, and traffic may be required to wait for a short period. If a closure is needed notice will be posted at least 14 days in advance.

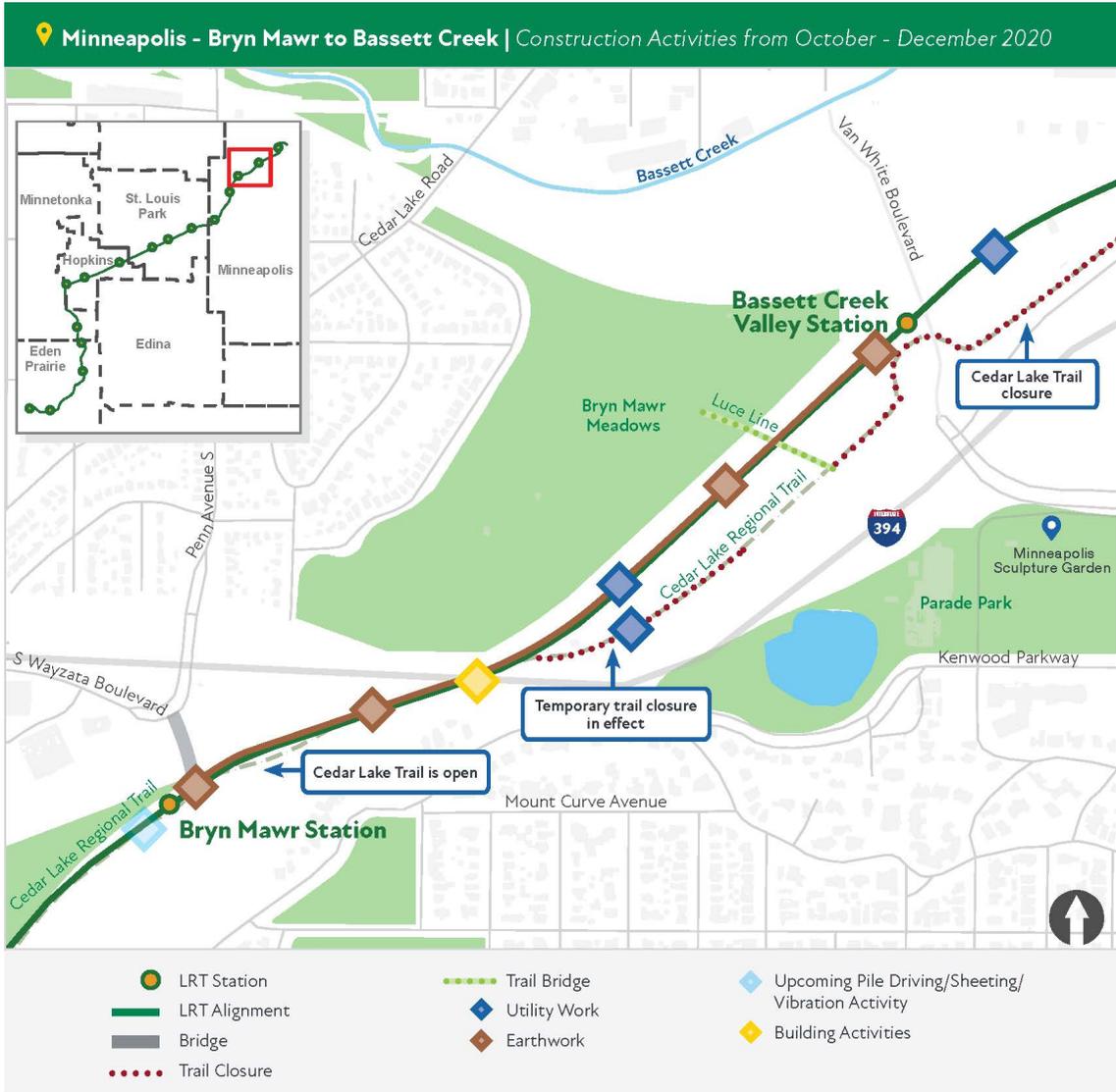
Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



West 21st Street

The soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can now support station construction. Expect the surcharge material removal as crews are available. Expect continued excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area, including vibratory rollers.

West 21st Street Station construction is expected to begin in October, expect preparation activities, such as earthwork and early utility work.

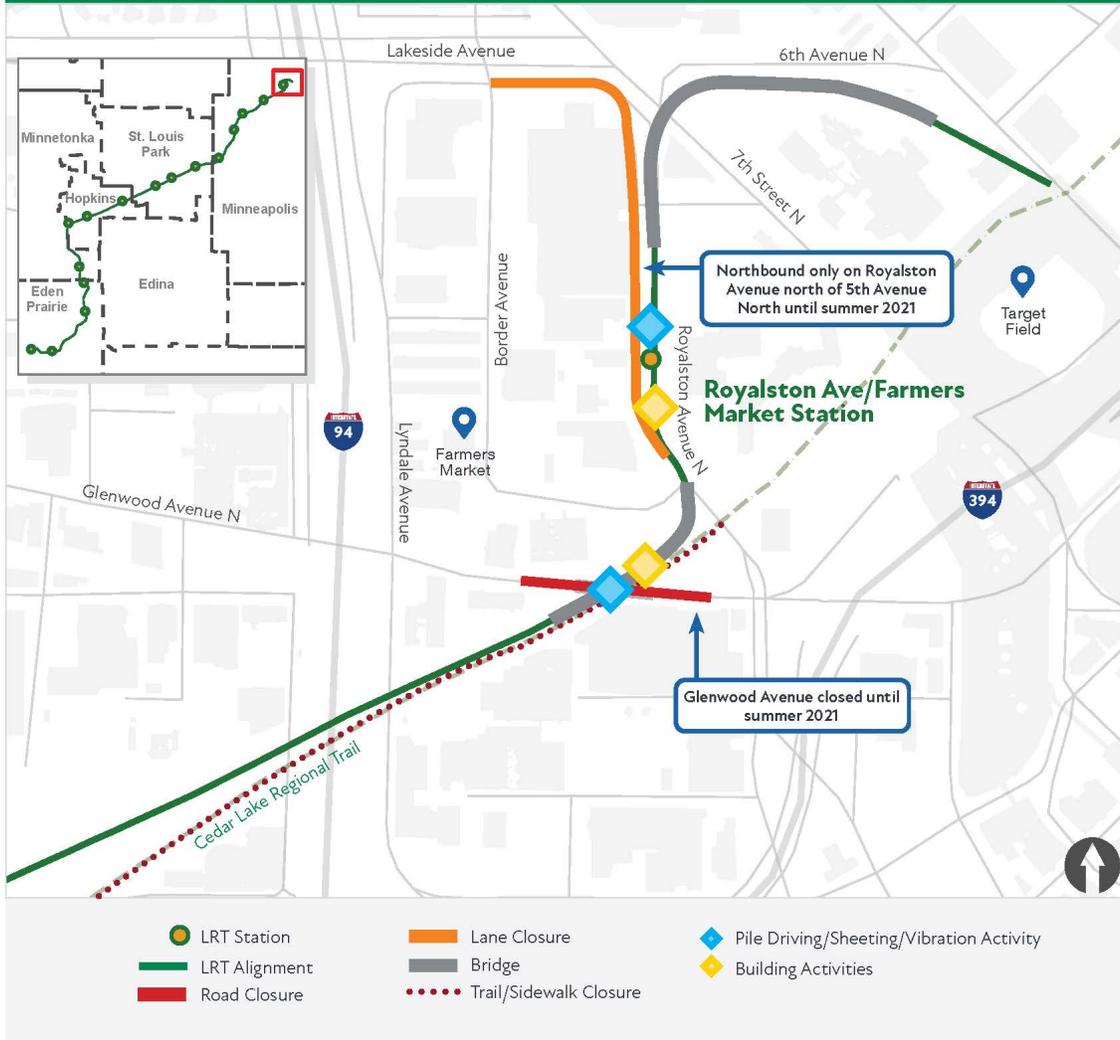


Bryn Mawr Station Area

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 soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can now support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as excess material begins to be removed as crews become available. Crews will also start work, including piling, for vertical circulators at this location.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, LRT will cross a new Glenwood Avenue bridge at the roadway 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 North 12th Street 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 are finishing retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment is nearing completion with crews removing supports for excavation. Grading work is also proceeding. BNSF crews will follow to shift the track to its new position to the north in this area.

Royalston Avenue

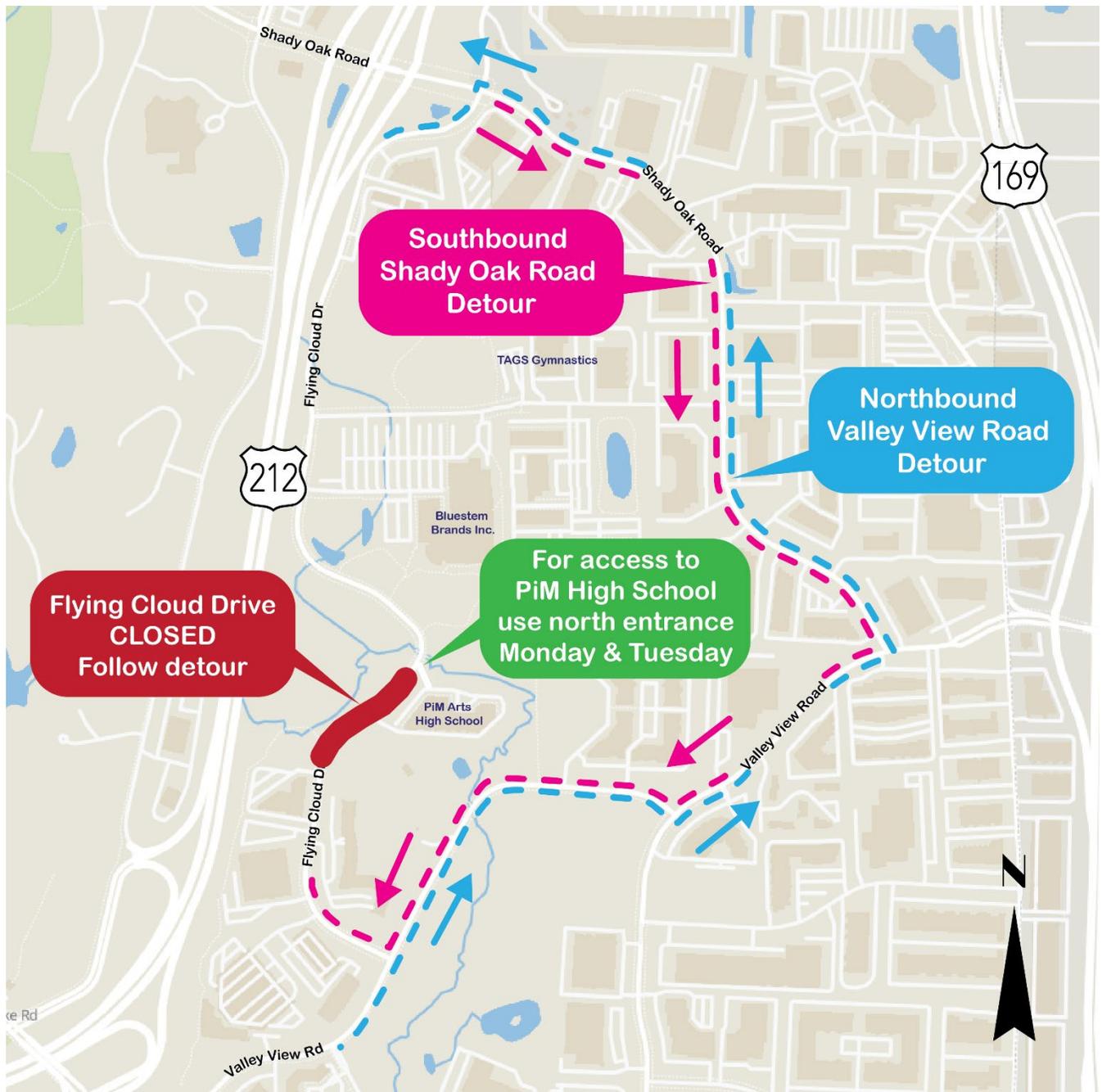
This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer’s Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street and connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed.

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 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.](#)

SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie

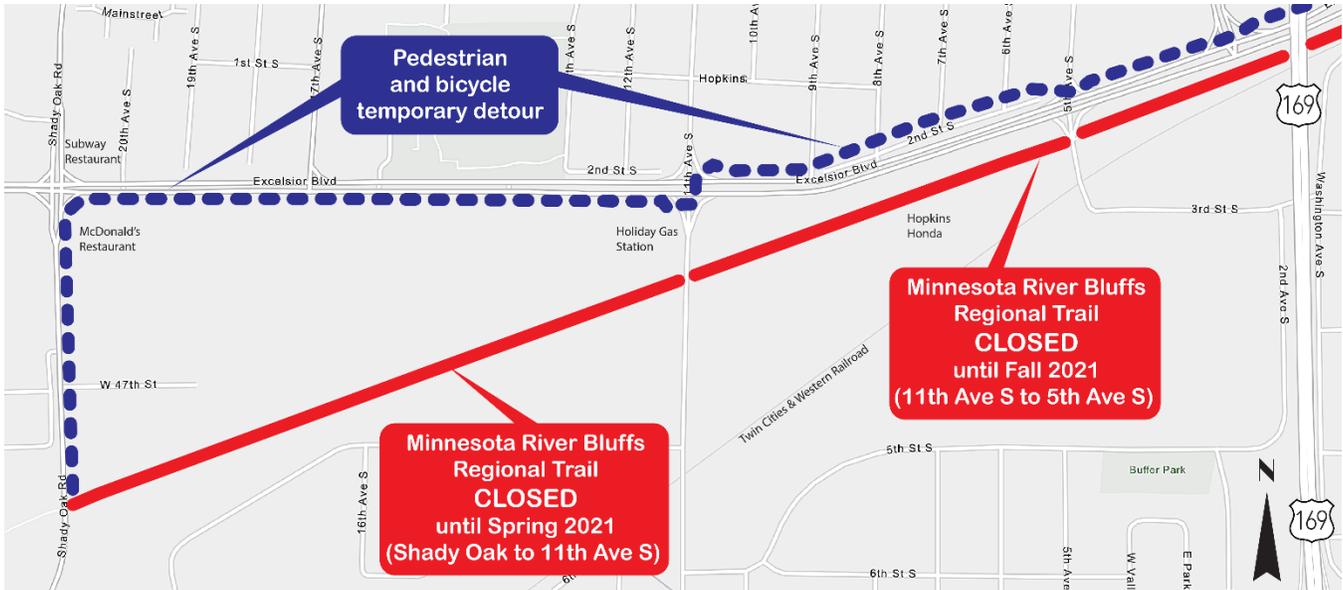




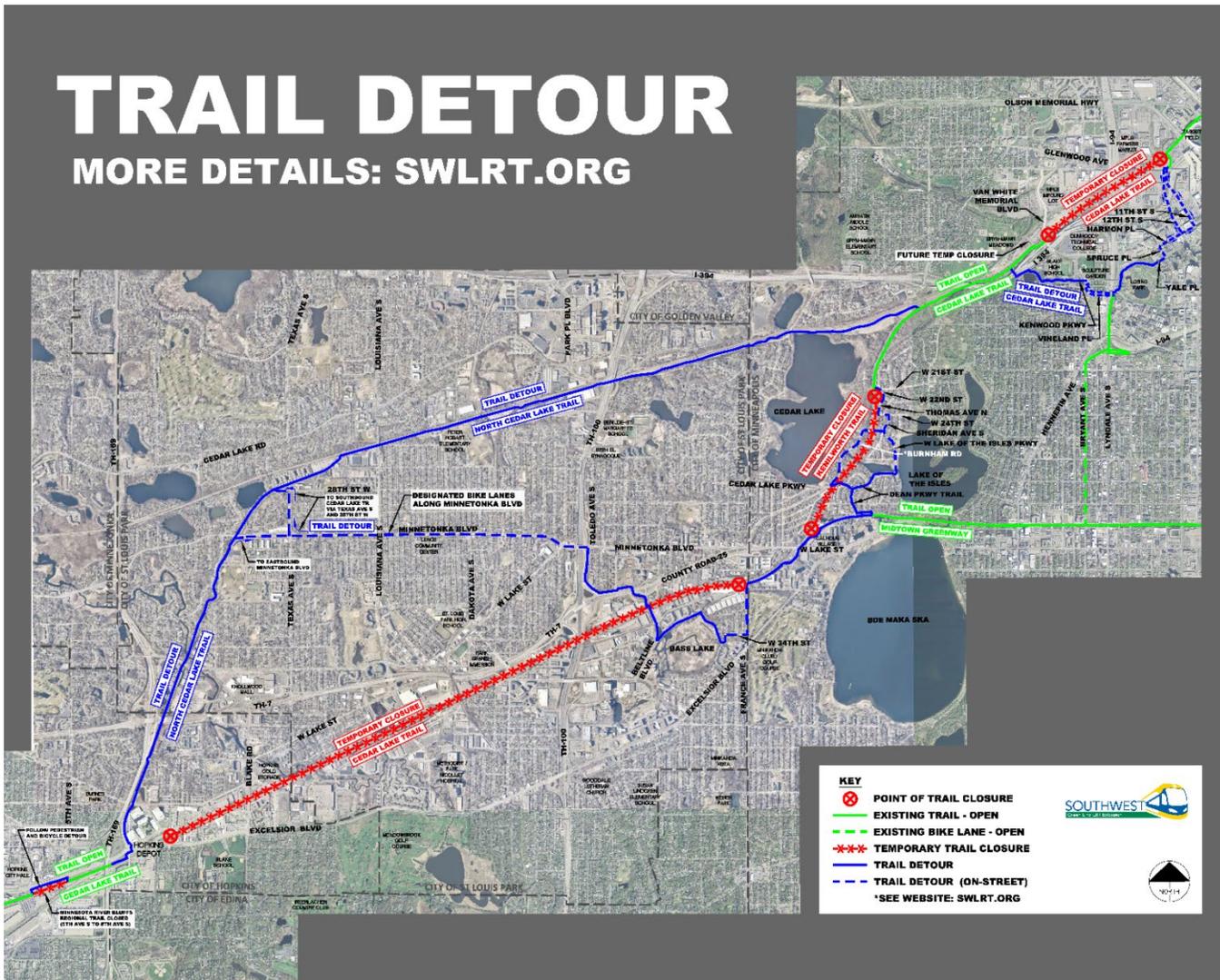
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



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



Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



5th Avenue Detour in Hopkins (Upcoming)



HWY 100 DETOUR

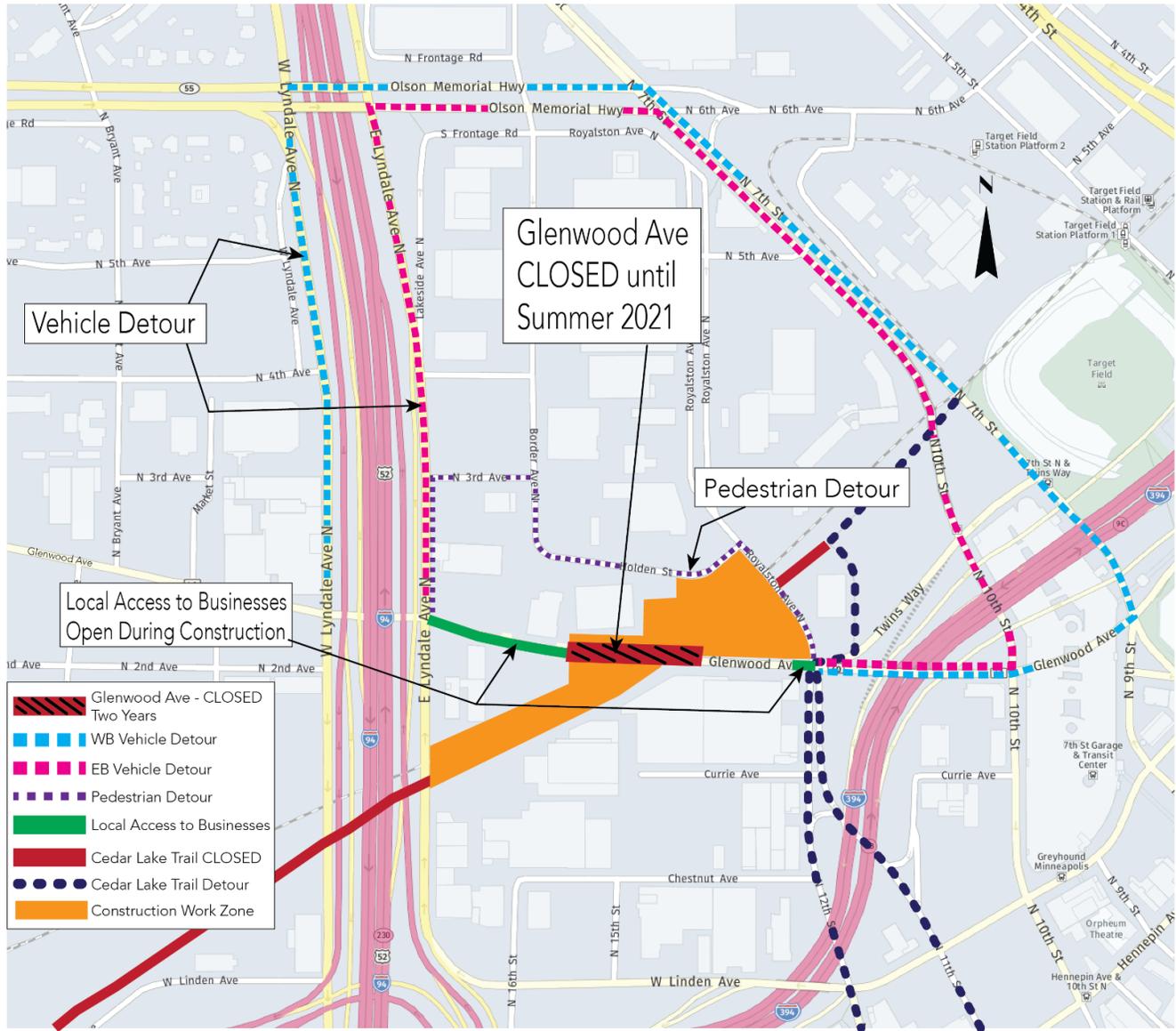
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

