



**Construction Update: September 17, 2021**

**Web: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org)**

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

**Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933**

### **Upcoming Closures of Note**

- **Luce Line Trail Bridge** at Bryn Mawr Meadows Park: The bridge will close on Monday, September 20. The trail bridge will be demolished and reconstructed to tie into the future Bassett Creek Valley LRT Station. Trail users will cross the rail corridor to the west adjacent to Highway I-394. It is anticipated that the construction of the new bridge will take approximately one year to complete. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- **Cedar Lake Parkway** at the Kenilworth Trail: A full closure to vehicle traffic is planned on Monday, September 27. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be preserved for the duration of this closure. This short-term closure allows crews to prepare the parkway for eventual tunnel excavation and construction. Crews will work on metal sheets under the parkway and perform grouting work to seal gaps between sheeting. Expect noise and vibration. A long-term closure of Cedar Lake Parkway is expected to take place in spring 2022. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- **Highway 62:** A full closure of the westbound lanes between Highway 212 and Shady Oak Road in Eden Prairie is anticipated from Friday, September 24 in the evening through Monday morning, September 27. We anticipate additional westbound lane closures on Highway 62 through October. More details to follow.

### **Construction Walking Tours**

Southwest LRT construction walking tours are back! You can learn more and reserve a spot for an October walking tour in each of the corridor cities [here](#). Registration is required for the walking tours due to limited space on construction sites. We will provide hardhats and other personal protective wear. Please note, these tours are weather dependent and may be cancelled.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Highway 62 LRT Tunnel Progress in Eden Prairie**



Working over the weekend during evening and early morning hours, crews restored Highway 62 over the newly constructed LRT tunnel near the Eden Prairie and Minnetonka boarder.

[Eden Prairie](#)

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



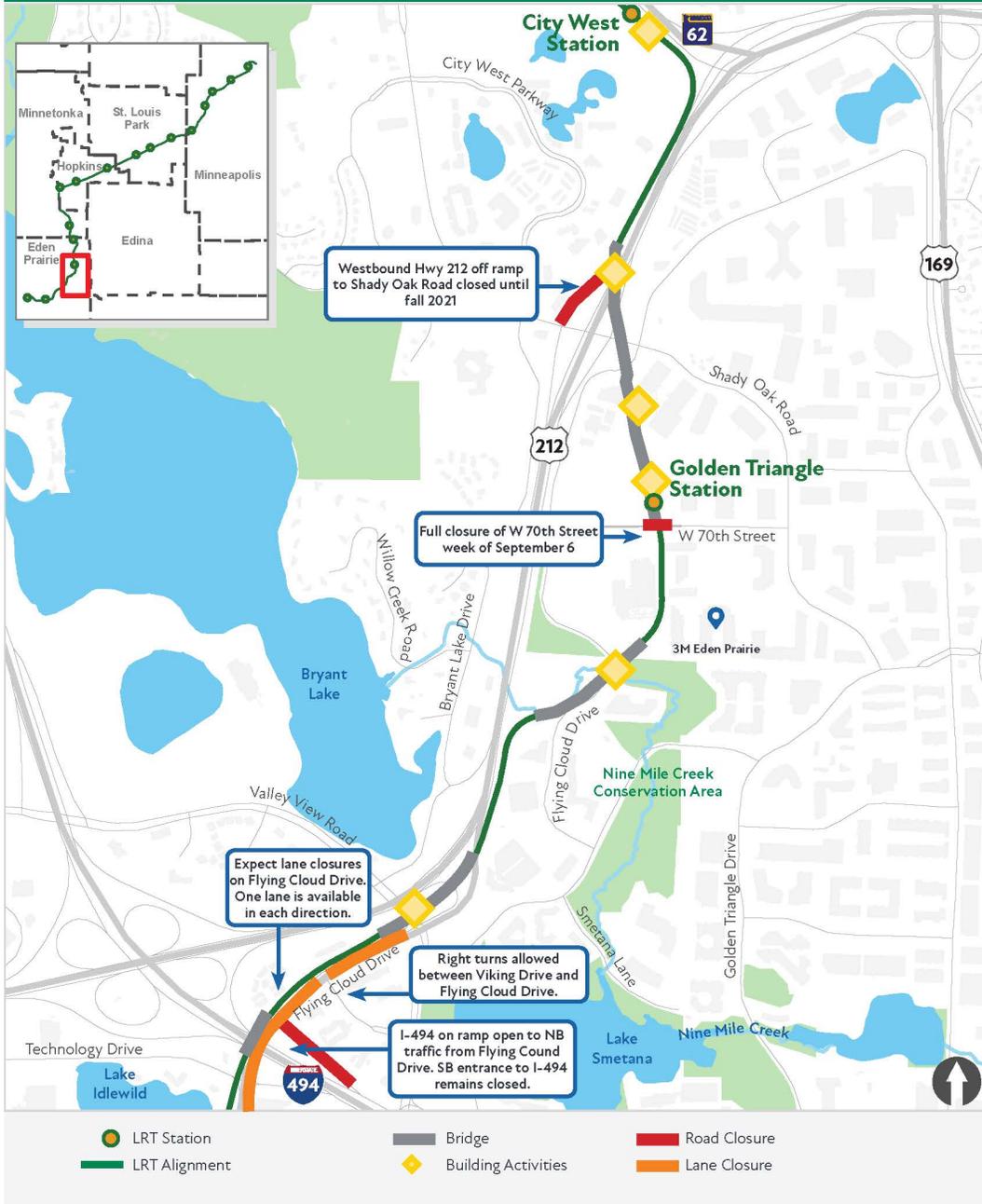
### SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

*Construction Overview:* At the SouthWest Station we are constructing a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and a combined bus and LRT station. Moving east, the Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge extends from the SouthWest Station area over Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive. Moving east, LRT will enter the Eden Prairie Town Center Station area.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Construction of the new SouthWest Station parking ramp and waiting area continues to advance, with the main structure mostly in place.

### Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



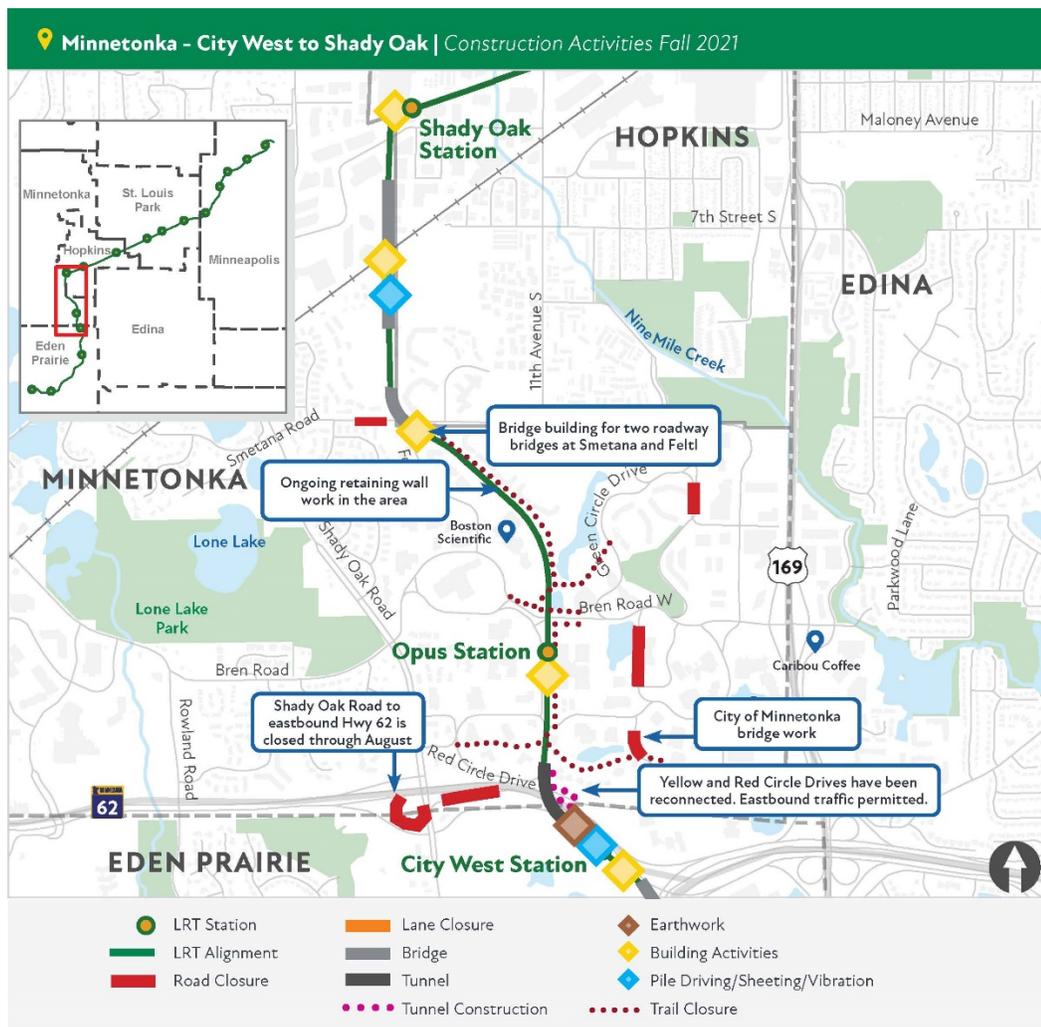
### LRT Bridge at I-494 to Shady Oak Road

**Construction Overview:** In this portion of Eden Prairie, an LRT bridge will cross over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive; this bridge is almost complete. Flying Cloud Drive is being reconstructed and LRT track installed. LRT will travel on bridges over Flying Cloud Drive and Nine Mile Creek. The Golden Triangle Station is being constructed as well as an LRT bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- The I-494 off-ramp to Flying Cloud Drive is closed for the 2021 construction season. The eastbound I-494 on-ramp from Flying Cloud Drive is open. Traffic traveling westbound on Flying Cloud Drive should follow the posted detours to access eastbound I-494. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane in both directions between Town Center Place to Valley View Road through the summer. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are not allowed through the summer.
- Beginning the week of September 13, West 70<sup>th</sup> Street will close so that crews can install LRT tracks and other infrastructure. This work is expected to take two to three weeks to complete. Through traffic between Flying Cloud Drive and Shady Oak Road will be detoured, business access will be available. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- The westbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Shady Oak Road will remain closed through the end of the construction season.
- The Highway 62 on-ramp from Shady Oak Road is closed while crews advance adjacent construction. The ramp is anticipated to open on Monday, September 13. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)

### Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



## **City West Station in Eden Prairie to Shady Oak Station in Hopkins**

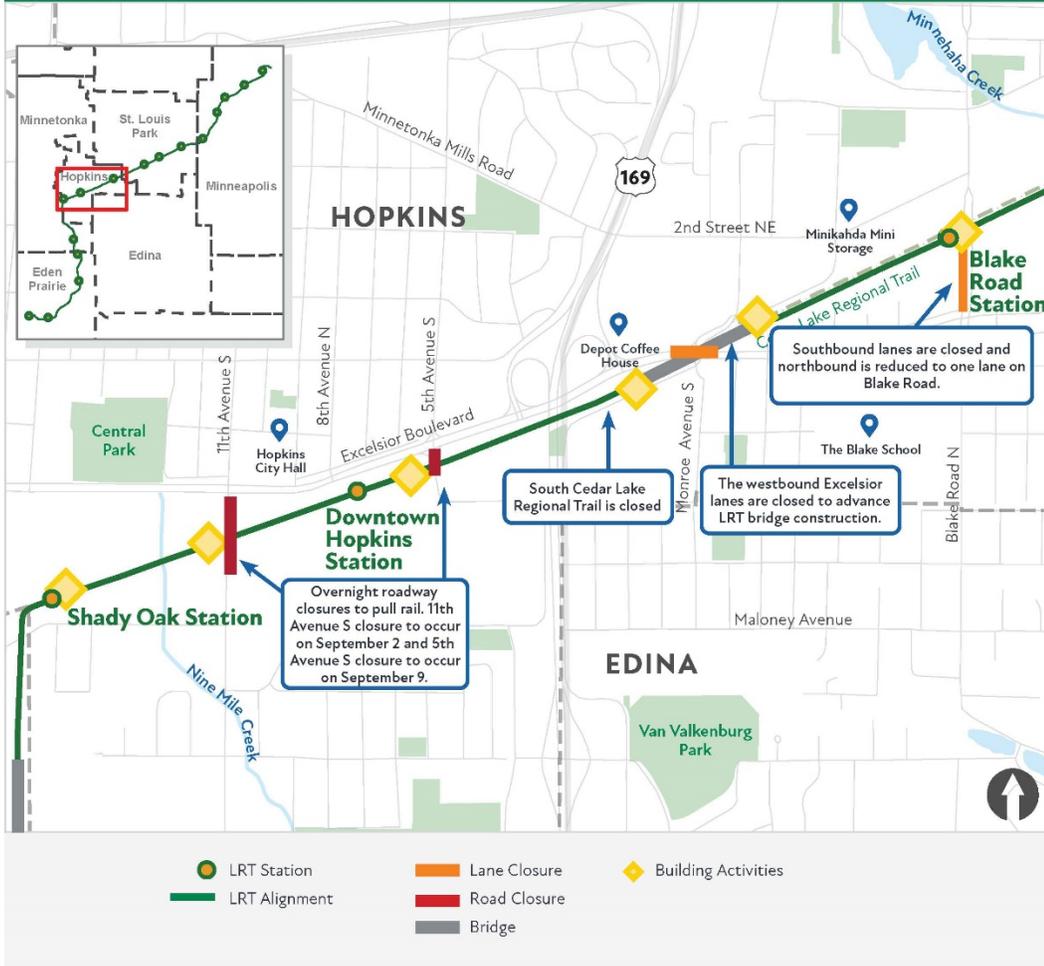
*Construction Overview:* The City West Station area continues with preparation work for retaining walls. Major elements in this segment include an LRT tunnel under Highway 62, the Opus Station, many large retaining walls, the Smetana/Feltl roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge ending at the Shady Oak Road Station.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- The westbound lane on Green Circle Drive near the intersection with Bren Road West is closed through the 2021 construction season to complete work in the LRT corridor.
- A segment of Bren Road East is being reconstructed near the LRT corridor. Traffic on Red Circle Drive and Bren Road East temporarily connects with Yellow Circle Drive. Yellow Circle Drive is configured as a two-way road during this phase of construction to accommodate through traffic and local businesses. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- The City of Minnetonka has closed the Blue Circle Drive to reconstruct a bridge. This work is anticipated to continue through November. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive remains closed until later this fall. A bypass is in place east of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Crews continue to work on the Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge. Expect noise from piling as bridge pier construction continues.

## **Hopkins**

### **Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1**



### Shady Oak Road Station to Blake Road Station

**Construction Overview:** There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail work in the area. There are multiple LRT and freight railroad crossings at roadways.

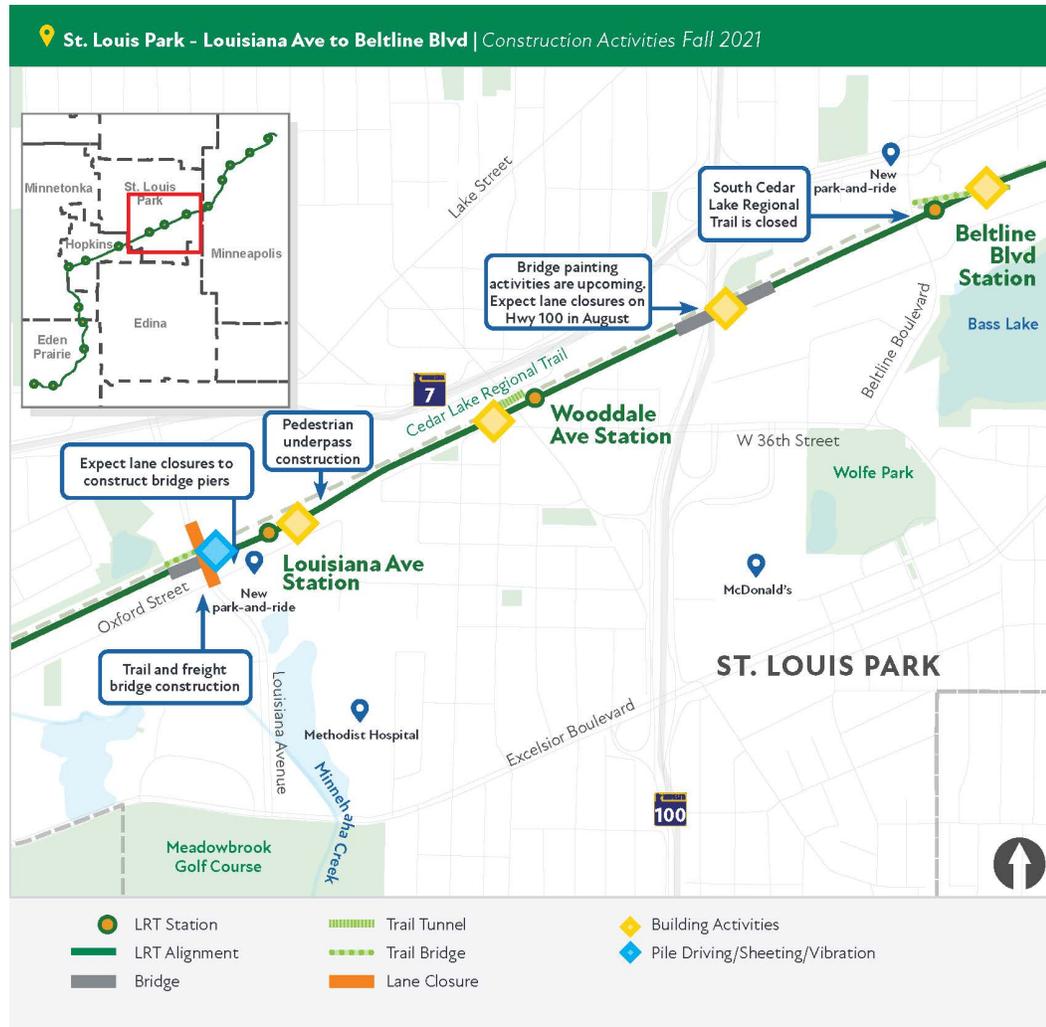
#### Current activities to expect in this area:

- LRT rails have been successfully installed across 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in Hopkins over the past two weeks. Thank you for your patience with these nighttime closures.
- Westbound Excelsior Boulevard is closed at Jackson Avenue. Traffic will remain detoured while crews advance the construction of the cantilevered LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Left turns from southbound Jackson Avenue to eastbound Excelsior Boulevard are prohibited. Also left turns from Milwaukee Street to westbound Excelsior Boulevard are prohibited. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)

- The construction of the regional trail underpass at Blake Road North is underway. Blake Road traffic has been reduced to one northbound lane between Excelsior Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. while southbound Blake Road traffic is detoured at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)

## St. Louis Park

### St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1



### Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard

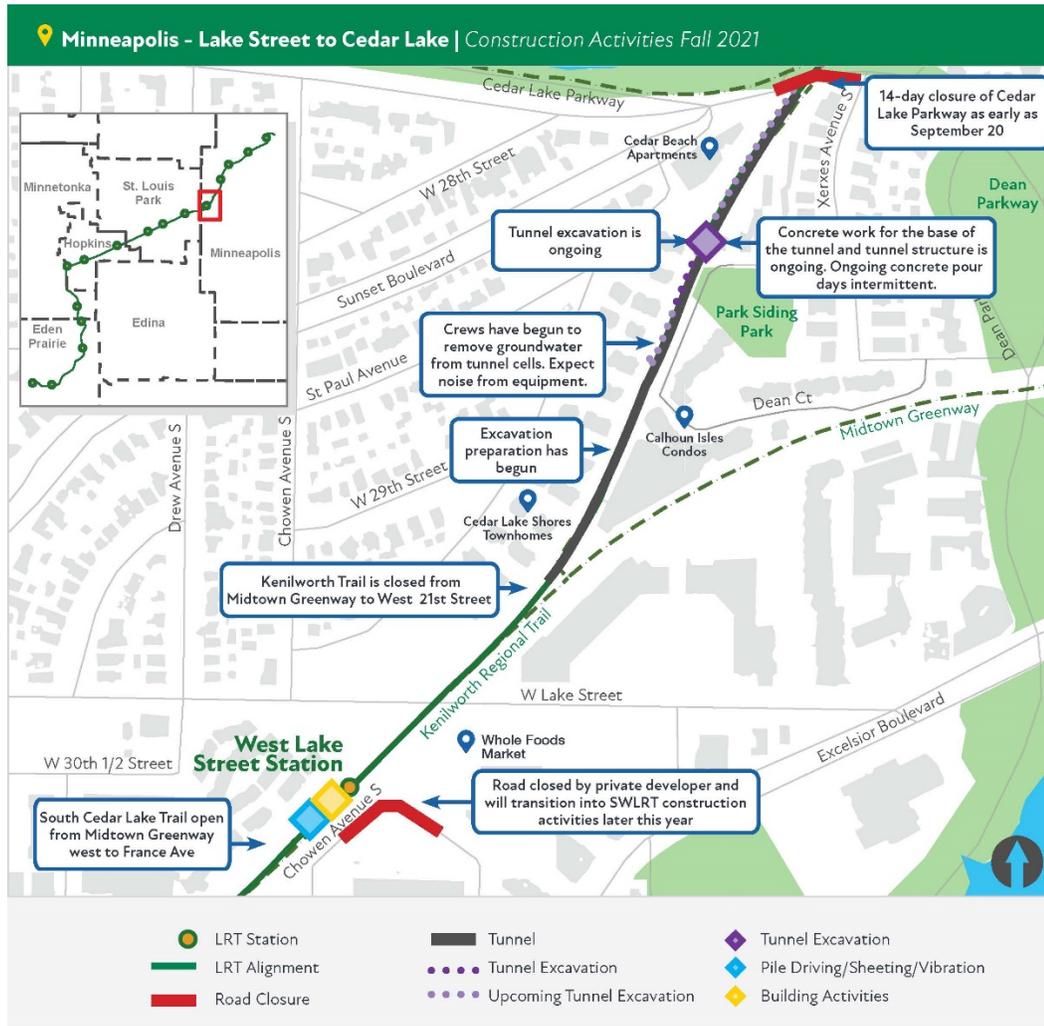
**Construction Overview:** Like in Hopkins, the project includes the construction of LRT track, freight rail track, and the regional trail. There are also three stations in St. Louis Park: Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Boulevard. Structures in this area include LRT and freight rail bridges over Louisiana Avenue, a connection between freight lines, a pedestrian/trail underpass east of Louisiana Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Minnehaha Creek, a regional trail underpass at Wooddale Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Highway 100 and a regional trail bridge crossing over Beltline Boulevard.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Crews are advancing construction of the LRT bridge over the Minnehaha Creek; expect pile driving as work progresses.
- Expect lane closures through the summer along Louisiana Avenue between West Lake Street and Oxford Street while crews advance bridge construction. Piling operations are expected.
- Crews continue to advance the freight rail connection in the Louisiana Avenue area.

## Minneapolis

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5



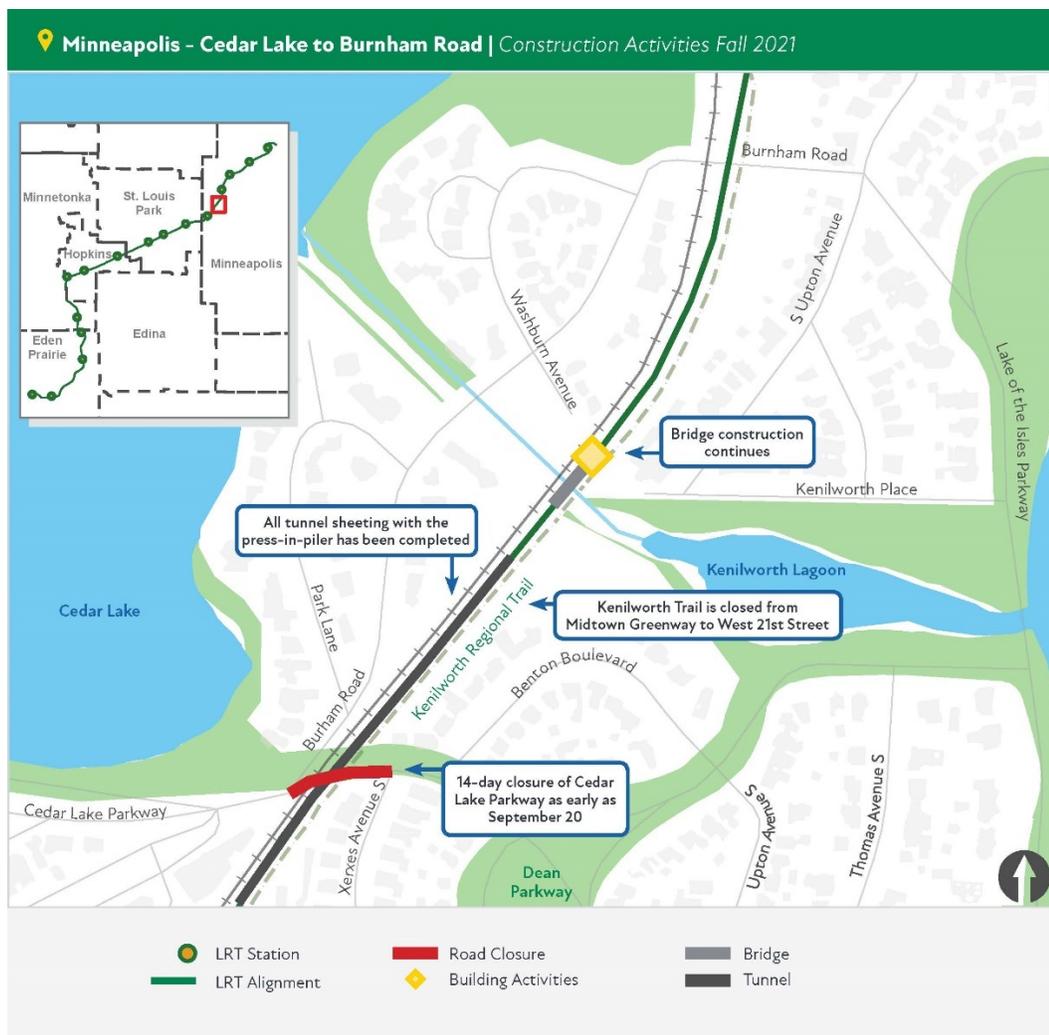
### Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway

**Construction Overview:** In addition to the West Lake Street Station, crews will be reconstructing the Chowen/Abbott roadway connection. The LRT tunnel is being constructed in this area, running between the West Lake Street Station and the Cedar Lake Channel. To complete work in this area there is also freight rail infrastructure and trail facilities.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- Tunnel construction continues. Expect noise from excavators, generators and pumps for water management, concrete application, and drilling. Activities include:
  - Crews have poured base concrete slabs in some of the initial cells and will continue to advance the structure of the tunnel.
  - In the first tunnel cell, crews poured the floor and the lower portion of the walls on Wednesday, September 8.
  - Work activities include power washing and water management, and various concrete work. Expect concrete truck traffic to and from the site.
  - Grouting continues to fill gaps between the sheets along the length of the tunnel. The grout is mixed on site. Expect heavy equipment.
  - Expect construction traffic along Sunset Boulevard, Depot Street, France Avenue and Cedar Lake Parkway. This route will primarily be used to deliver materials and equipment such as concrete and rebar for the construction of the Kenilworth LRT tunnel.
  - Helical pile installation to support excavation adjacent to the Cedar Isles Condominium Association is anticipated to begin the week of September 13.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



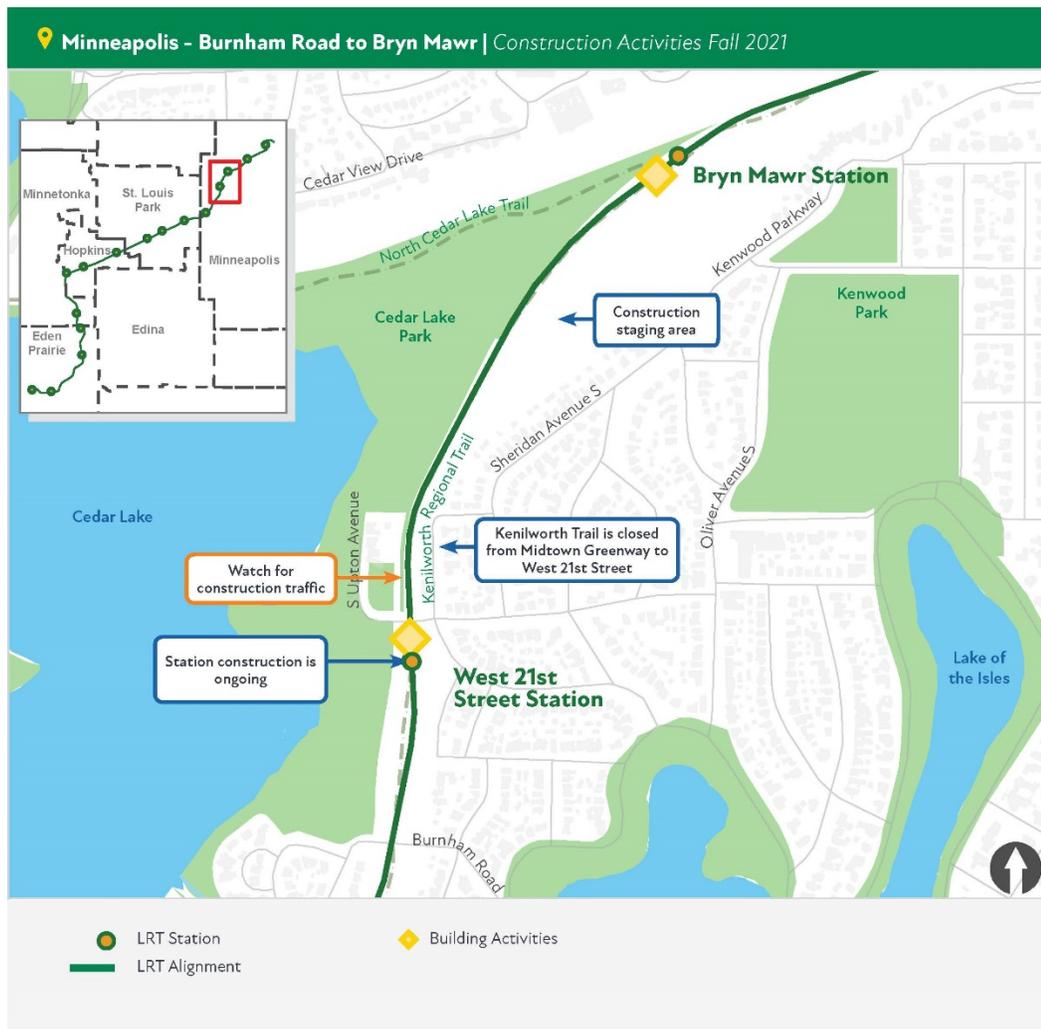
## Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

*Construction Overview:* The LRT tunnel continues in this segment. Other elements include the construction of retaining walls (complete), and freight, LRT and trail bridges over the Cedar Lake Channel.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- As early as September 20, 2021, Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Trail will close to vehicle traffic for two weeks. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be preserved for the duration of this closure. Crews will work on metal sheets under the Parkway and perform grouting work to seal gaps between sheeting. Expect noise and vibration. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has closed the Cedar Lake Channel for the fall season to conduct shoreline stabilization and naturalization work between Cedar Lake and the Burnham Road Bridge. During this closure continue to expect LRT bridge construction over the Cedar Lake Channel this fall.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



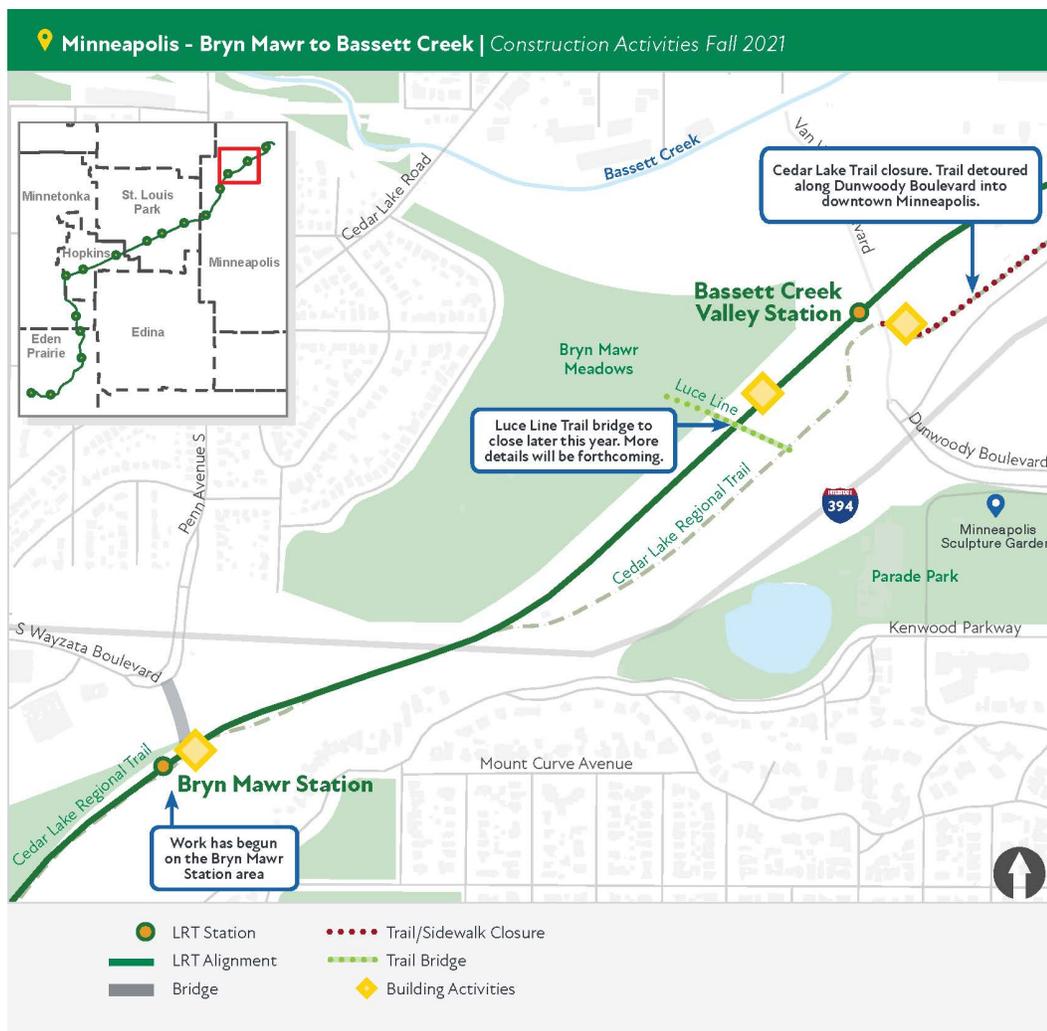
## Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station

**Construction Overview:** In addition to the LRT, freight rail and trail construction, this area has two stations: West 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Bryn Mawr. The Bryn Mawr Station includes a pedestrian bridge that will extend over the freight tracks from the bluffs to the station platform.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- Construction at Bryn Mawr Station is continuing with excavation and installation of piles to construct the pedestrian bridge. Retaining wall work on the bluff south of Wayzata Boulevard and Penn Avenue is expected to start in mid-September. Expect trail adjustments in the area as some of this work in the Bryn Mawr Station area gets underway.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



## Bryn Mawr Station to Bassett Creek Valley Station Area

**Construction Overview:** There are two stations serving residents in this area; Bryn Mawr Station and the Bassett Creek Valley Station. In addition, area construction includes LRT track, trails and the corridor protection wall.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- The Luce Line Trail Bridge over Linden Yards and the BNSF railroad is expected to be demolished as early as mid-September. Trail users will cross the rail corridor to the west adjacent to Highway I-394. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#) It is anticipated that the construction of the new bridge will take approximately one year following demolition of the existing bridge.
- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and Highway I-394, including work on Saturdays.

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5**



**Glenwood Avenue to Target Field Station**

**Construction Overview:** 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. This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer’s Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 7<sup>th</sup> Street and LRT connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border roadway loop will also be reconstructed with improvements.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Construction activities to advance the Glenwood Avenue LRT bridge include high-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving for most of the summer. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12<sup>th</sup> Street remains closed. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- Bridge pier work near 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> avenues has resumed. This work entails high-vibration activities for sheeting installation and pile driving. This work is expected to continue through the construction season. Expect temporary lane closures on eastbound 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

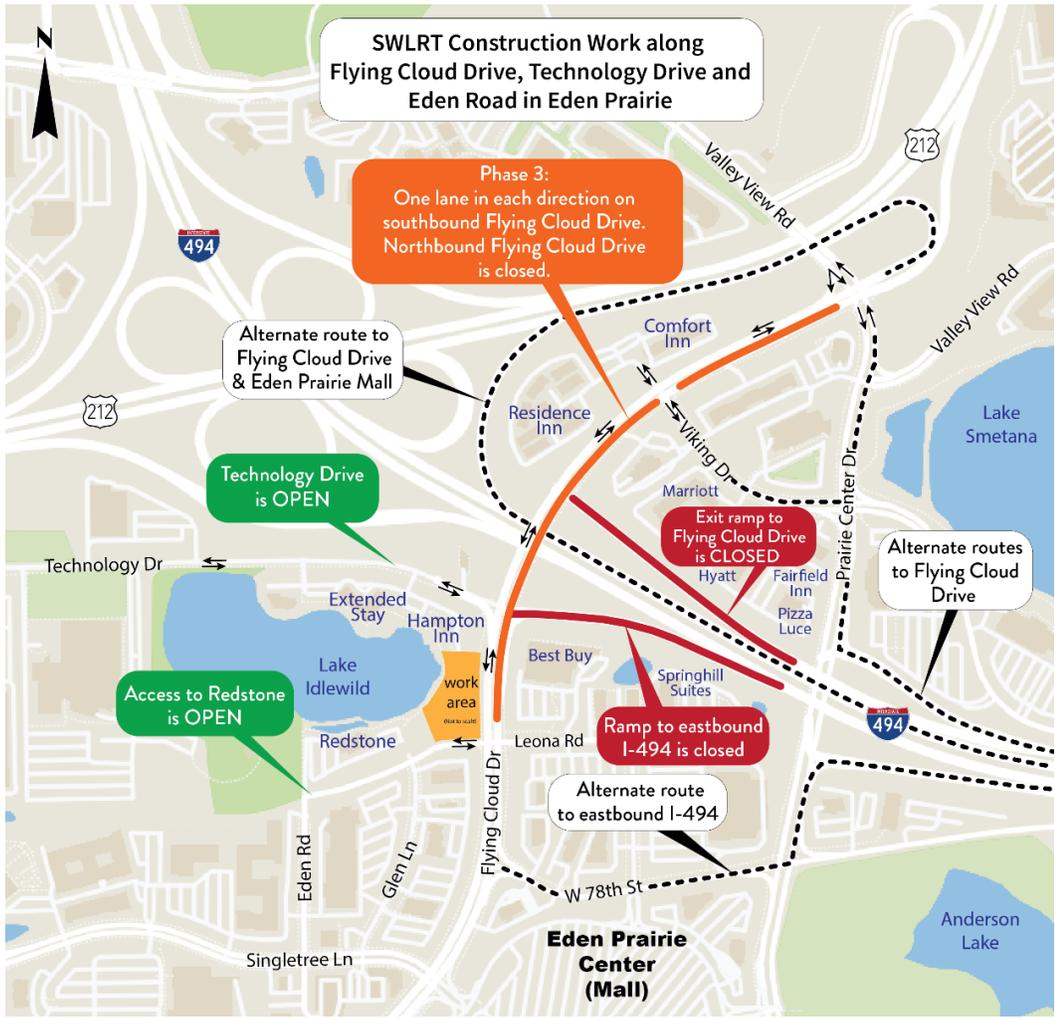
**Regional Trails**

1

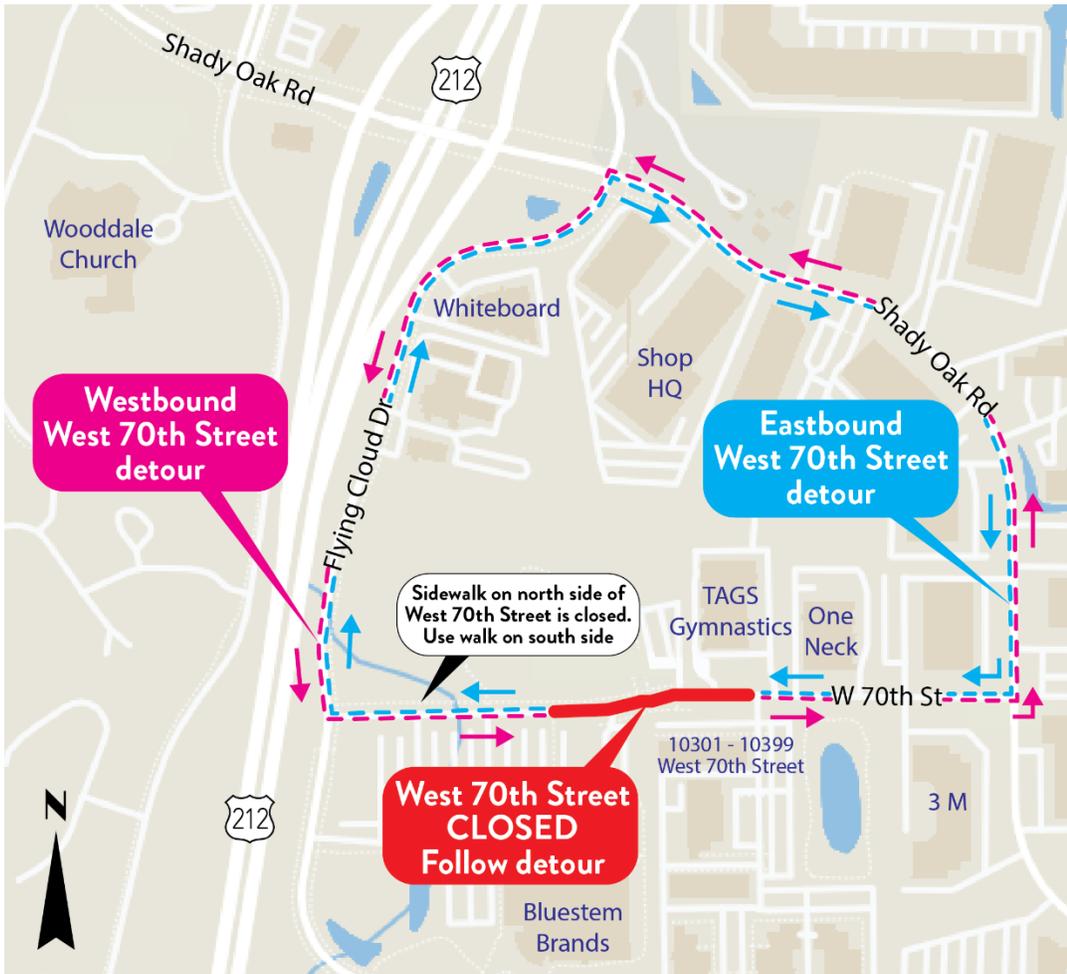
**SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie**



**Flying Cloud Drive & Highway 494 Ramps in Eden Prairie**



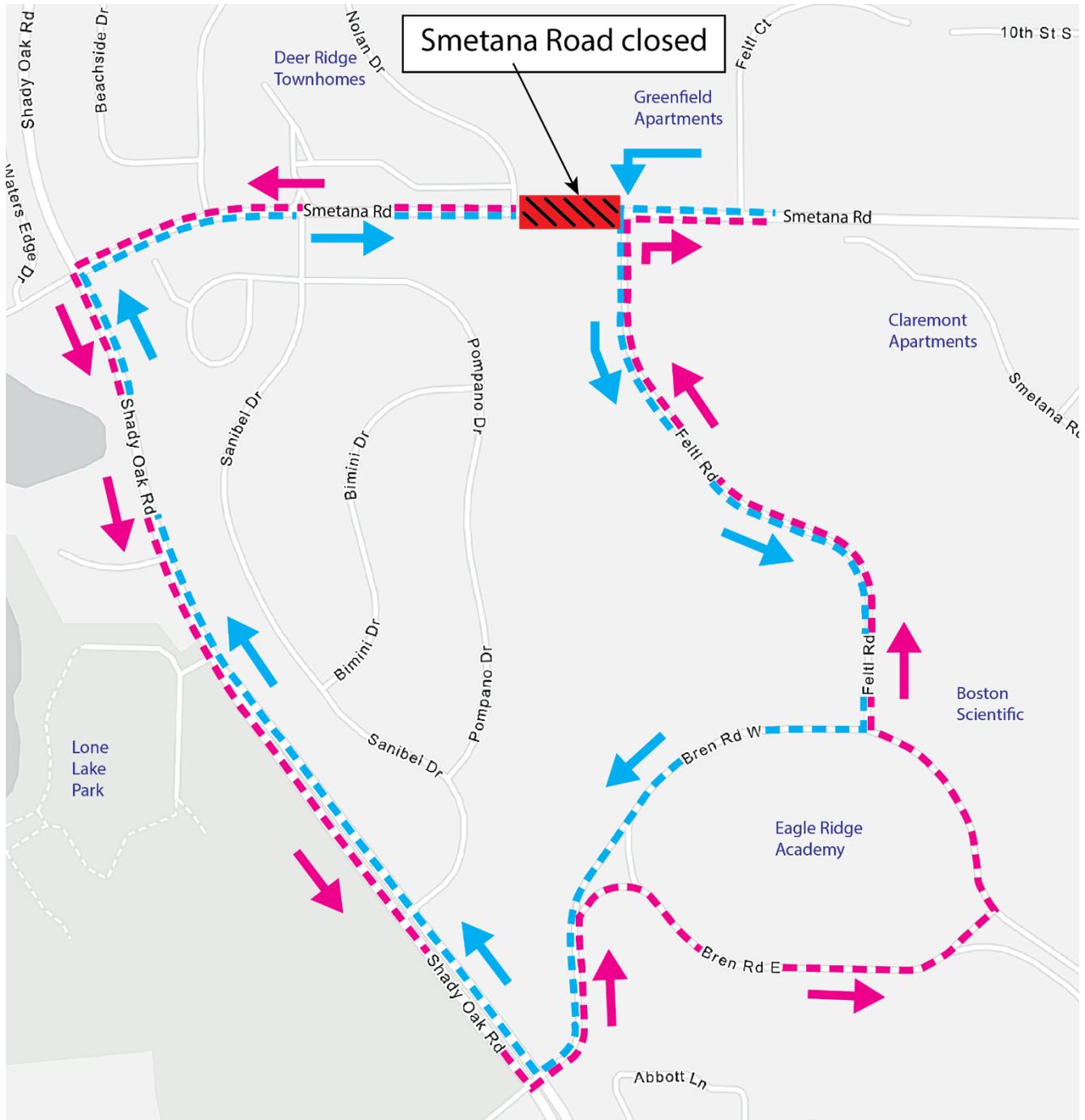
**Upcoming West 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Eden Prairie**



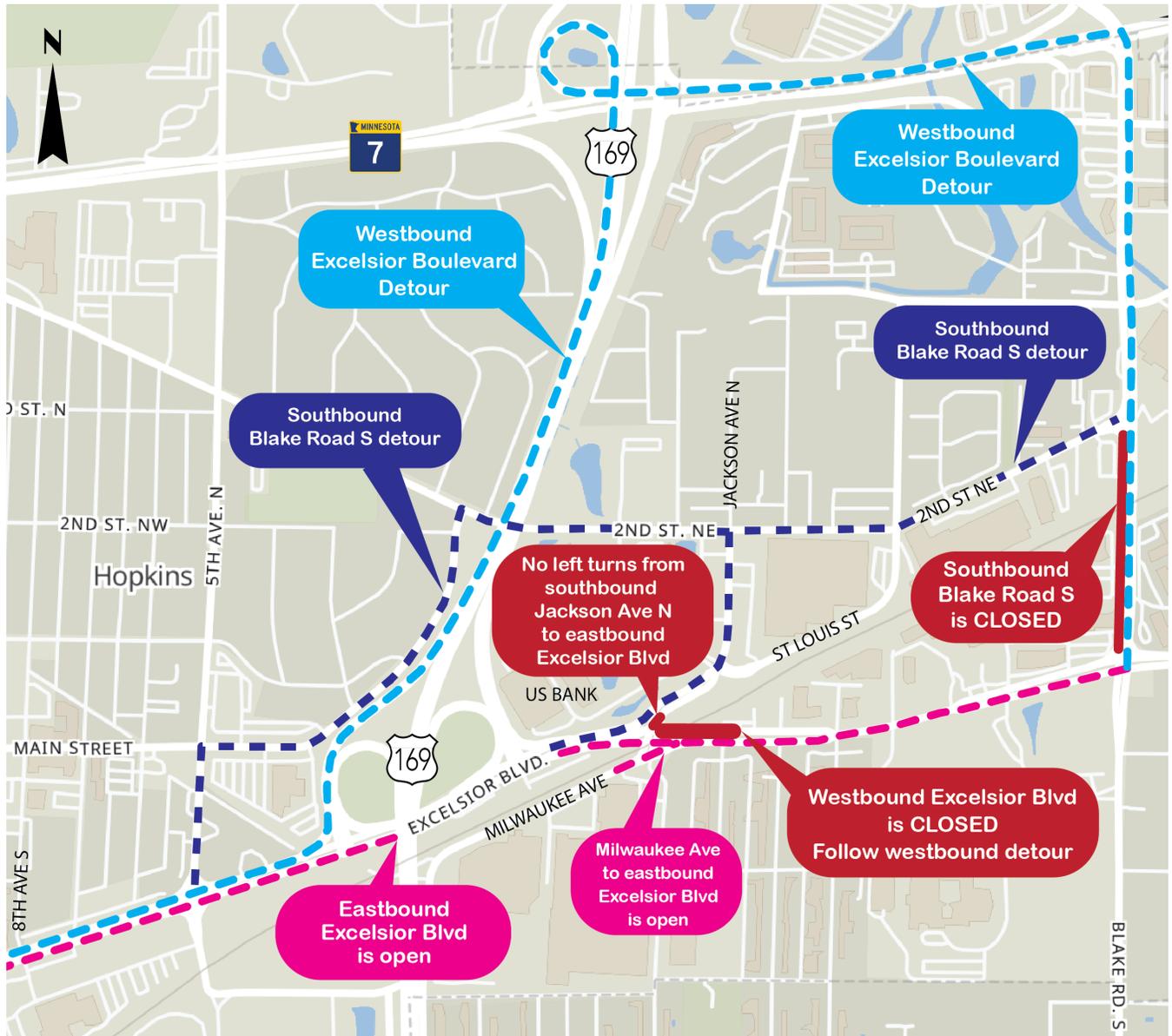
**Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Red and Yellow Circles**



# Smetana Road in Minnetonka

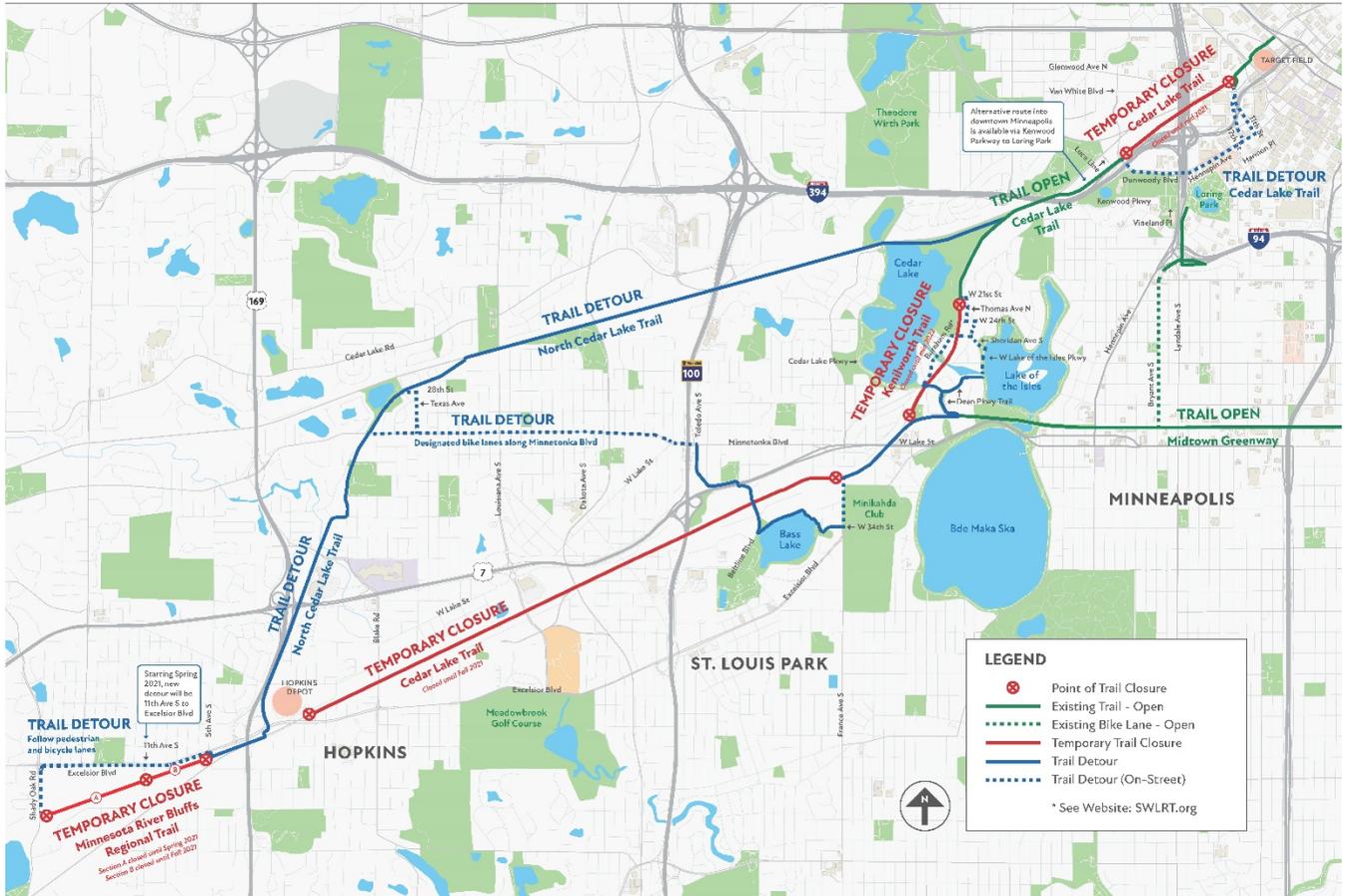


# Blake Road in Hopkins



# TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



Cedar Lake Regional Trail in Minneapolis

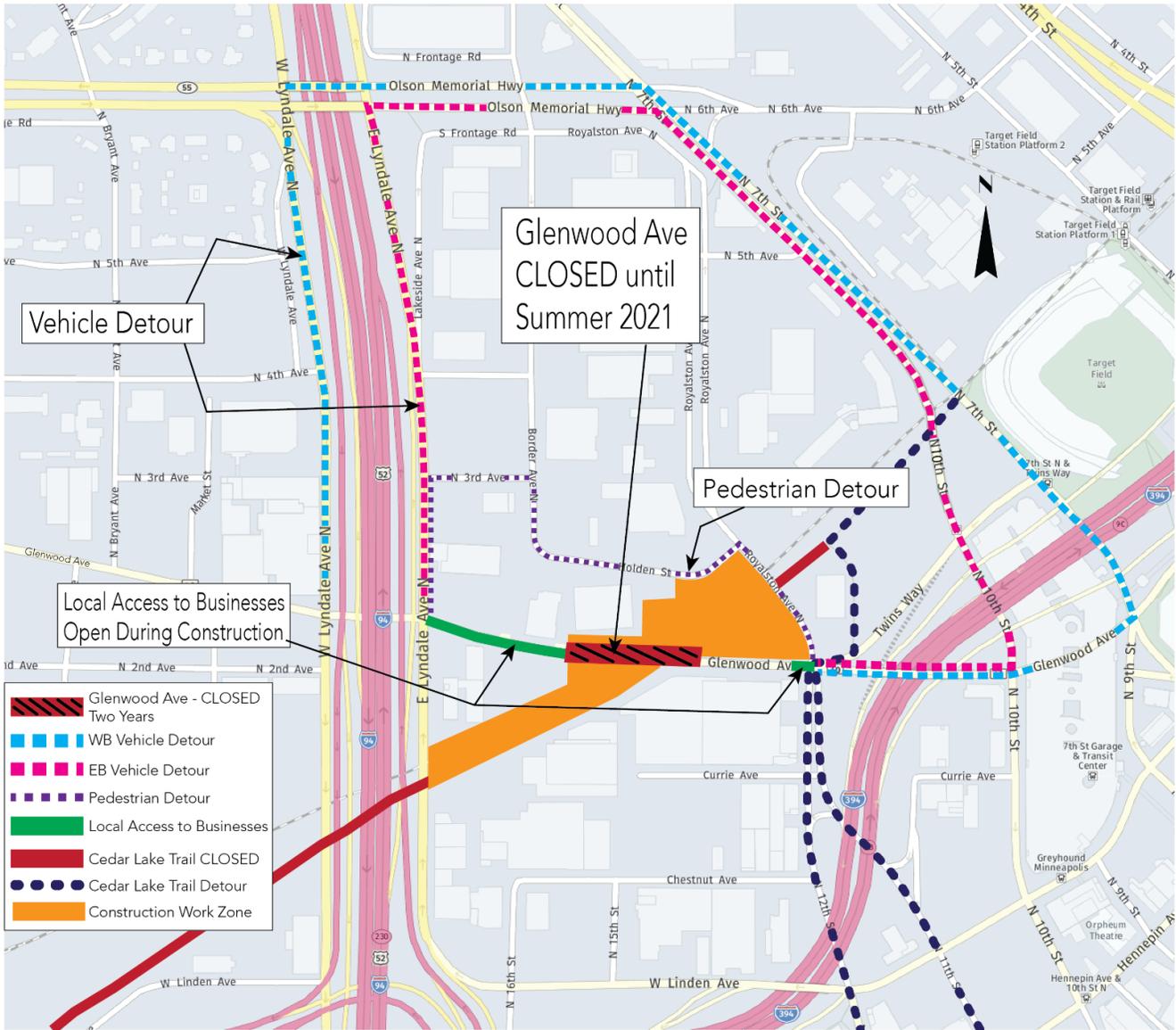
# CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

## TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



### Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



**Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis**

