



**Construction Update: September 24, 2021**

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

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

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

### **Upcoming Closures of Note**

- **Highway 62 in Eden Prairie:** A full closure of the westbound lanes between Highway 212 and Shady Oak Road in Eden Prairie is planned for Friday, September 24 in the evening at 7:00 PM through Monday morning at 5:00 AM, September 27. [See Eden Prairie detour information here.](#)
- **Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Trail in Minneapolis:** A full closure to vehicle traffic is planned on Monday, September 27 at 7:00 AM and is anticipated to reopen by Monday, morning October 11. 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.](#)

### **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](#). They are filling up fast. 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: Corridor Protection Wall in Minneapolis**



Crews are building sections of the corridor protection wall between the existing BNSF freight rail mainline tracks and the Southwest LRT tracks under construction. The concrete is complete in the foreground of the photo. In the background, formwork is complete and ready for crews to pour concrete.

[Eden Prairie](#)

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



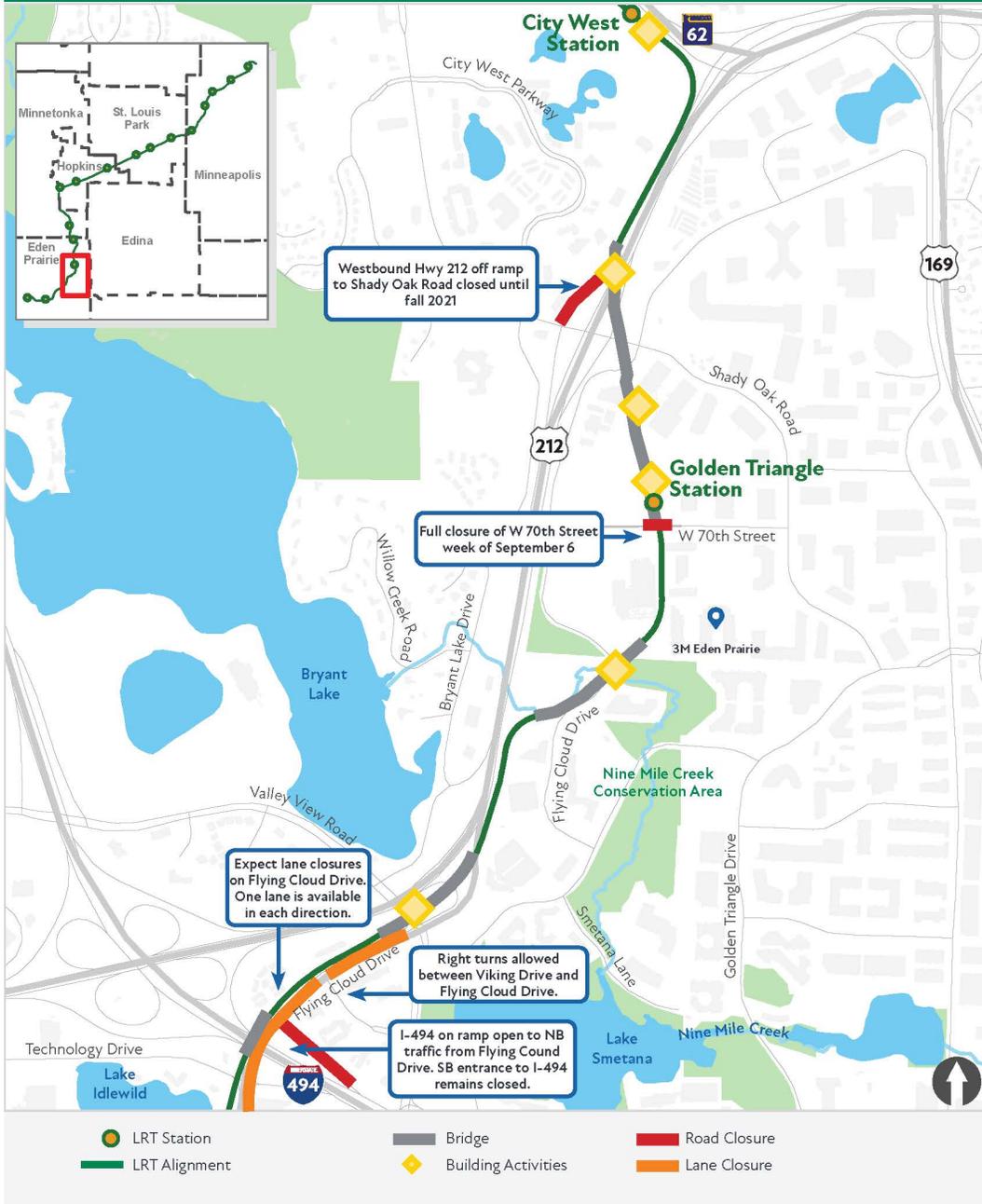
### SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

*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



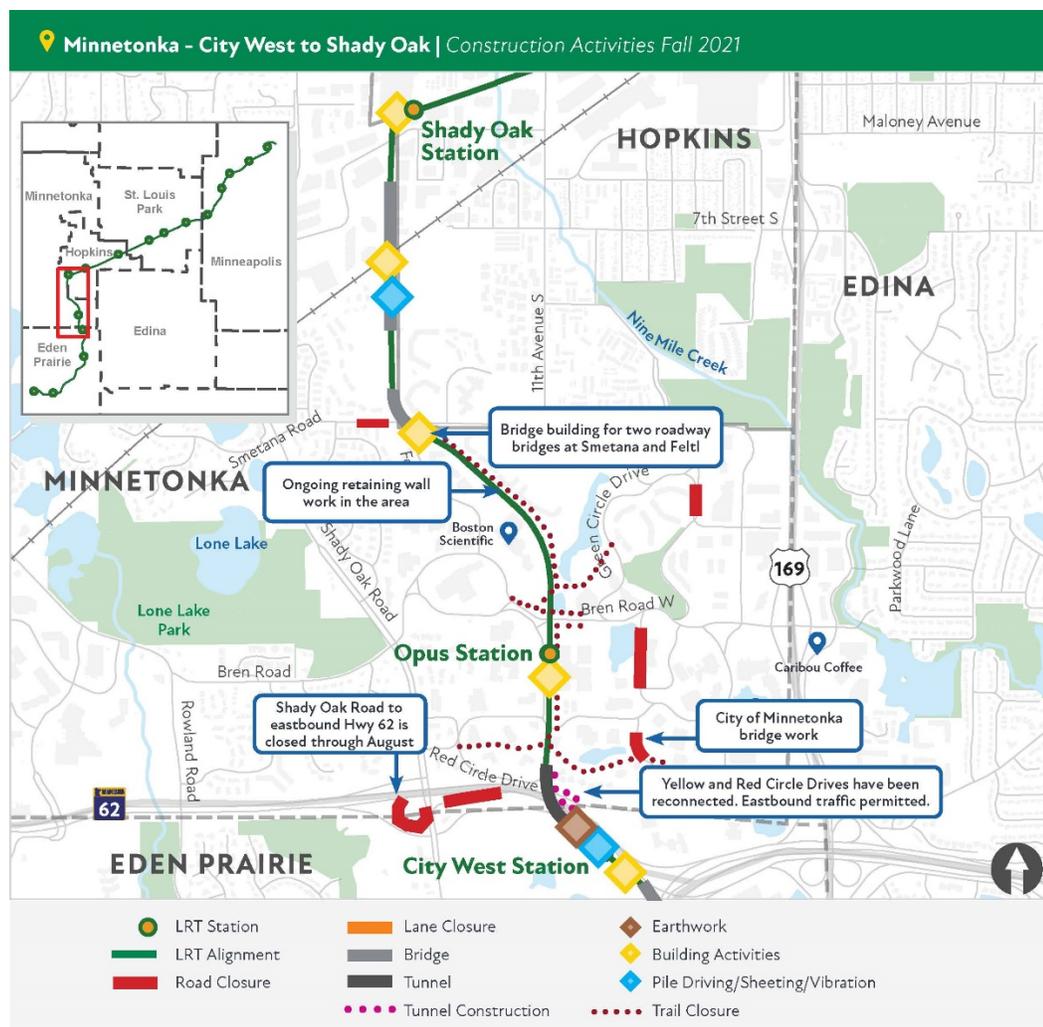
### LRT Bridge at I-494 to Shady Oak Road

**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. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are not allowed until later this year.
- West 70<sup>th</sup> Street is closed until mid-October to install LRT tracks and other infrastructure. Through traffic between Flying Cloud Drive and Shady Oak Road is detoured. Business access is 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.
- Following this weekend's closure on Highway 62, traffic will open with one lane in each direction between Highway 212 and Shady Oak Roads until mid-October. The Highway 62 on-ramp from northbound Shady Oak Road remains closed while crews advance nearby LRT construction. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)

### Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



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

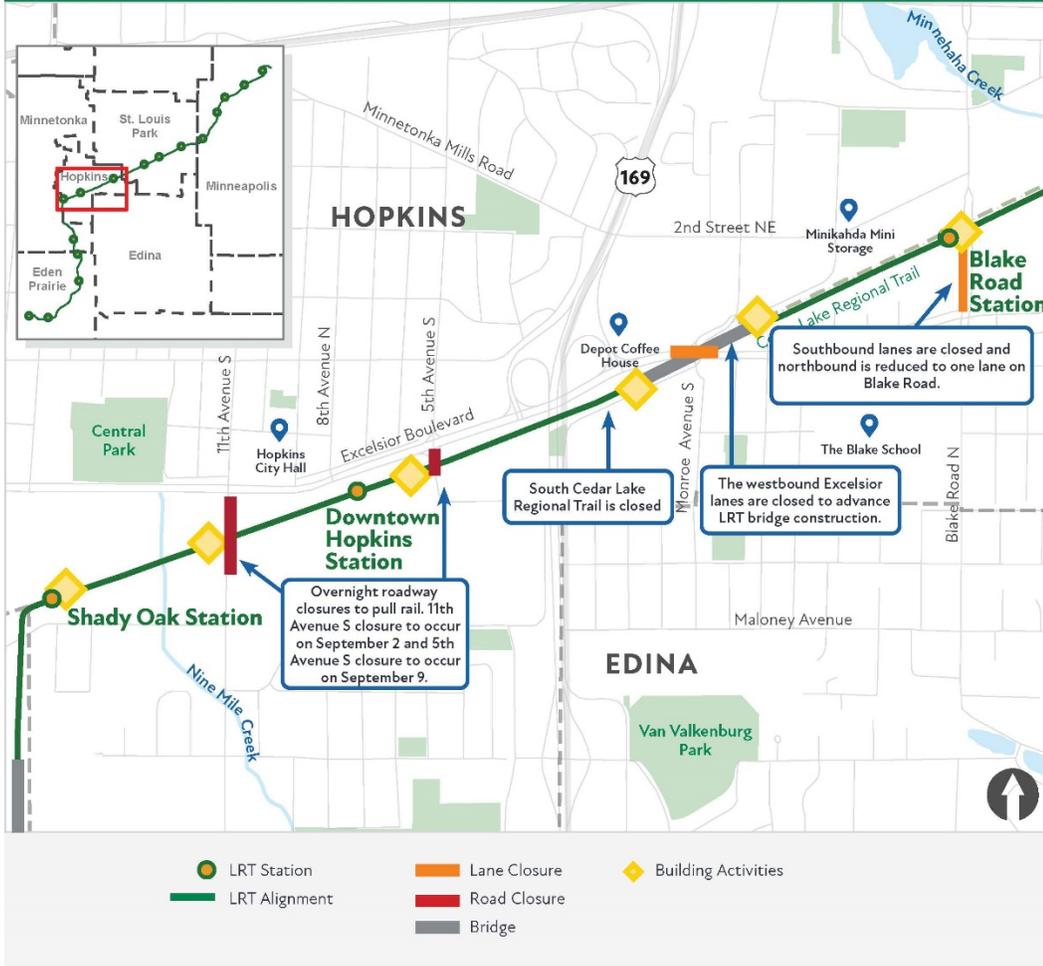
*Construction Overview:* The City West Station area continues with preparation work for retaining walls. Major elements in this segment include an LRT tunnel under Highway 62, the Opus Station, many large retaining walls, the Smetana/Feltl roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge 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 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. A bypass is in place east of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Starting the week of October 4, Feltl Road will close for construction of the roadway bridge. Smetana Road will remain closed until the end of October as crews complete construction of the bridge, grading and roadway restoration. Details on the detour route to access Feltl Road to follow.
- 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

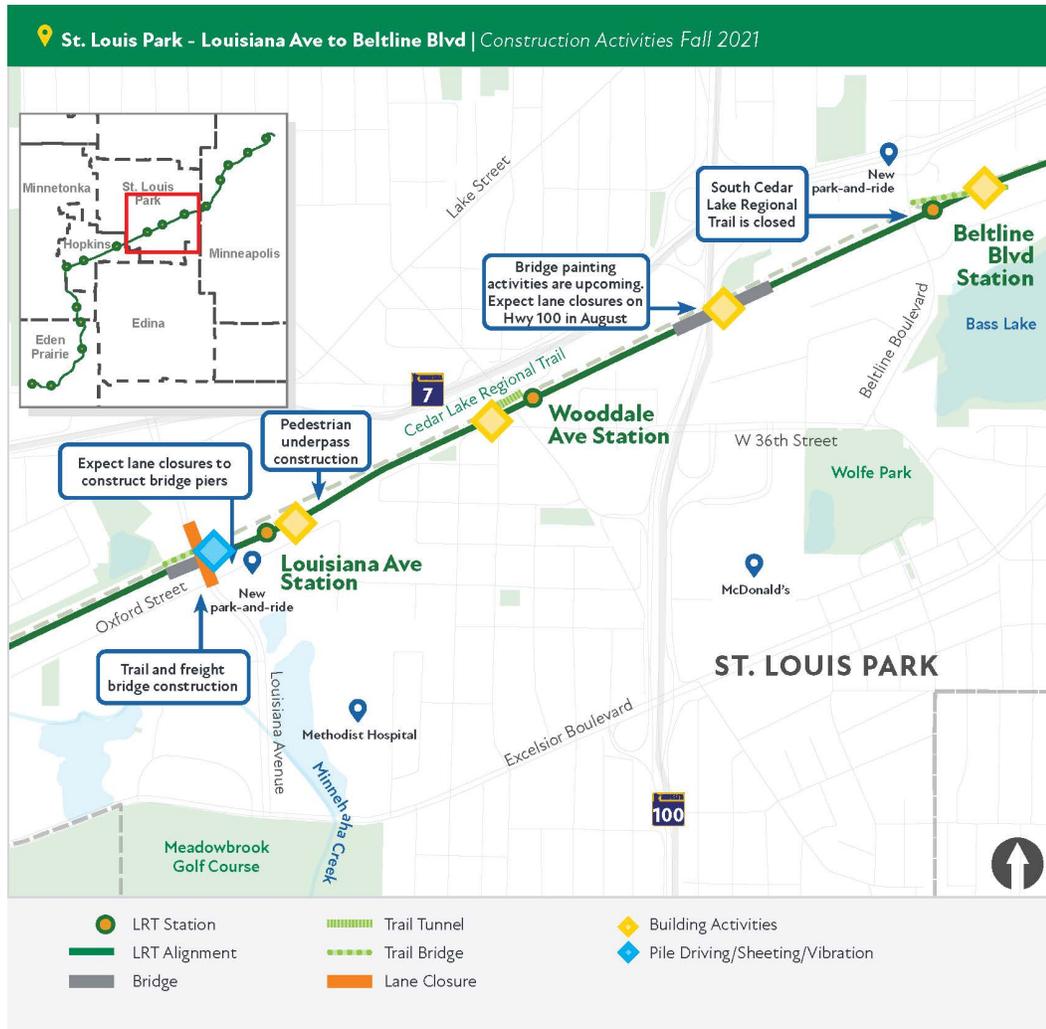
*Construction Overview:* There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail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

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Westbound Excelsior Boulevard is closed at Jackson Avenue. One eastbound lane is closed at the same location. From Milwaukee Street and Jackson Avenue, only right turns are allowed onto Excelsior, there are no north-south through movements. Traffic will remain detoured while crews advance the construction of the cantilevered LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. These closures will be in place for approximately three more weeks into mid-October. This will be followed by an eastbound full closure for a week. [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. It is anticipated that Blake Road will be open to southbound traffic by the end of the construction season. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)

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



#### Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard

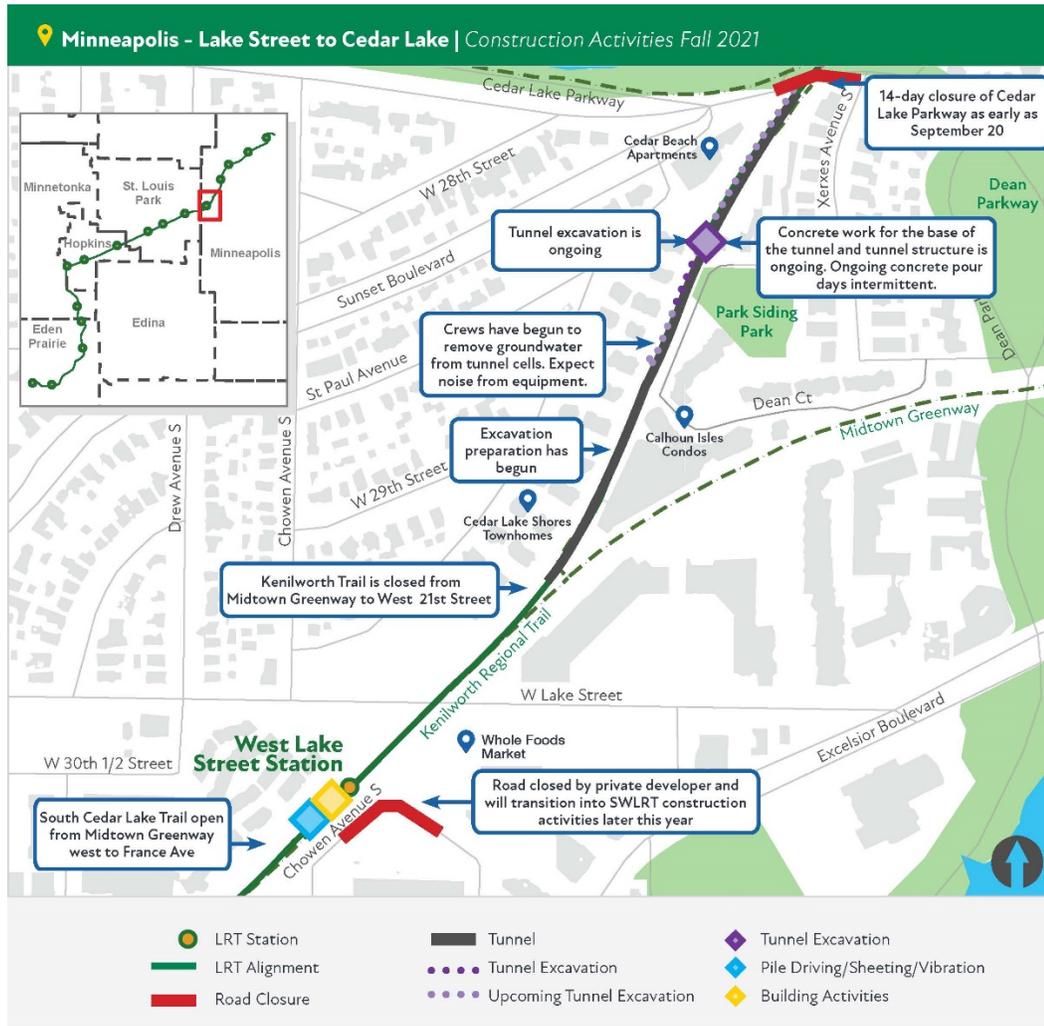
*Construction Overview:* Like in Hopkins, the project includes the construction of LRT track, freight rail track, and the regional trail. There are also three stations in St. Louis Park: Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Boulevard. Structures in this area include LRT and freight rail bridges 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



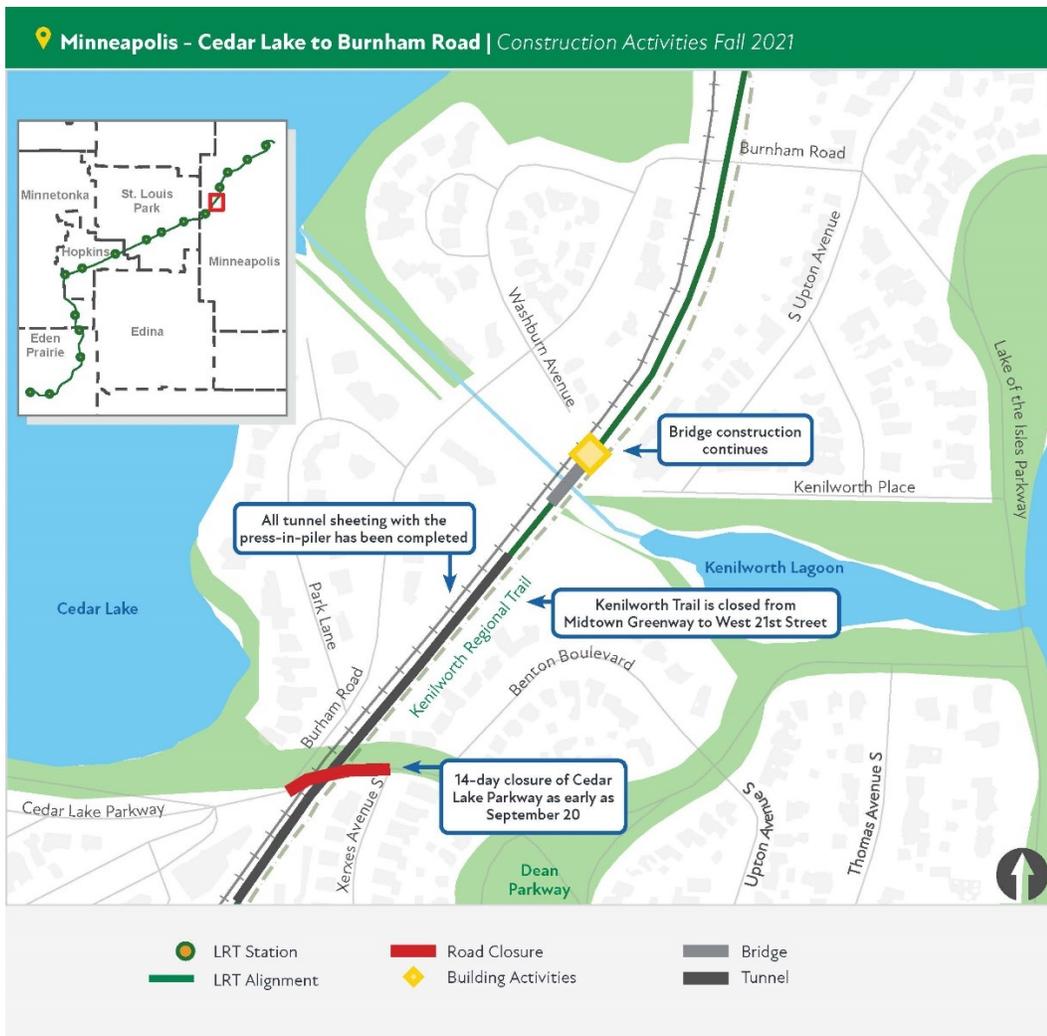
### Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway

**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 the initial three cells. This work will continue to advance cell-by-cell.
  - In the first two tunnel cell, crews poured the floor and the lower portion of the walls.
  - Work activities include power washing (using high powered water to remove debris), 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.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



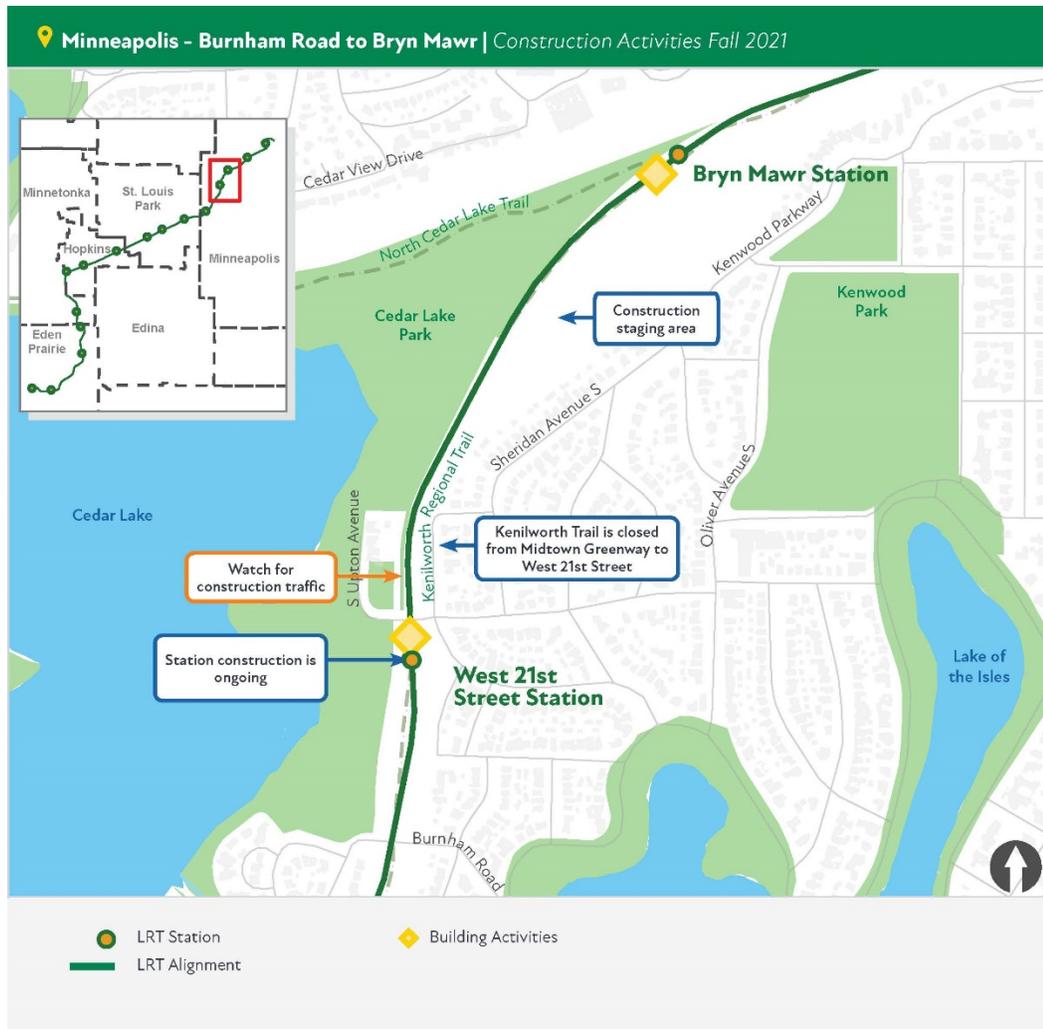
### Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

**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:**

- Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Trail is closed 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**



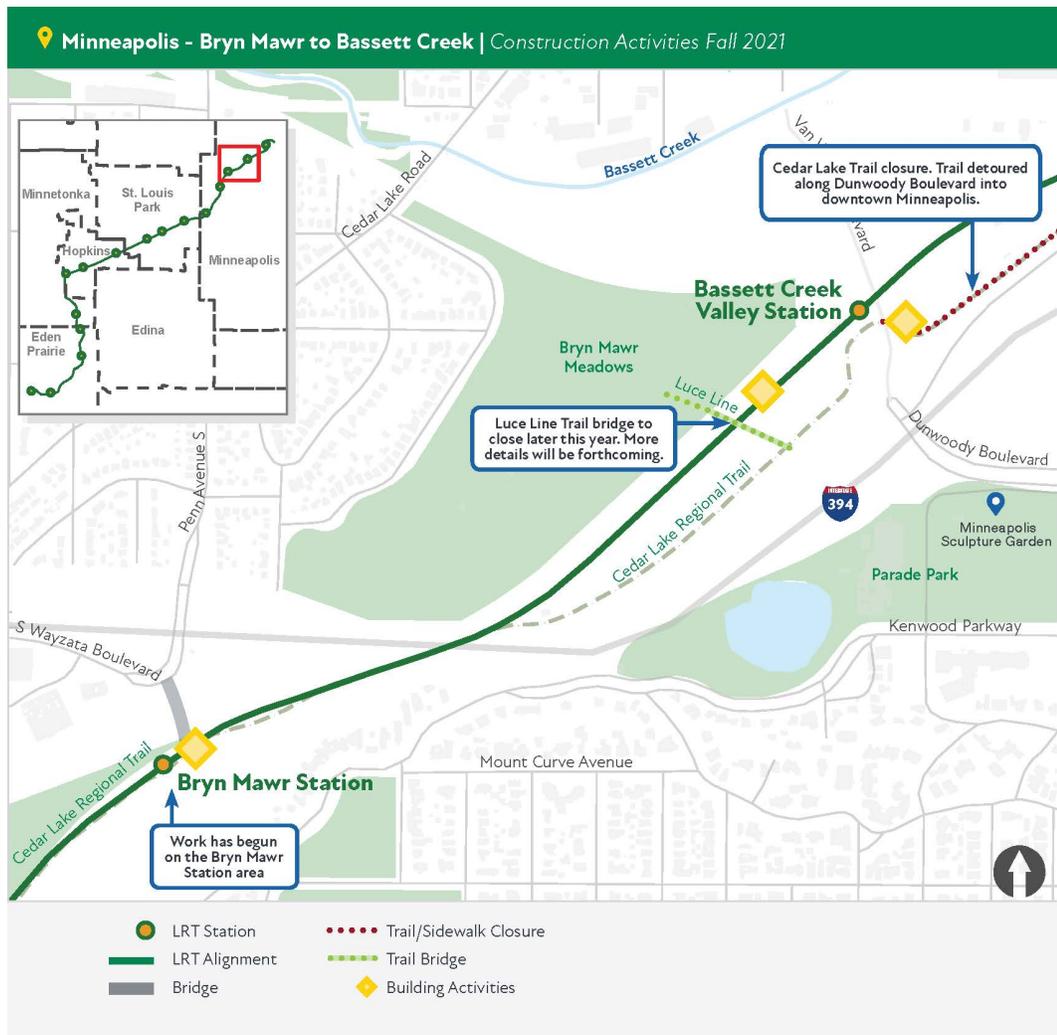
**Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station**

**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 pile installation to construct the pedestrian bridge. Retaining wall work on the bluff south of Wayzata Boulevard and Penn Avenue is expected to start by late September. Also expect trail adjustments beginning the week of September 27 as work in the Bryn Mawr Station area gets underway.

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5**



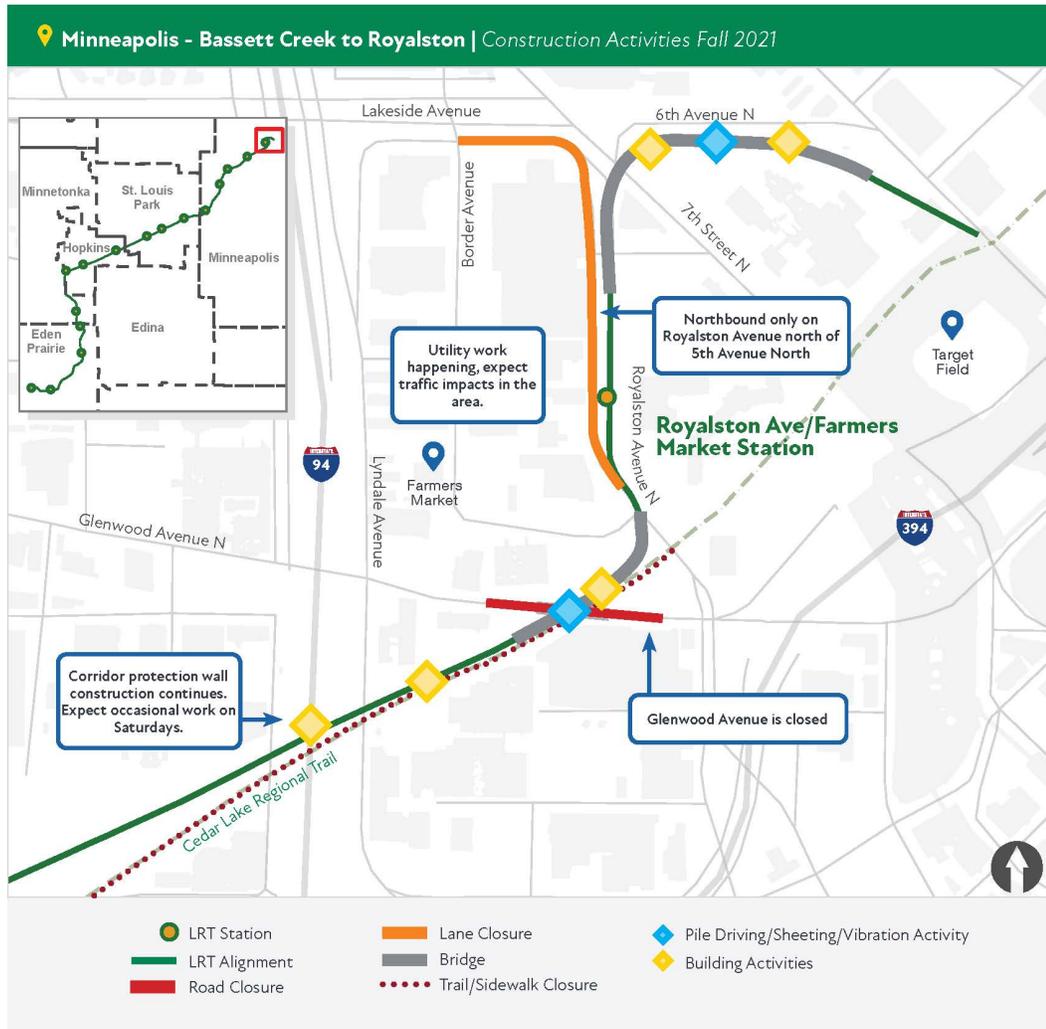
**Bryn Mawr Station to Bassett Creek Valley Station Area**

**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 Regional Trail bridge that crosses the BNSF rail corridor at Bryn Mawr Meadows Park is in process of being demolished. The bridge is expected to be closed for about one year, until fall 2022. It is being reconstructed to connect the new Bassett Creek Valley LRT Station with the park.
- 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

- Various trails within the Opus area are closed as crews advance many project elements.
- The South Cedar Lake LRT Trail in Hopkins and St. Louis Park will remain closed until 2022.
- Temporary trails near Chowen Avenue and West Lake Street remain in place. For your safety and the safety of our crews, please follow signage for the temporary trail and stay clear of the work zone.
- The Kenilworth Trail will remain closed until the completion of LRT tunnel construction. The date is yet to be determined.
- The North Cedar Lake Trail east of Dunwoody Boulevard will remain closed through 2022.

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**[Trail Detours:](#)** Minnesota River Bluffs, South Cedar Lake Parkway, Kenilworth, Cedar Lake Trail

**[Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:](#)** Southwest Station, I-494 Ramps at Flying Cloud Drive, Upcoming Flying Cloud near West 70<sup>th</sup>

**[Minnetonka Roadway Detours:](#)** Opus area: Yellow Circle, Red Circle, Smetana Road

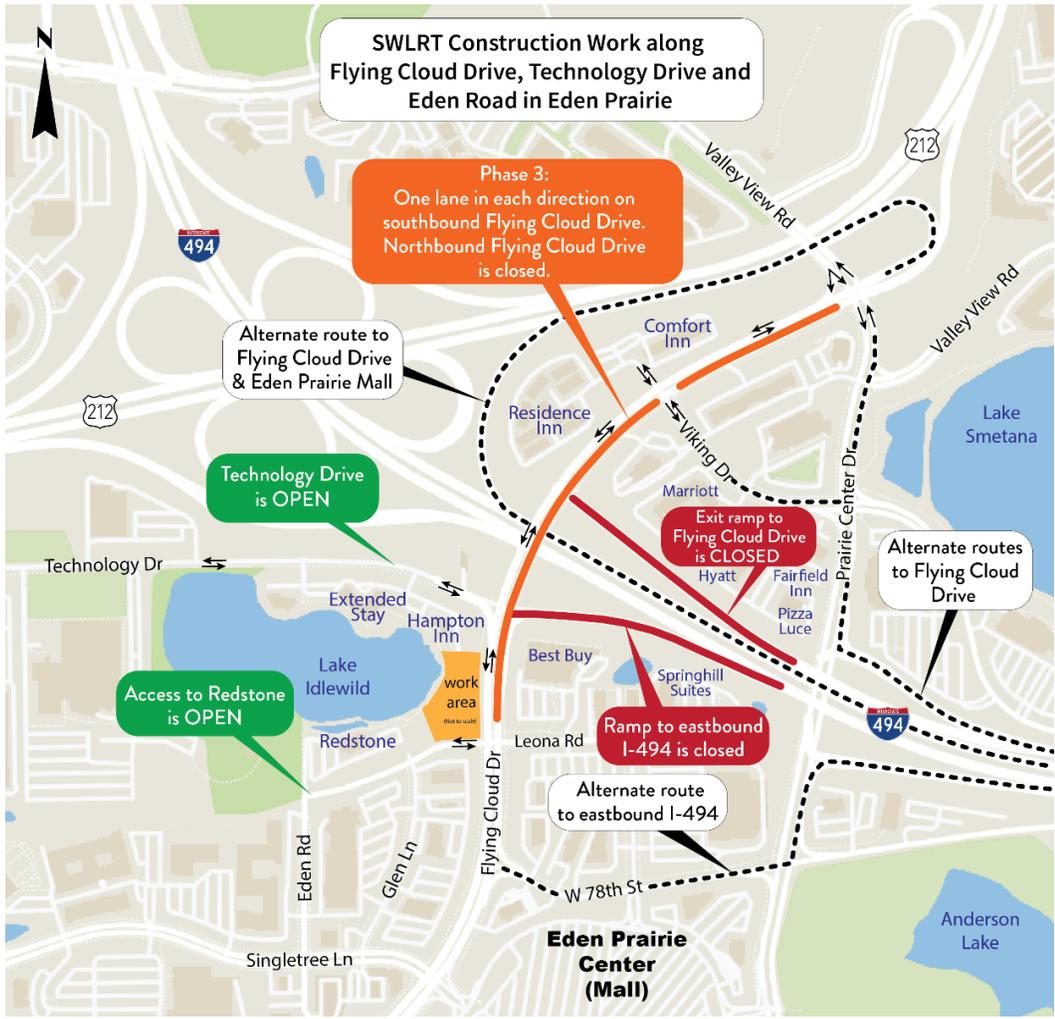
**[Hopkins Detours:](#)** Excelsior Blvd & Jackson Avenue

**[Minneapolis Roadway Detours:](#)** Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

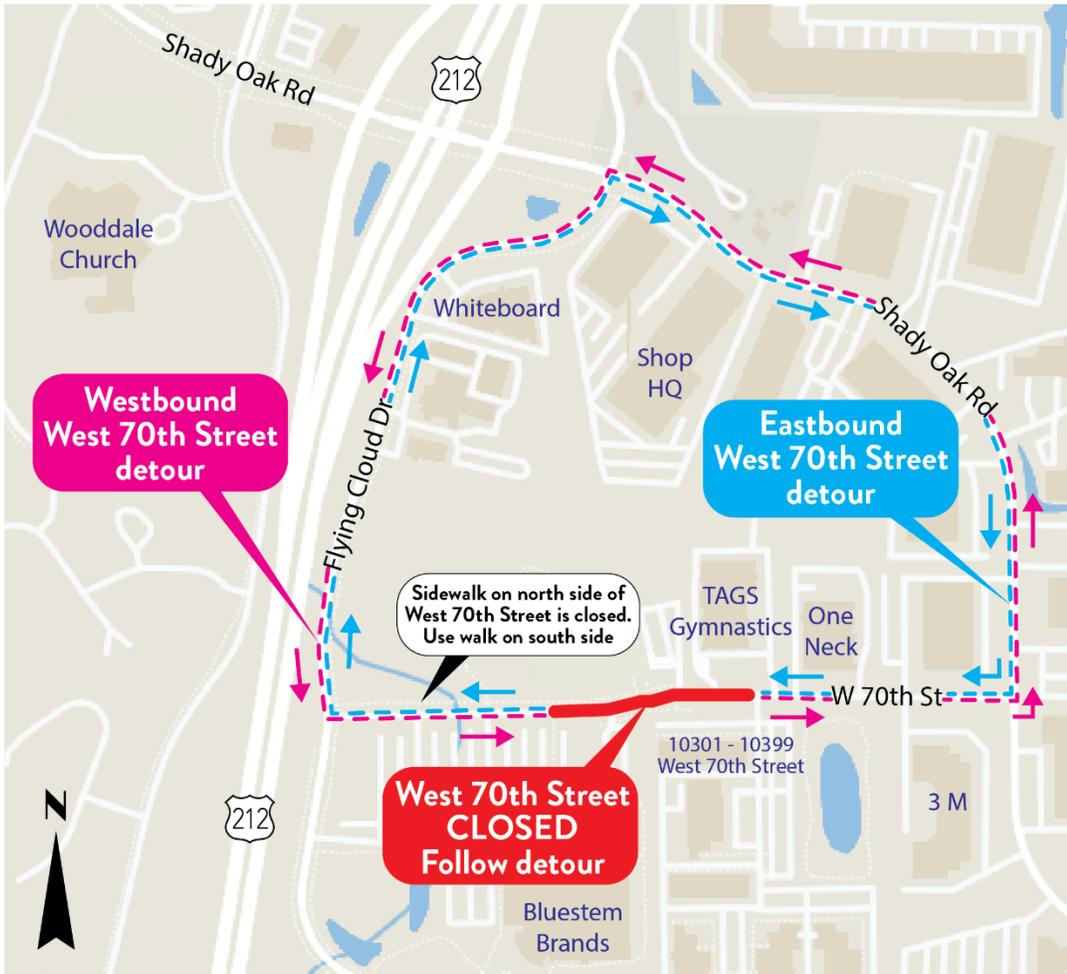
## SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



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



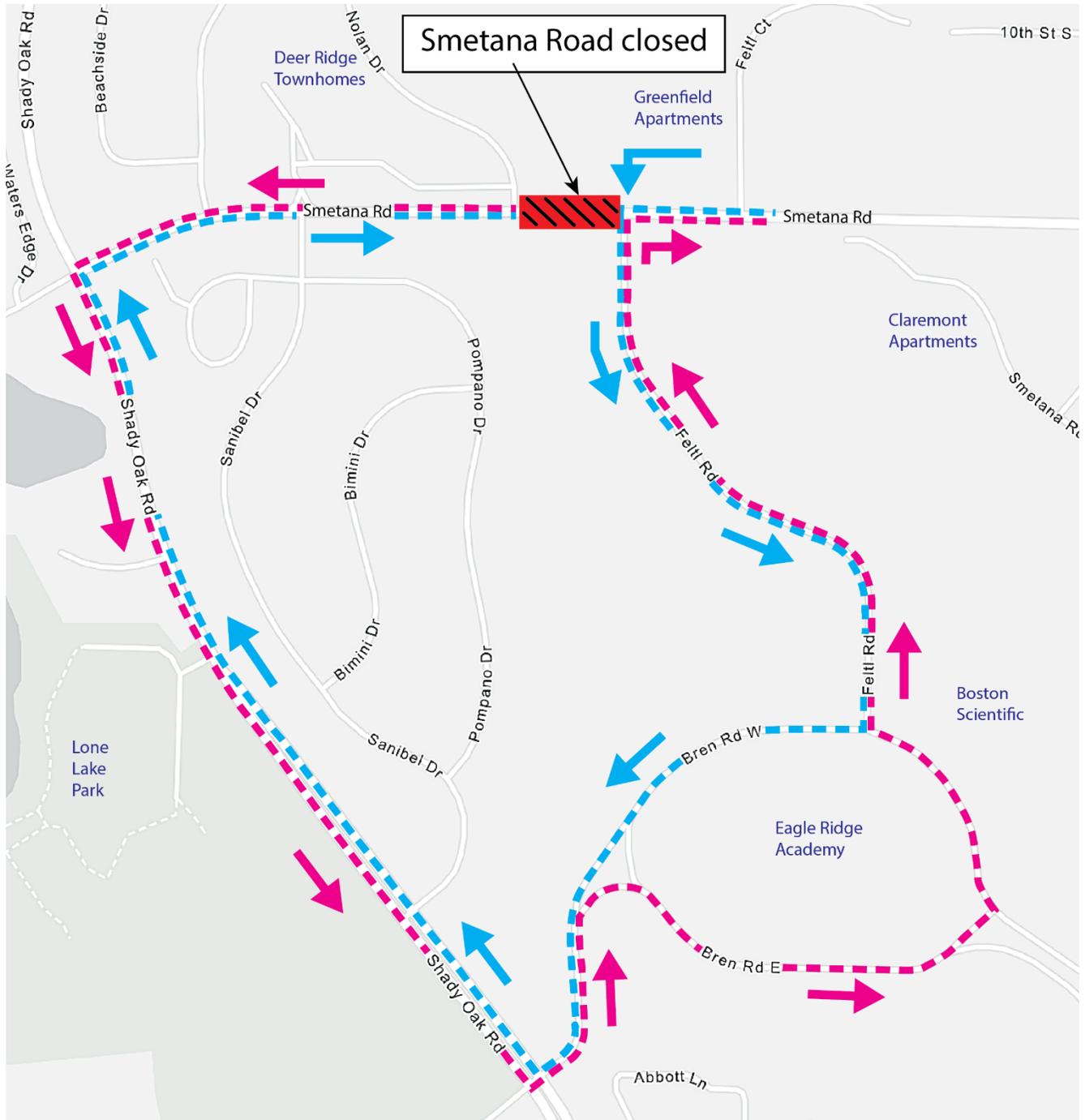
**Upcoming West 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Eden Prairie**



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



# Smetana Road in Minnetonka

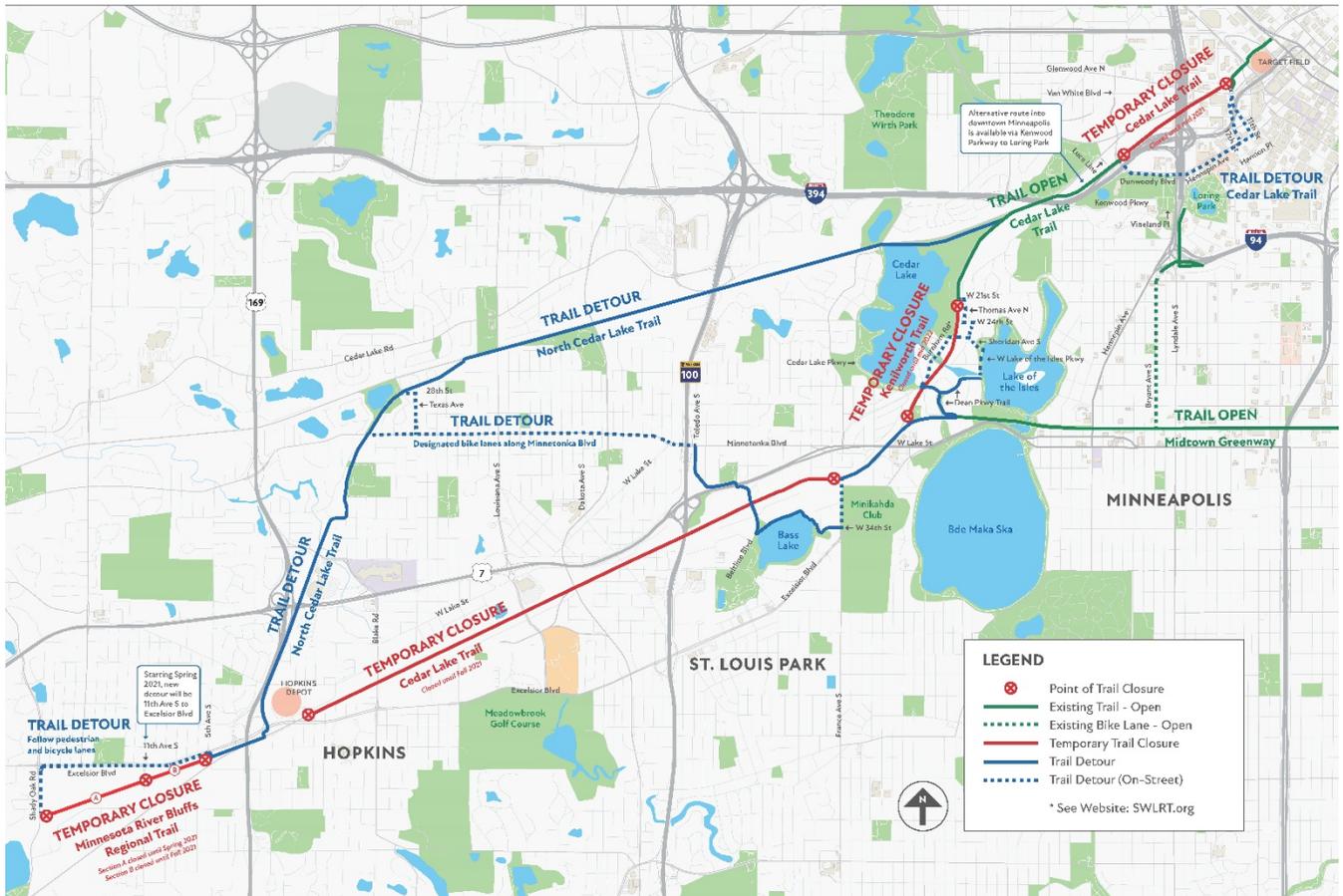


# Blake Road in Hopkins



# TRAIL DETOUR

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



Cedar Lake Regional Trail in Minneapolis

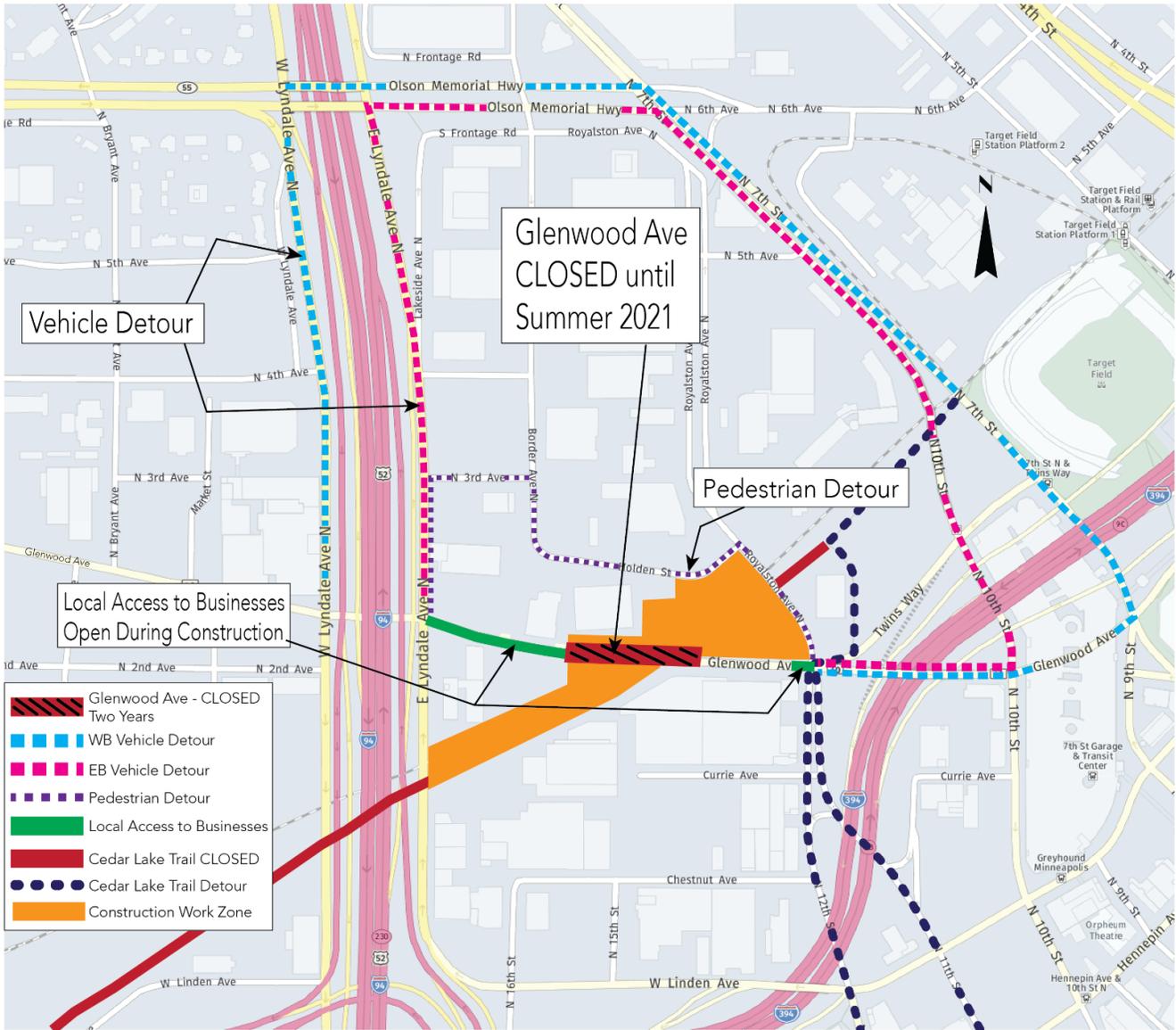
# CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

## TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

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



### Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



**Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis**

