



Construction Update: January 3, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

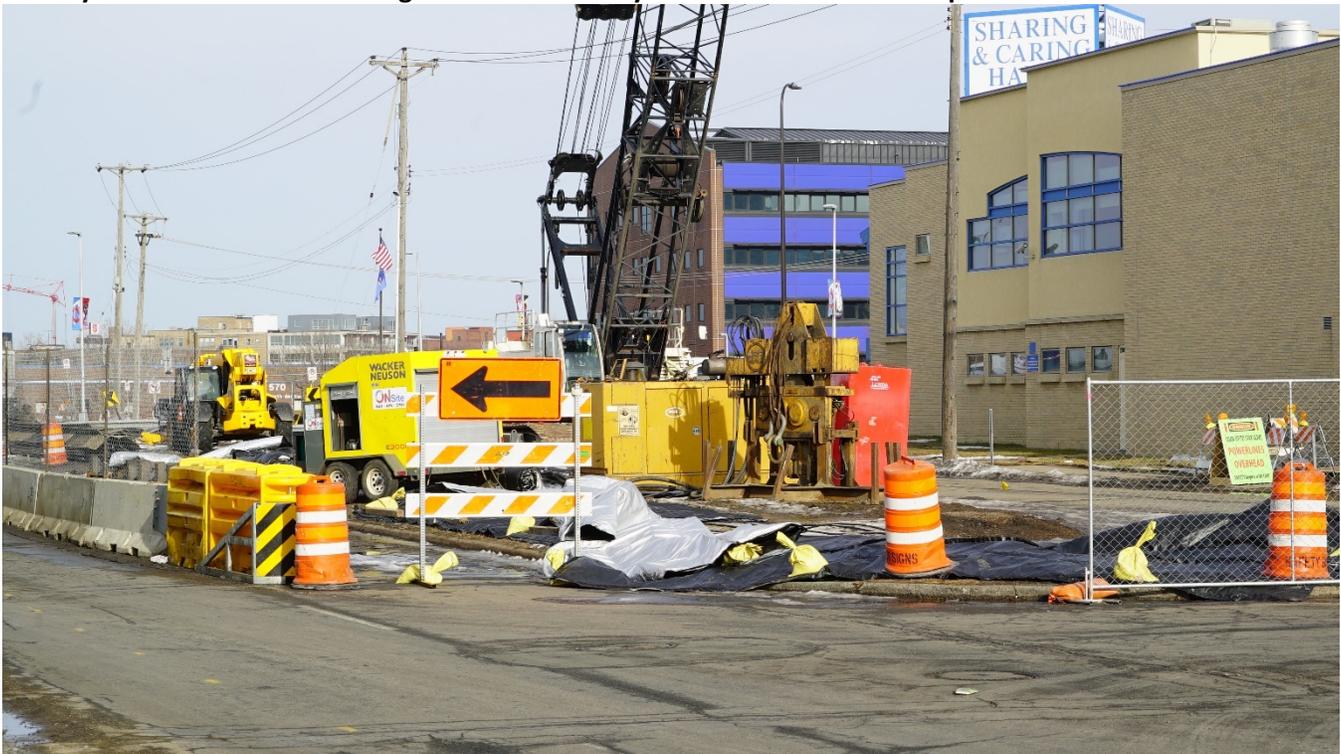
Twitter: [@SouthwestLRT](https://twitter.com/SouthwestLRT)

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Welcome to the 20s

With the new year and January temperatures so far in the 20s and 30s, crews have returned to activities along the corridor to take advantage of favorable winter conditions. Even with moderate temperatures, many construction activities are still weather dependent, especially if there is extreme cold or low visibility. Poor weather conditions can create safety issues for workers. This month's construction activities will focus on progressing many of the structural elements throughout the corridor.

Weekly Construction Photo: Bridge Pier Work on Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis



Crews begin pier work for the LRT bridge that will span 5th Avenue and 7th Street near Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis. It was one of the last job sites to activate before the calendar rolled to 2020.

Highlights

- North abutment work on I-494 begins the week of January 6.
- Work on Wooddale Avenue is anticipated to begin in February, more details to follow.
- Mark your calendars for the Southwest LRT Construction Training Fair on January 22, 2020, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Minneapolis Urban League. See details in the [Construction Training Fair flyer \(PDF\)](#).

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station Area in Eden Prairie

Pile driving will continue into 2020 as crews focus on different elements of the station site and the LRT bridge. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area. Crews are constructing a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders that will be completed in January. Transit riders will shift to the temporary facility once it is complete.

The right turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until Summer 2020.

Crews are working near the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build piers for the LRT bridge. The sidewalk is closed on the northwest corner of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive; please follow detour signage to the southwest sidewalk next to Purgatory Park. Crews will be moving around in this area as they shift to build various bridge piers. In mid-January, work on the piers for the LRT bridge over Technology Drive will begin.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Retaining wall work has concluded for the winter; backfilling will resume in the spring.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

Crews are resuming work on the north abutment. Expect pile driving activities in the area over the next few months. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed until Spring 2020. **See detour map below.**

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

The lane restriction on the ramp from Valley View Road to Highway 212 remains. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane and will remain in this configuration through the winter. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The various piers are at different stages of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork.

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure and abutments at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the winter. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians can use the east side.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Night work has paused in the area and crews are currently working on utilities and retaining walls. Work has progressed to a point where we can shift more construction activities to daytime. Additional night work may be scheduled in the future as work between the Golden Triangle Station to bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212 continues.

Highway 62 in Minnetonka

The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway to accommodate tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. Crews continue excavation for the LRT tunnel, with sheeting starting next week.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive in Minnetonka

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 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 on Highway 62 and will be in place until Fall of 2020. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

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.**

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

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.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Foundation work for the station is complete. Work on the station structure will start this month.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins

Crews continue to work on the LRT bridge piers and underground utilities in the area.

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.**

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel for the regional trail under Blake Road. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the winter. Next spring, crews will move to the east side of the roadway and traffic will remain reduced to one lane in each direction.

Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park

Work on the new freight and trail bridge abutments continues in this area. Flaggers are monitoring recreational water use during times that construction activities make it unsafe to travel through the creek.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Later this winter crews will begin work to place bridge beams.

Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park

Utility work started in the area to make way for upcoming work on the regional trail underpass and Wooddale Station. There will be minor impacts to roadways in the surrounding area. Work on Wooddale Avenue could start as early as February.

Highway 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 in the spring/summer of 2020. Work on bridge abutments will resume the week of January 6.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new South Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are working on bridge piers and beams. Crews are also working on retaining walls in the area, which includes pile driving.

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.**

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis

Storm sewer and watermain work will occur during the winter months. Work is anticipated in this area in January and is not expected to impact the trail.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel continues, moving north from Park Siding Park. Sheeting will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and the press-in-piler will return south, working towards Lake Street. A second press-in-piler will be arriving in the corridor the week of January 6. The second piler will move in the same direction, on the west side (opposite side) of the LRT tunnel. Sheeting installation is expected to last until Summer 2020.

Tunnel excavation is currently anticipated to begin Spring 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 is also available.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

The Burnham Road bridge has been returned to a one-way road. The two-way detour will be reinstated when Cedar Lake Parkway is closed for tunnel construction in spring/summer 2020.

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

Crews placed the first set of beams last week for the new freight bridge. Pile driving for the last of the four piers for the freight bridge has begun. Work on the abutments also continues.

21st Street in Minneapolis

Retaining wall activities are being completed in the area. Intermittent work will continue.

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 for approximately two years until mid-2021. **See detour maps below.**

Crews constructed a temporary trail bypass in the area where the North Cedar Lake Trail connects to the Kenilworth Trail. New signage is in place to direct trail users onto this newly constructed segment. This work is in preparation for station construction in Spring 2020.

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.

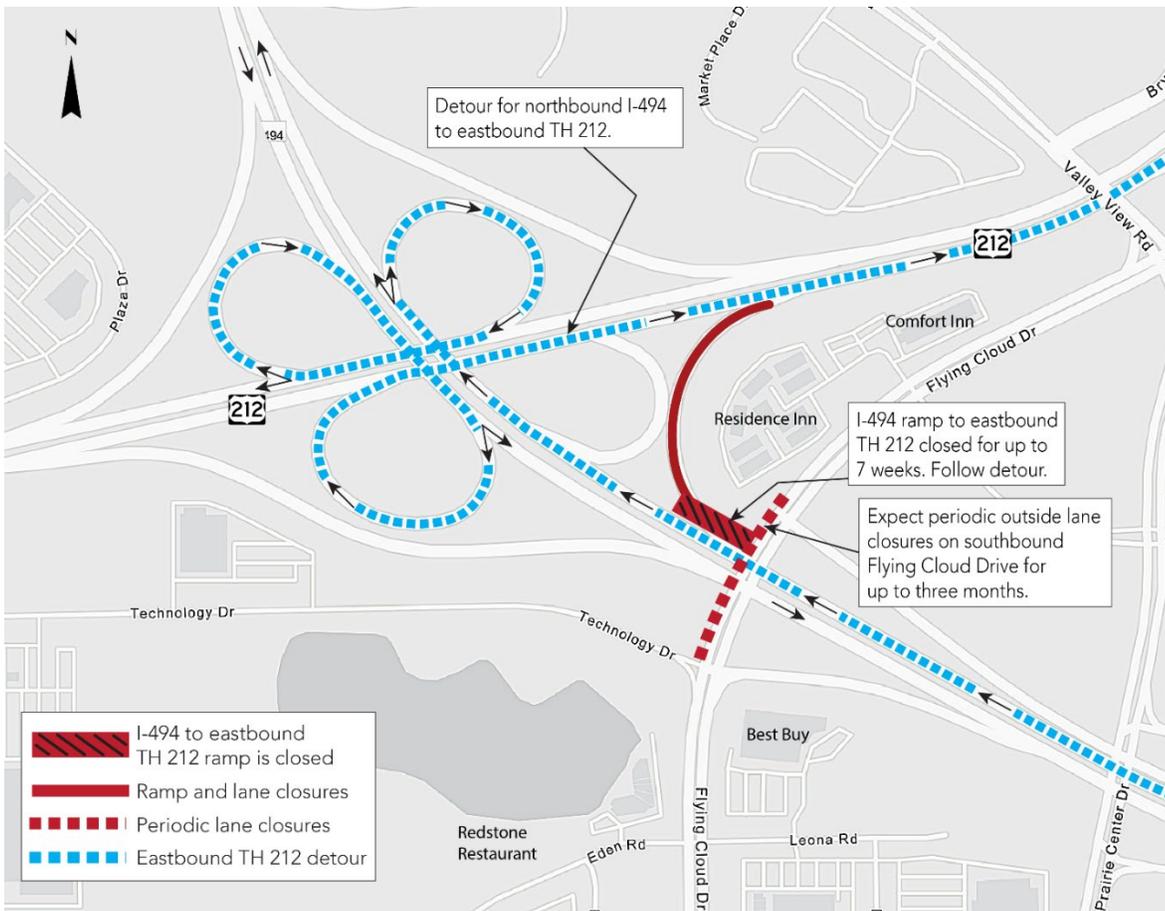
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North is closed until mid-2021. Local access to businesses will be maintained. Generally, vehicle detours will use Lyndale Avenue, Olson Memorial Highway and 7th/10th Streets. The pedestrian detour continues to utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. Utility work, retaining wall installation and freight track preparation continues. **See detour map below.**

Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the winter. Expect pile driving activities in this area. Northbound Royalston Avenue is reduced to one lane and southbound Royalston Avenue is closed between Border Avenue and 5th Avenue until Summer 2021. **See the roadway impact map below.**

Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



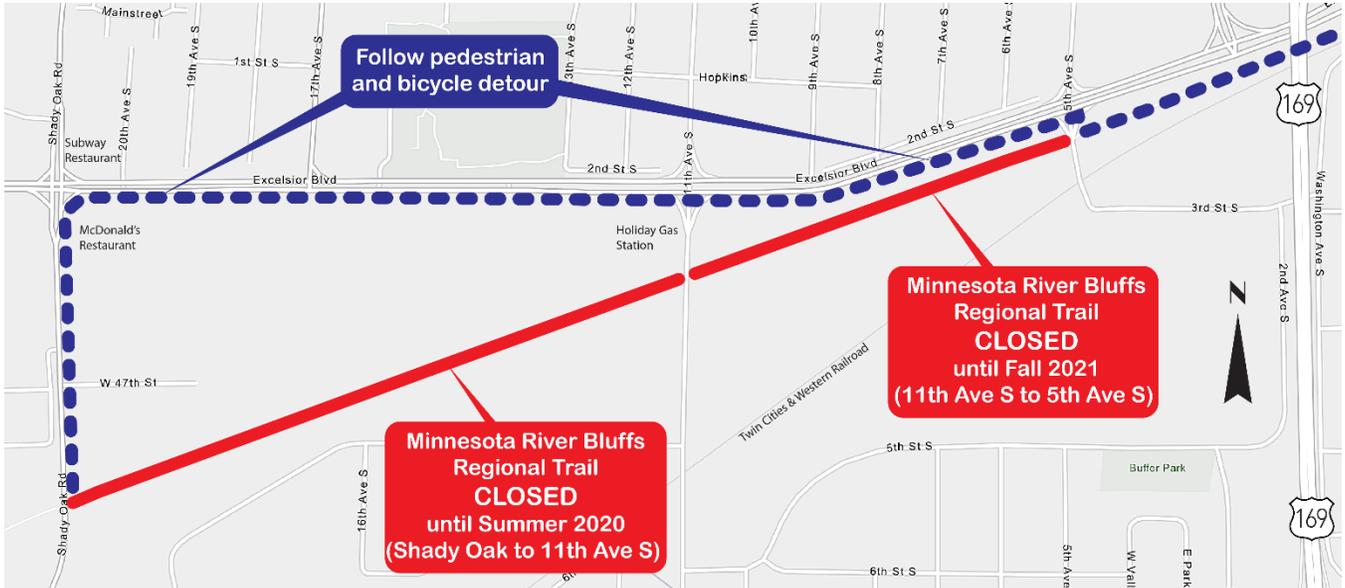
Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

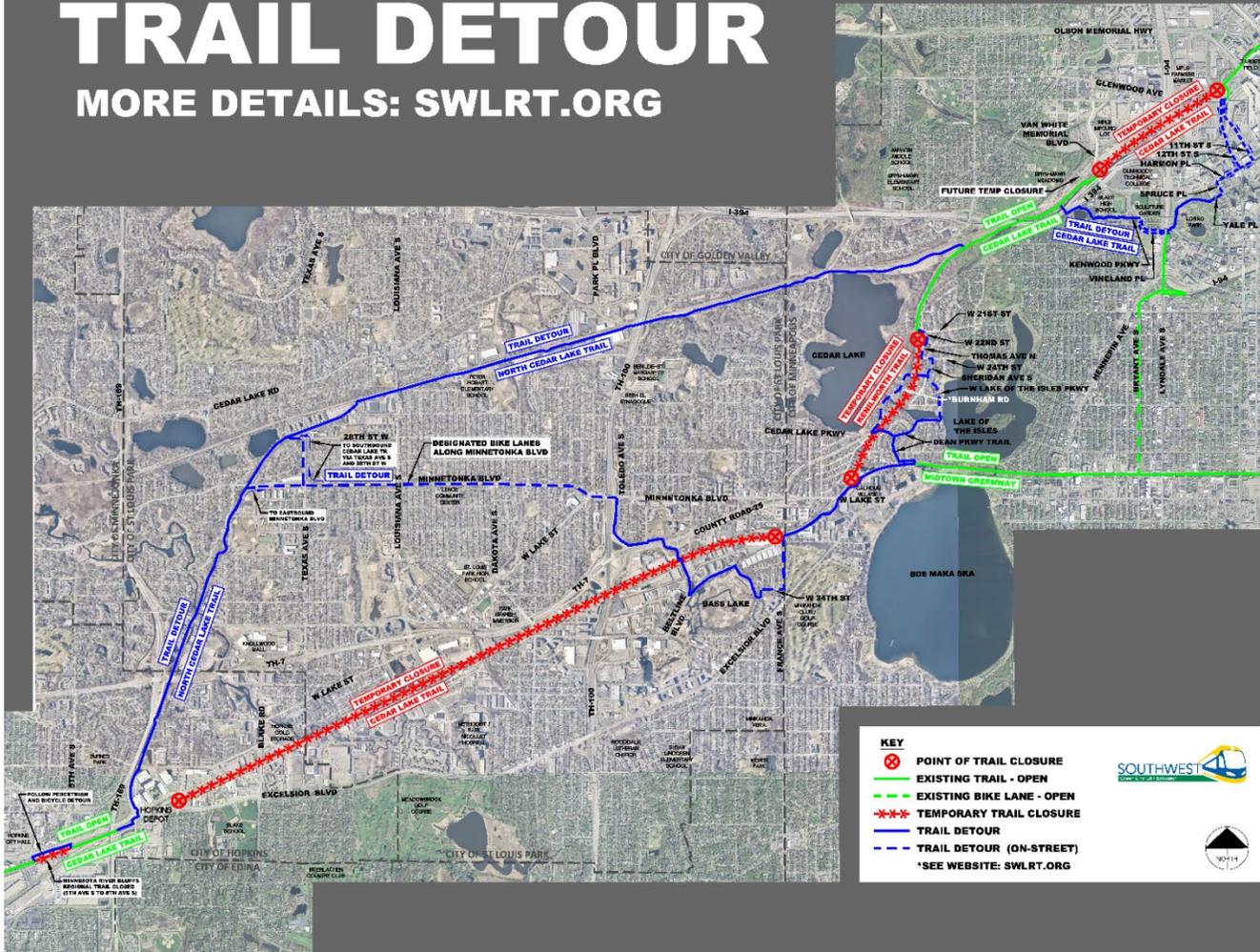


Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

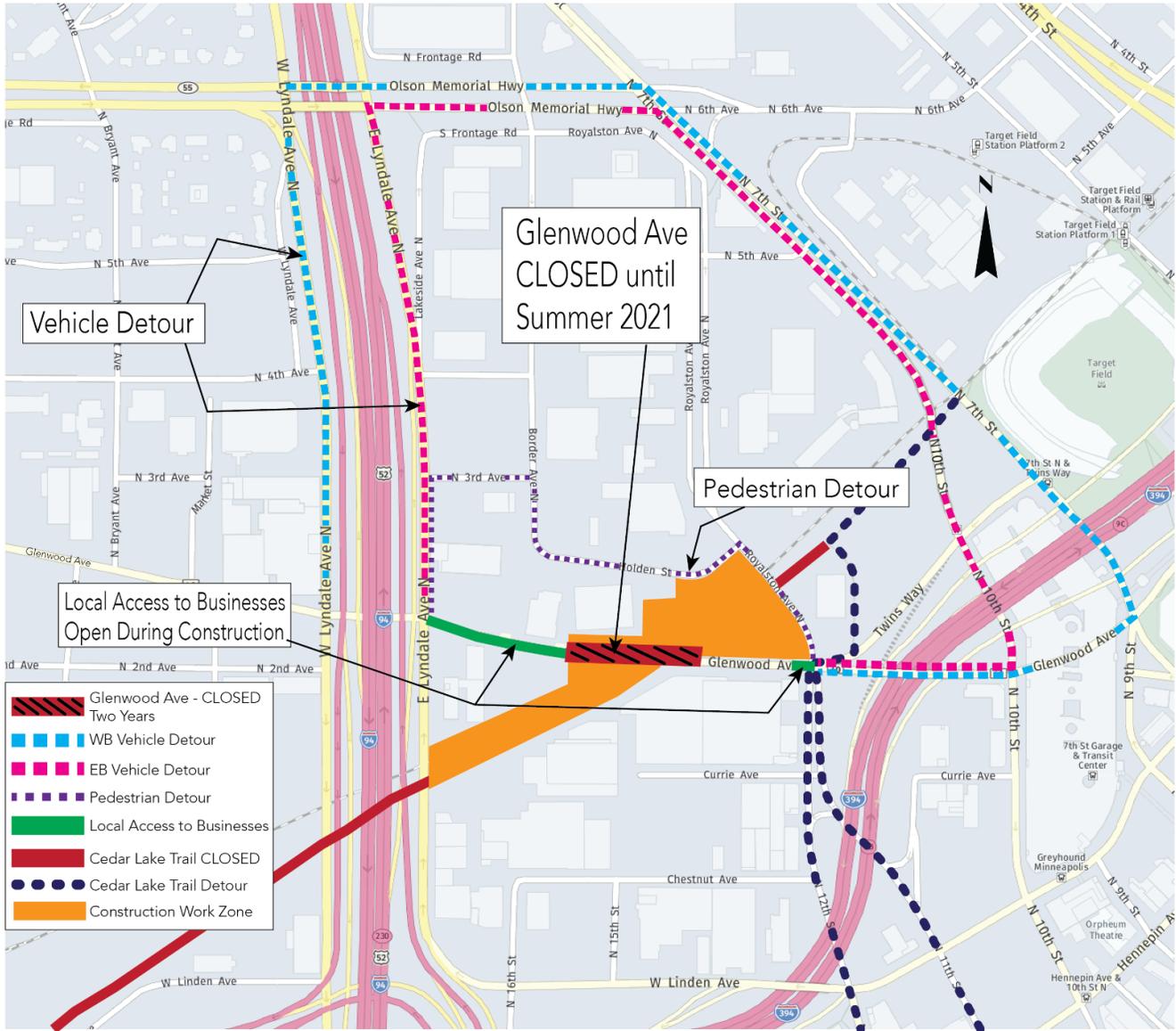


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

