



Construction Update: May 1, 2020

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A Continued Partnership

We would like to take a moment to thank our project partners and community members that have helped shape the Southwest LRT corridor. We want to acknowledge that while community members have sheltered at home, construction is something that has been at times hard to avoid. The continued feedback from residents and businesses has been extremely valuable. Feedback and partnership through the duration of this project has been and will continue to be key for shared outcomes. From increasing interconnectivity with nine of the region's 17 Fortune 500 companies along the alignment, the active public and private investments along the corridor, to individual perspectives that have shaped engineering, landscaping, stations, and now construction communication, we want to acknowledge your valuable efforts. Thank you.

Weekly Construction Photo: Bridge work over I-494 at Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



Crews work on constructing temporary forms for concrete on the approach to the bridge abutment.

Eden Prairie Highlights

- Around the SouthWest Transit station many activities continue. The sheeting that supported the construction of the retaining wall along the Highway 212 ramp have all been removed and the wall is nearing completion. Crews are also removing soil as preparation for the next phase of station construction which includes utility work, retaining walls, and piling.
- The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge is advancing quickly with work continuing north of SouthWest Transit, near Purgatory Creek Park and across the Prairie Center Drive.
- Phase two is beginning on Flying Cloud Drive. Traffic will be shifted to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road in mid-May. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive is currently closed and Eden Road at Flying Cloud Drive as well as the off ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive is anticipated to close the week of May 11. These intersections will remain closed until July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).**
- There will be intermittent daytime closures to set bridge beams at the intersection of Valley View Road and Flying Cloud Drive. Daytime closures of Valley View are planned to occur on May 4 and 5 between 5:00 am and 2:00 pm and the Highway 212 ramps to Valley View will be closed May 6 and 7 between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).**
- Both the Nine Mile Creek Bridge and the Shady Oak Bridge continue to advance with piling and concrete work.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Eden Prairie](#).

Minnetonka Highlights

- Work continues at the connecting loops of Red Circle Drive where crews are finishing grading and paving. The roadway will close in mid-May. **See Minnetonka detour maps [here](#).** Additional information about area activities is also available on the city's website [here](#).
- Utility work is also ongoing around the Opus Station and later in May the foundation for the station will be constructed.
- Retaining wall work from Bren Road West to Smetana Road is ongoing in various phases of completion. Beginning in May, crews will be installing piles for the retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H shapes pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

- In the Smetana Road area, expect earthwork as crews begin preparation work for the LRT track grade and associated bridge and retaining wall work.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minnetonka](#).

Hopkins Highlights

- Tree clearing and ground cover removal work for the Minnetonka/Hopkins LRT bridge continues to move south, past the Hopkins landfill towards Smetana Road. LRT bridge work is also underway north of the freight tracks and moving south, crews are beginning the north abutment and piers. Expect noise and vibration from piling drive in the area.
- Work is underway at the future LRT tracks crossing at 11th Street. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5th Street, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The week of May 4, the roadway will be reduced to one lane in each direction and crews will begin construction on the east side of the roadway.
- Work continues on the Downtown Hopkins Station. Later this month the roof, walls and additional utility services to the station will be constructed.
- The southbound lane of Blake Road is closed for the next four months. Traffic is still permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians access is maintained on the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#)**. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. Crews are working on retaining walls and advancing the trail underpass through the roadway.
- Construction continues the Excelsior Bridge. The piers and abutments have taken shape and preparation for deck work is starting.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Hopkins](#).

St. Louis Park Highlights

- Bridge beams are being set today/early next week over Minnehaha Creek. Crews will then focus on completing deck work for the bridge in the coming weeks.
- Multiple activities continue in the Louisiana Station area as crews work on the pedestrian underpass to the station, retaining walls, and freight rail infrastructure. Expect a lot of construction equipment and activity in the area. Additional lane closures on Louisiana Avenue are anticipated as early as mid-May.
- The closure of Wooddale Avenue will take place on Monday, May 4. The roadway closure will last 30 days. During the closure, crews will construct the regional trail underpass, replace the roadway, and progress freight rail work.
- On Thursday, May 7 the southbound ramp from Highway 7 to Highway 100 ramp will close between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. Crews will use that time to pour the west abutment for the freight bridge.

- An additional span for the Beltline Trail bridge deck was completed this week. After some more deck work, crews will switch their focus to building the track bed to shift freight. Beltline Trail bridge work will then resume after the shift is completed.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [St. Louis Park](#).

Minneapolis Highlights

- Utility work on Depot Street is ongoing. The 28th Street/Dean Court intersection is anticipated to close the week of May 11.
- During the week of May 4, work on the Cedar Lake Channel freight bridge girders may require short waterway interruptions for about 15 to 20 minutes as work occurs above. Flaggers will be in the channel to direct water traffic.
- In the next few weeks utility work in the Linden Yards area will require a detour for the Cedar Lake Trail. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to Kenwood Parkway. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. **See trail detour maps [here](#).**
- Progress is being made both on the Royalston Avenue and Glenwood Bridges. Utility work south of the freight tracks near Glenwood Avenue will continue on Saturday.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minneapolis](#).

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

[On-going Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:](#) Southwest Station, Technology and Flying Cloud Drive Intersection, Upcoming: Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

[On-going Minnetonka Roadway Detours:](#) Yellow Circle, Red Circle, Bren Road, Smetana Road

[Upcoming Hopkins Detours:](#) Blake Road

[Upcoming St. Louis Park Detours:](#) Wooddale Avenue

[On-going Minneapolis Roadway Detours:](#) Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

The former SouthWest Transit facility is demolished, and crews are working on excavation and utilities in the area. Expect piling driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls and the new parking structure.

The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until later this spring to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. Removal of the temporary sheeting for the retaining wall is completed and the wall has been backfilled.

Prairie Center Drive Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge structure, which begins on the north side of SouthWest Transit Parking Ramp, follows alongside Purgatory Creek Park then crosses over Prairie Center Drive north of Singletree Lane, will be under construction until fall 2020. Crews have finished some piers and are currently working north of Parking Ramp and next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive. Work has also started on the east side of the roadway near Bachman's. Expect ongoing piling in the area through the summer. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays.

Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. **(See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map [here](#)).**

The outside southbound lane on Prairie Center Drive will intermittently close for pier work. Additional roadway lane closures will be needed later this spring as work for piers advances.

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area has begun. The intersection of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive will close during the week of May 11 and remain closed until July of 2020. Eden Prairie Town Center Station work is also anticipated to begin in the next month.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Abutment work is nearly complete, with crews removing the supports for excavation and backfilling. Work continues on the walls for the approaches to the bridge. The ramp from westbound I-494 to eastbound Highway 212 has reopened. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone.

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Work on the Valley View Road bridge is shifting to bridge deck construction. There will be intermittent daytime closures to set bridge beams at the intersections of Valley View Road and Flying Cloud Drive. Daytime closures of Valley View are planned to occur on May 4 and 5 between 5:00 am and 2:00 pm and the Highway 212 ramps to

Valley View will be closed May 6 and 7 between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. **See Eden Prairie upcoming detour map [here](#).**

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.

Along Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road crews will be conducting major utility work, which includes moving utilities that are in the way of the LRT guideway and improving other area utilities while the roadway is under construction. Once the utilities are relocated, crews will begin work on the LRT track guideway. Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season. This work will also result in closures to connecting roadways.

Work is beginning to shift into phase two, with traffic being moved to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive as work begins on the northern side. This shift is anticipated in mid-May. The west bound exit from Highway 494 to Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane and will close within the next couple weeks. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive is currently closed and will remain closed until July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie traffic map [here](#).**

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

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge around the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity in the area as these elements advance.

Current activities include piling and concrete work for retaining walls and the LRT bridge. Work on the Golden Triangle Station and the adjacent track slab is also being advanced.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Storm sewer work has resumed in this area. As work advances, there will be minor traffic impacts on the east side of the Shady Oak/Highway 212 intersection. The storm sewer work will take approximately four months.

Minnetonka

Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 will be ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. The 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 fall of 2020. Crews began constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section and will advance concrete and structural work. In the next month the tunnel walls will take shape.

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. A temporary by-pass road is complete on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will be in place until fall 2020. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).**

Additional work has begun on Red Circle Drive for bridge reconstruction. In mid-May the southern portion of Red Circle will be changed temporarily to two-way traffic and Red Circle will become a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle access. Yellow Circle traffic will be able to connect to the southern portion of Red Circle to travel west until the cul-de-sac closure point. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).** Additional information about area activities is also available on the city's website [here](#).

Opus Station Area

Earthwork continues in this area. Crews are working on utilities for the station and later in May foundation work for the Opus Station will begin. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including much of the extent of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roads. For retaining wall work, over the next weeks crews will be installing piles. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H shapes pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration. Over the next week expect the installation of supports called "soldier" piles. The installation of these supports tends to be loud.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians through the 2020 construction season. **See Minnetonka detour map [here](#)**. Crews have removed pavement and have begun excavation work. Watermain work is underway in the area.

Smetana Road

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath. Utility work has been ongoing in this area. Bridge and track work in the area is getting underway, starting with excavation. Work will start on bridge abutments and approach walls to the bridge. Piling could begin in the area as early as the week of May 4.

Currently, 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 Minnetonka detour maps [here](#)**.

Hopkins

Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge Area

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge is located east of Noland 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. Tree clearing and ground cover removal is ongoing, crews are working south of the freight rail line and are moving south towards ongoing work underway at Smetana Road. Excavation and pile driving have begun. Crews will be working on the northern most abutment and piers on that end of the bridge. Piling activities for the bridge will move north to south. Piling work for the bridge piers and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

Shady Oak Road Station

Building demolition and soil correction for the station is complete in the area. Utility and foundation work for the Shady Oak Station is beginning to pick-up momentum. Foundation work for the station is anticipated to begin in late May.

11th Street

Work is underway at the future LRT tracks crossing at 11th Street. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5th Street, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The week of May 4, the roadway will be reduced to one lane in each direction and crews will begin construction on the east side of the roadway.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Work to advance the station will be ongoing as crews begin to work on plumbing and concrete elements.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. As piers are nearing completion, focus will shift to construction of the bridge girders.

Blake Road

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building an underpass for the regional trail. Crews continue constructing the underpass on the west side of Blake Road. The southbound direction of Blake Road has closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed for approximately four months. Traffic will be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#).**

St. Louis Park

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in this area. Crews are beginning to backfill retaining walls on the approach to the bridges. Bridge girders are currently being placed. Flaggers in the water will alert recreational users of periodic closures as crews begin to set girders and work on other structural elements across the waterway. Crews also continue excavation work to remove topsoil that will allow them to build track foundation in the area.

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicycle underpass (which connects the area around the old Sam's Club 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.

Currently, crews are working on the pedestrian/bicycle underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye

freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks. Clearing work and fencing is being placed in the area.

Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated in mid-May. An additional lane closure is also anticipated in the coming weeks.

Wooddale Avenue

The project is implementing safety enhancements to the regional trail in this area with the construction of a trail underpass, which is ongoing. Wooddale Avenue between West 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest Project. Crews have been setting prefabricated concrete segments for the Wooddale Avenue regional trail underpass. Work on the approaches continues, expect pile driving and excavation work in the area.

The closure of Wooddale Avenue will take place on Monday, May 4. The roadway closure will last 30 days. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#).**

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. Piling for the abutments is complete and crews are advancing concrete work and connecting retaining walls.

Beltline Boulevard

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set. Work on the trail bridge deck continues. Major earthwork has begun in the area, extending west to Highway 100.

Minneapolis

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

For the 2020 construction season, this area will experience major utility work, soil correction activities, pier protection work on the Lake Street Bridge, West Lake Station construction and the realignment of Chowen/Abbott roadways.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

From the Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of an LRT tunnel will be ongoing through 2022. Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel is ongoing south of Cedar Lake Parkway. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin late 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: swlrt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' sanitary sewer force main will be relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. 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 the week of May 11. Associated with this work, utility activities have started on Depot Street, crews will construct a utility receiving pit requiring temporary excavation support. A backhoe will be pushing in the support, on the sides of the excavation, which is noisy. Struts then are also placed across the excavation to create a safe space for workers.

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 underway and will be completed first and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Trusses for the freight bridge were set in late March. Crews will focus on finishing deck details over the next couple months. Freight is anticipated to be shifted onto the new bridge in early summer. During the week of May 4, work on the Cedar Lake Channel freight bridge girders may require short waterway interruptions for about 15 to 20 minutes as work occurs. Flaggers will be in the channel to direct water traffic.

Crews are beginning earth work to remove soil and place freight rail ballast on the approaches to the new freight rail bridge at the Cedar Lake Channel. Some additional tree clearing will occur between the Channel and the Burnham Road Bridge to complete this work and to install permanent fencing.

21st Street

Temporary surcharge work began south of 21st Street for the station. Surcharge work will consist of periods of activity moving soil followed by periods to consolidate the underlying soil. The surcharge is currently in a settlement period into the summer. Some additional dirt may need to be temporarily added at a future date.

21st Street Station construction is expected to begin in the summer after removal of the surcharge.

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 temporary surcharge for the station remains in a settlement period. This work will remain into the summer to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station. In May earthwork will begin for the new trail. Retaining wall work in the Penn Avenue/Wayzata Boulevard area is anticipated to begin in the next month.

I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Pier protection work continues on the I-394 bridge. Trail construction to move pedestrians to their permanent location in the area is upcoming later in May.

Linden Yards

Utility work has begun in the area. Construction of the Bassett Creek Valley Station will begin later this summer.

Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, LRT will cross Glenwood Avenue at 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 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 [here](#).** 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

This area will see the development of the Royalston Station, an LRT bridge crossing over 5th and 7th Streets and connecting to the Target Field Station. The entire Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed. 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 closed on March 16; the closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map [here](#).**

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 [here](#).**

- 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 [here](#).**

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 [here](#).**

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 [here](#).**

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

In the next few weeks utility work in the Linden Yards area will require a detour for the Cedar Lake Trail. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to Kenwood Parkway. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. **See trail detour maps [here](#).**