



Construction Update: August 30, 2019

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Holiday Weekend Activities

On Labor Day you may see construction crews along the corridor. They will be performing duties such as checking equipment, water management in the Cedar Lake Channel, and general inspections. Crews may also be checking or altering signage and traffic control items to prepare for work in the coming week. Crews performing inspections will be wearing construction attire.

Cedar Lake Channel: Upcoming Night Work

Urgent repair work is needed on the Cedar Lake Freight Bridge to keep it in service until a new bridge is constructed as part of the Southwest LRT project. As an aging bridge, it has been inspected frequently. During the latest inspection, it was determined repair work is needed immediately to install new pile supports and a cap beam. Work to repair the bridge is beginning the afternoon of Friday, August 30. This work will be conducted quickly but it is likely crews will need to work into the night. We anticipate pile driving could last until 10:00 PM; final repair work may continue until approximately 12:00 AM. During the final two hours of work there may be equipment noise and lights. Thank you for your patience as we complete this urgent work. During this time flaggers will remain at the channel to direct waterway traffic.

Weekly Construction Photo: Excelsior Boulevard



Sheet piles for the LRT bridge over Excelsior can be seen behind the excavator, as crew perform earthwork in preparation for a full closure of Excelsior.

Upcoming Work

Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie: Week of September 2

The left lane of Flying Cloud Drive will close for watermain work. This activity could take up to two months and the left lane will be closed for the duration of this activity. Sheet piles will also be installed in this area.

Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis: Anticipated September 9

Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Corridor will be closed for up to six days in early September to shift the freight tracks and conduct watermain work. The closure for freight track work is being coordinated with the watermain work to reduce the duration and minimize the impact to motorists. Pedestrians and bicycles will continue to have access across the Kenilworth corridor when Cedar Lake Parkway is closed to vehicle traffic. **See detour map below.**

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure. SouthWest Transit Station and buses are operating as usual. Pile driving for utility work near the former Culver's site has begun.

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

Expect heavy equipment in the area for construction of the new LRT bridge. A crane is stationed in the median of the roadway. The installation of sheet piling for pier construction for the new LRT bridge has begun and traffic control barriers are in place. The work on the center pier is ongoing and progressing well. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212, which closed the week of August 12, will remain closed for up to seven weeks for this work. **See detour map below.** While traffic control barriers will be in place, please remember to observe the posted speed limit to help ensure the safety of our crews.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Pile driving work is ongoing during daytime hours which may include work on Saturdays. In mid-September, night piling work will resume in the area between the hours of 1:00 AM and 7:00 AM. Nighttime work may continue for several months. Efforts have been made to reduce the noise generated by equipment. Residents should anticipate they will be able to hear activity. Pile driving between Golden Triangle and Shady Oak Road is anticipated as an on-going activity until Summer of 2020. Crews will continue to make their way north toward Shady Oak Road, where bridge work will also be conducted.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Preparation work for the LRT tunnel under TH 62 has begun. Crews are working on installing temporary drainage and are preparing the median for future lane shifts to consolidate both east and westbound traffic on one side of the highway. Expect traffic delays as periodic lane closures and traffic shifts occur.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road closed on August 21 for six weeks (**see detour map below**). Following this six week closure, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will be closed for up to a year. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is now closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. **(see detour map below).**

- The section between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail may be closed for approximately one year. Crews are looking at options to reduce the duration.
- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins: Full Closure Anticipated on September 4

Expect traffic delays in this area. The sidewalk is closed on the north side of Excelsior Boulevard in the immediate vicinity of the tracks as piling for bridge piers has begun, please follow posted pedestrian detours. A closure of the left-turn lane and the adjacent left westbound through lane was established and the turn onto Milwaukee Street is currently prohibited **(see detour map below)**. A full closure of Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing is expected on September 4 and will remain closed for approximately one month. Blake Road and Excelsior Boulevard will not be closed at the same time to ensure traffic flow through the area. **(see detour map below)**. Additional closures will be needed later in the Fall to complete this phase of activity. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Blake Road in Hopkins: Full Closure Anticipated September 3

The west side of Blake Road is closed, and traffic is diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction. This lane closure will last a couple weeks in coordination with ongoing City of Hopkins roadway construction. A second one-day full closure of Blake Road for utility work is anticipated on September 3 **(see detour map below)**. Following these closures, the southbound lanes of Blake Road will remain closed as crews construct a tunnel for the regional trail. Southbound traffic will shift to the northbound lanes - one lane in each direction - for approximately 6 months.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Louisiana Avenue has reopened. Traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews continue to work on bridge piers. Expect to see traffic lane shifts as crews switch to abutment work. Expect sheet piling activity in the area.

TH 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and build a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Center pier bridge work began the week of August 12. For another couple weeks, traffic will be shifted to create a workspace in the median area of TH 100. Crews will be working to pour the concrete for the center pier Friday night. Nightly lane closures on TH 100 are anticipated. Expect to see fencing and erosion control as well.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new Cedar Lake Trail Bridge has begun. Crews are excavating for bridge abutments followed by pier work.

Cedar Lake Trail

Cedar Lake Trail through Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis is closed in three segments until Fall 2021 (**see detour maps below**). The 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 closure of roadways upcoming at various dates. The trail is closed between these segments:

- Between just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park.
- Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis until Summer 2022. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will continue to cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street.

- The Kenilworth Trail is closed at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway and extends northeast to just south of W 21st St.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

On August 26 crews cut into the roadway to continue watermain work. The road is closed for both directions of traffic for up to three weeks. The final stage of watermain work will also include a full closure of Cedar Lake Parkway (this is the same work referenced under the Cedar Lake Parkway notice). During the closure of Burnham Road and Cedar Lake Parkway, City of Minneapolis water crews will also be working along Burnham Road to make connections to the watermain. Watermain work is being coordinated with freight rail work. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.**

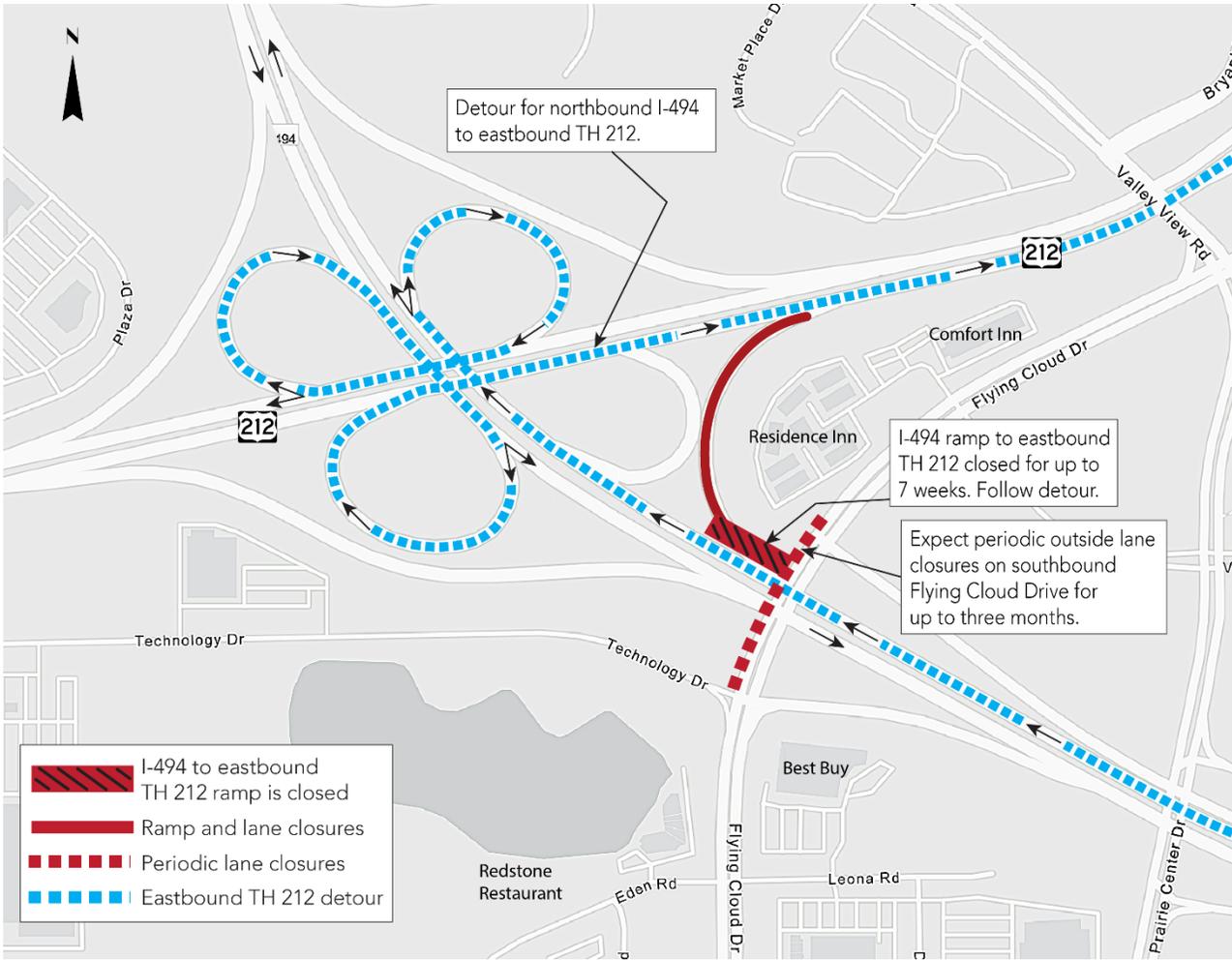
Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Shoring for bridge pier construction is being installed and piling is underway. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake will encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity for approximately three weeks. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this summer; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

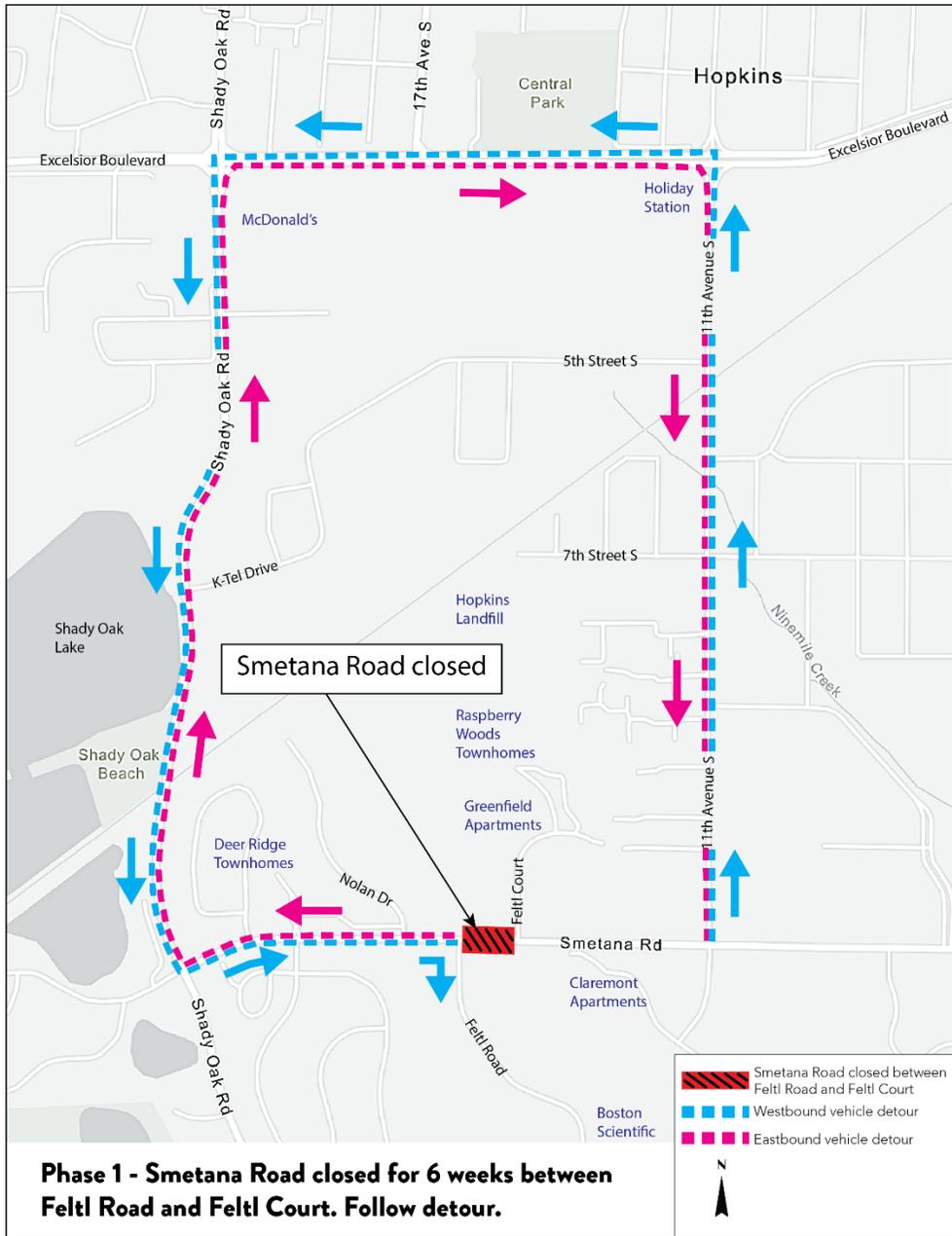
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15 and will last approximately two years. Local access to businesses will be maintained. Generally, vehicle detours will use Lyndale Avenue, Olson Memorial Highway and 7th/10th Streets. The pedestrian detour will utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.** Crews have removed the bridge deck and are beginning the removal of the bridge girders and substructure.

Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



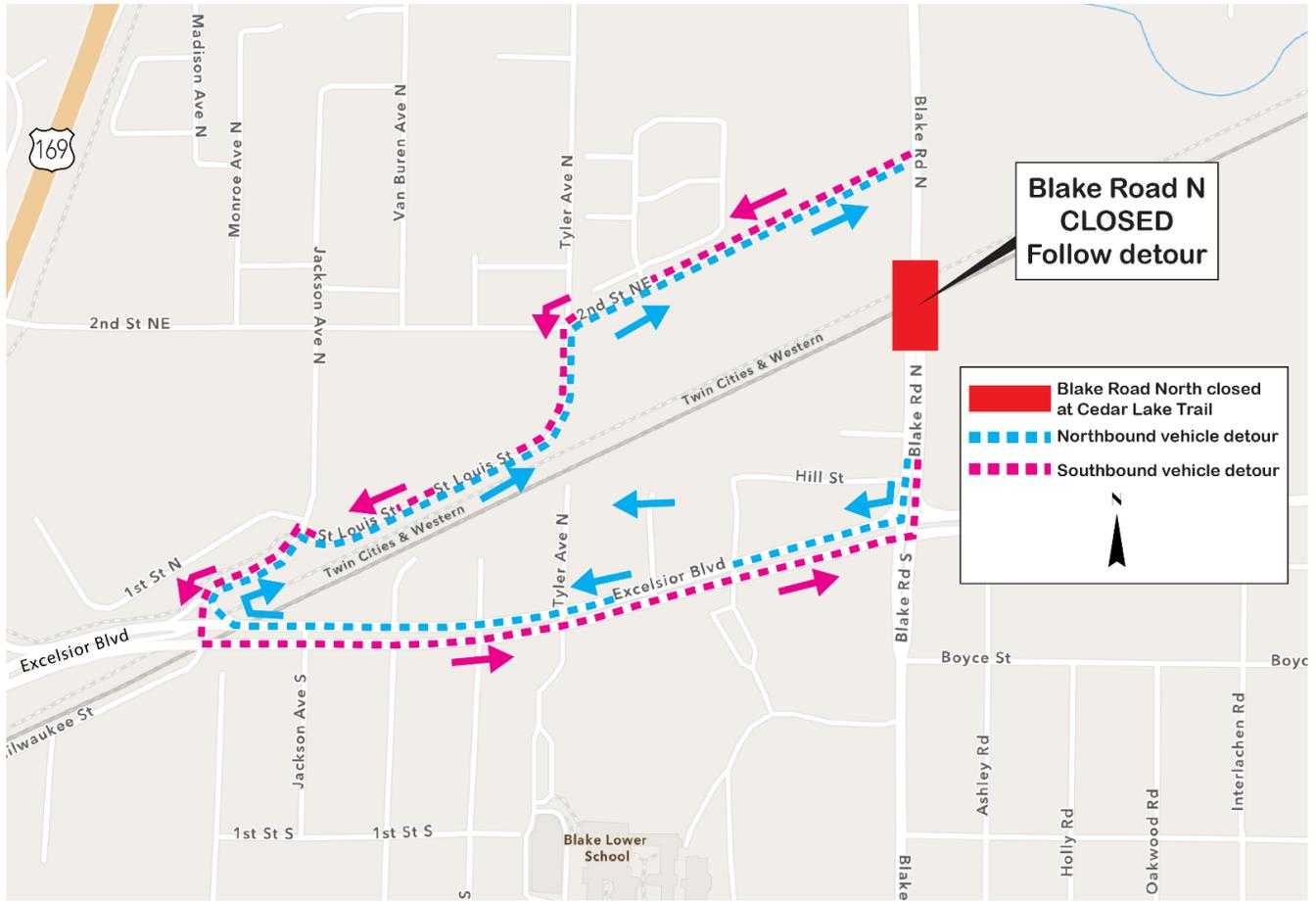
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



Excelsior Boulevard Left Turn to Milwaukee Current Detour

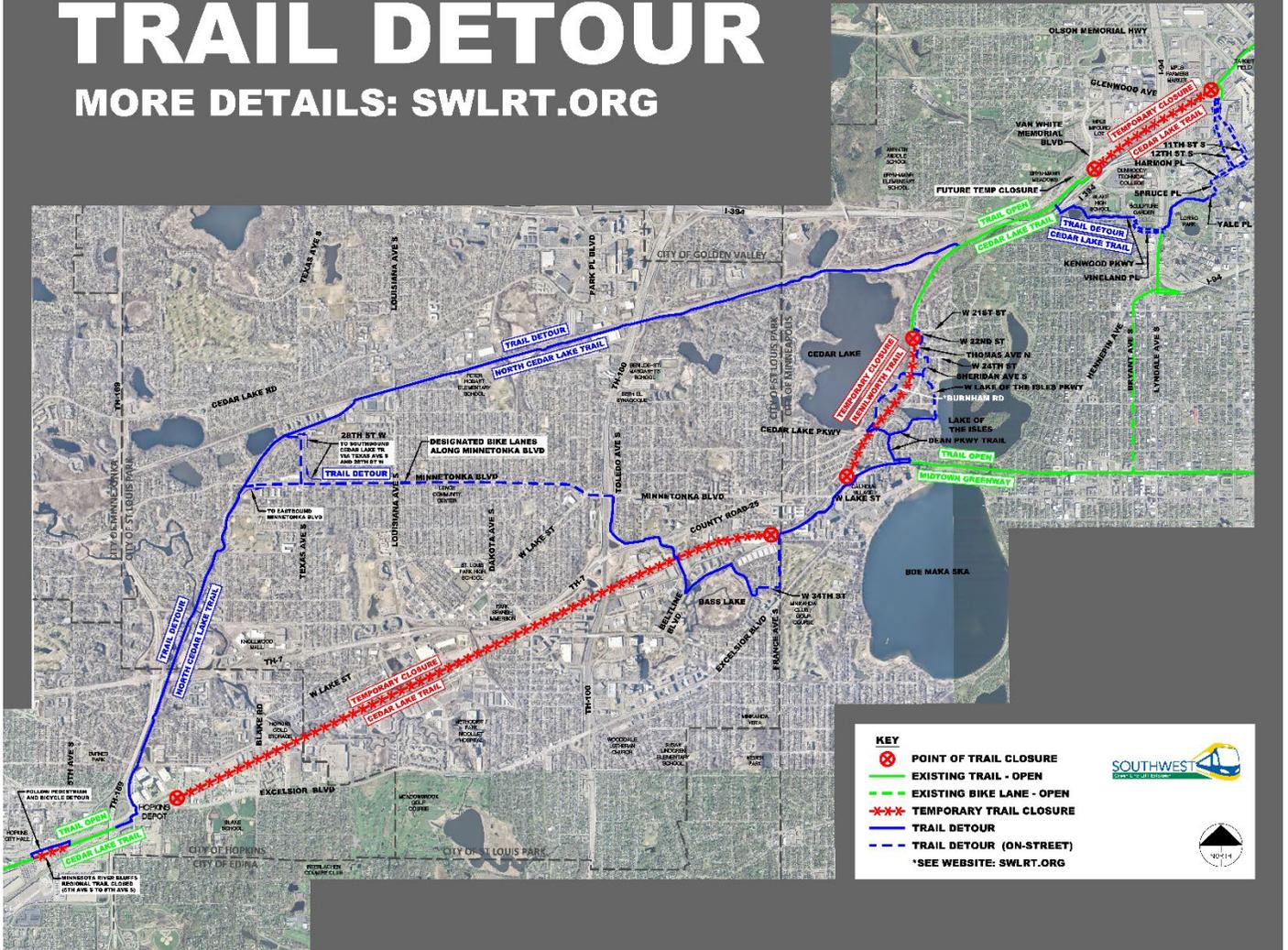


Blake Road in Hopkins Detour

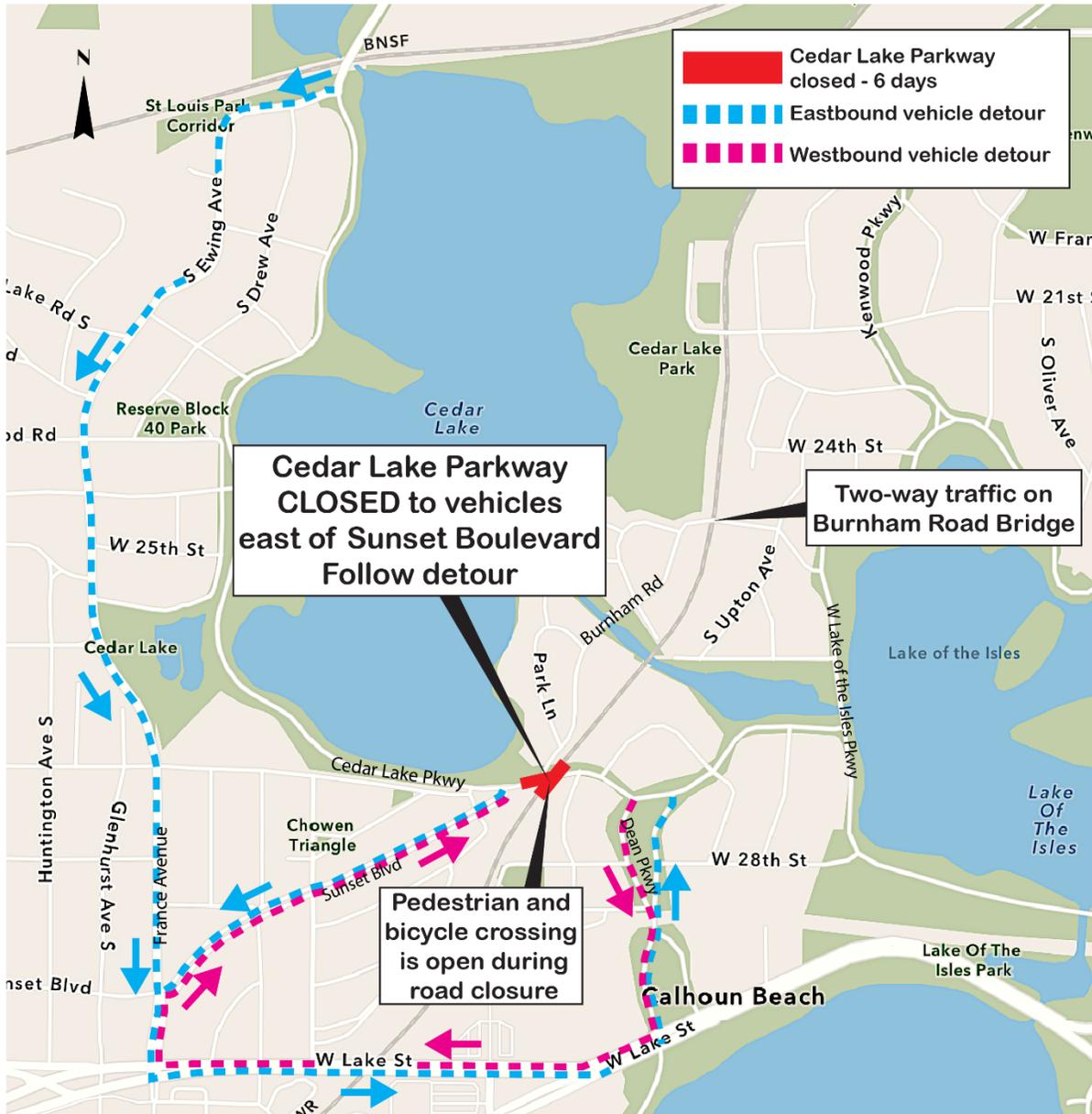


TRAIL DETOUR

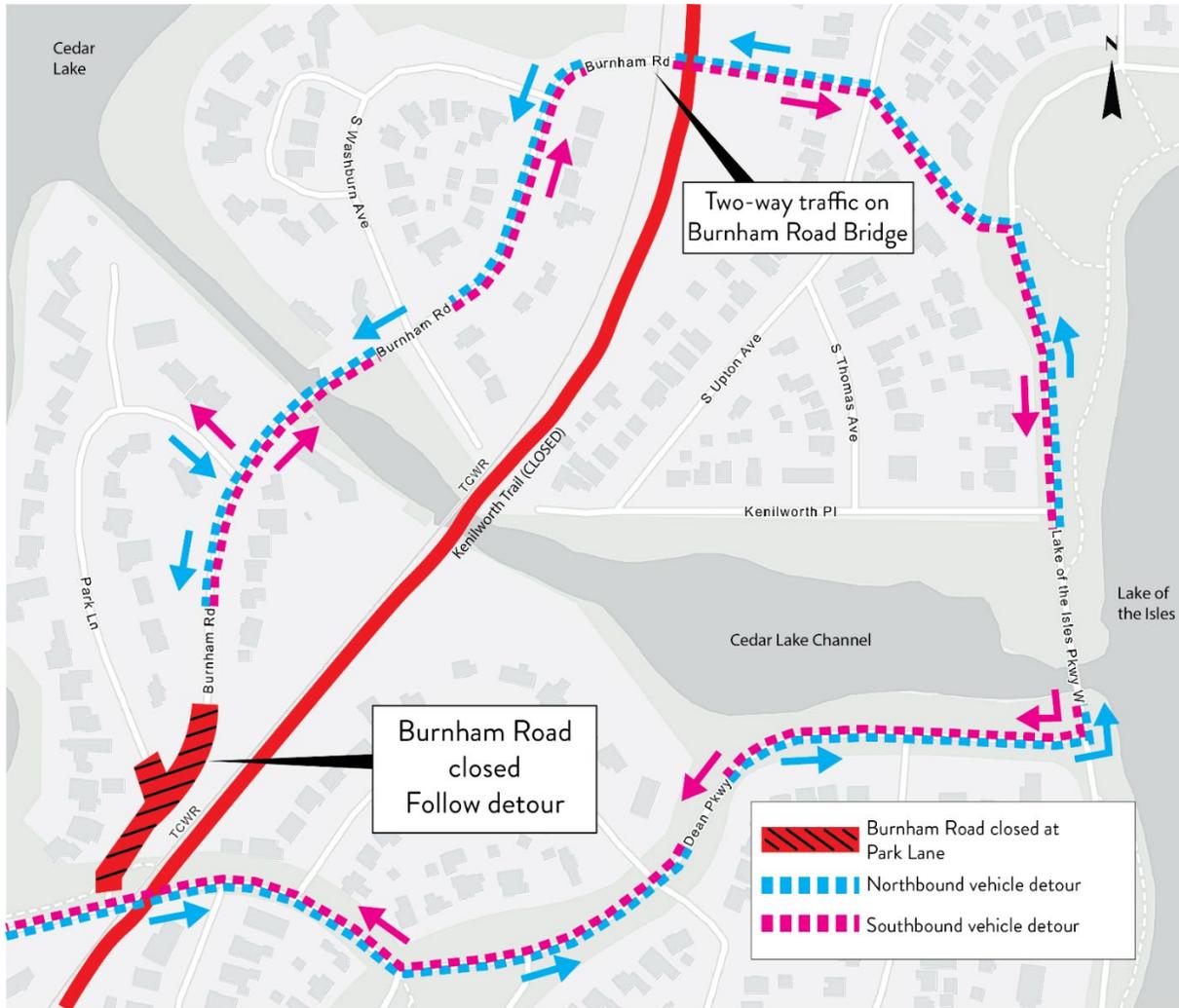
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Upcoming Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

