



Construction Update: November 6 - 19, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Winter Construction Update

As we move into winter conditions, construction activities will focus on specific areas along the corridor. With fewer week to week changes, the construction updates will be sent every two weeks. The next update will be in two weeks on November 20. If notable changes occur between updates, we will send out a construction bulletin detailing the impact. As always, please feel free to reach out to your Community Outreach Coordinator should you have any questions.

Weekly Construction Photo: Glenwood Avenue Bridge and BNSF Track Shift in Minneapolis



The area around Glenwood Avenue has transformed over the last year as crews built retaining walls to allow BNSF tracks to shift and make room for LRT and trail infrastructure. The new BNSF tracks can be seen in the

middle of the photo. In the coming weeks and months, the rest of the Glenwood Avenue roadway bridge and the LRT bridge that will connect across the roadway will begin to emerge.

Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews are building a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. Crews are working on excavation, utilities, foundations for the structures, the bus loop and utilities. Pile driving activities will continue at the SouthWest Station through the winter into next year. Crews have made significant progress with piling, having completed those needed for the buildings' footprint. Crews

are also conducting concrete work and installing supports for excavation in the area. A stationary tower crane is assisting crews with the work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWest Station, crosses over Technology Drive, follows the east side of Purgatory Creek Park and then crosses Prairie Center Drive to land north of Bachman's on the east side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction through 2020, the bridge structure is nearing completion with all the piles driven and beams set. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar, falsework and concrete work. Crews continue concrete work for the deck, intermittent lane closures can be expected.

Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow signage to ensure your safety. ([See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map](#)).

Town Center Place (Eden Road) Area

Town Center Place is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction advances in the area. The roadway is being restored and will re-open in mid-November. Just west of Town Center Place, work for Eden Prairie Town Center Station is underway, utility work is advancing and foundation work is scheduled to begin late November.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Bridge work is nearing completion. Tracks will be installed on the bridge next year.

Flying Cloud Drive

Along Flying Cloud Drive, between Eden Road and Valley View Road, crews are restoring the area. Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road until mid-November. Traffic will then be open on both sides of the roadway until spring 2021 when traffic will be shifted to the north or west side.

The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remain closed also until mid-November. [See Eden Prairie detour maps here](#). Access to area businesses on the north of the roadway remain open, follow posted signage.

Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures to complete the construction of LRT and associated utility work. We are currently in phase two. These four phases will extend into the 2021 construction season.

Valley View Road

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. Work at this time can be completed without impacting the roadway below.

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek is nearing completion. Most of the piers are complete with deck work underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

West 70th Street at Flying Cloud Drive is currently planned to be closed until late 2020 to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway. However, weather conditions may drive the closure into spring 2021. Access to businesses in the area will be maintained.

Golden Triangle Station

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge for the LRT tracks north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Crews are working on details for the Golden Triangle Station, such as the shelters on the station platform.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

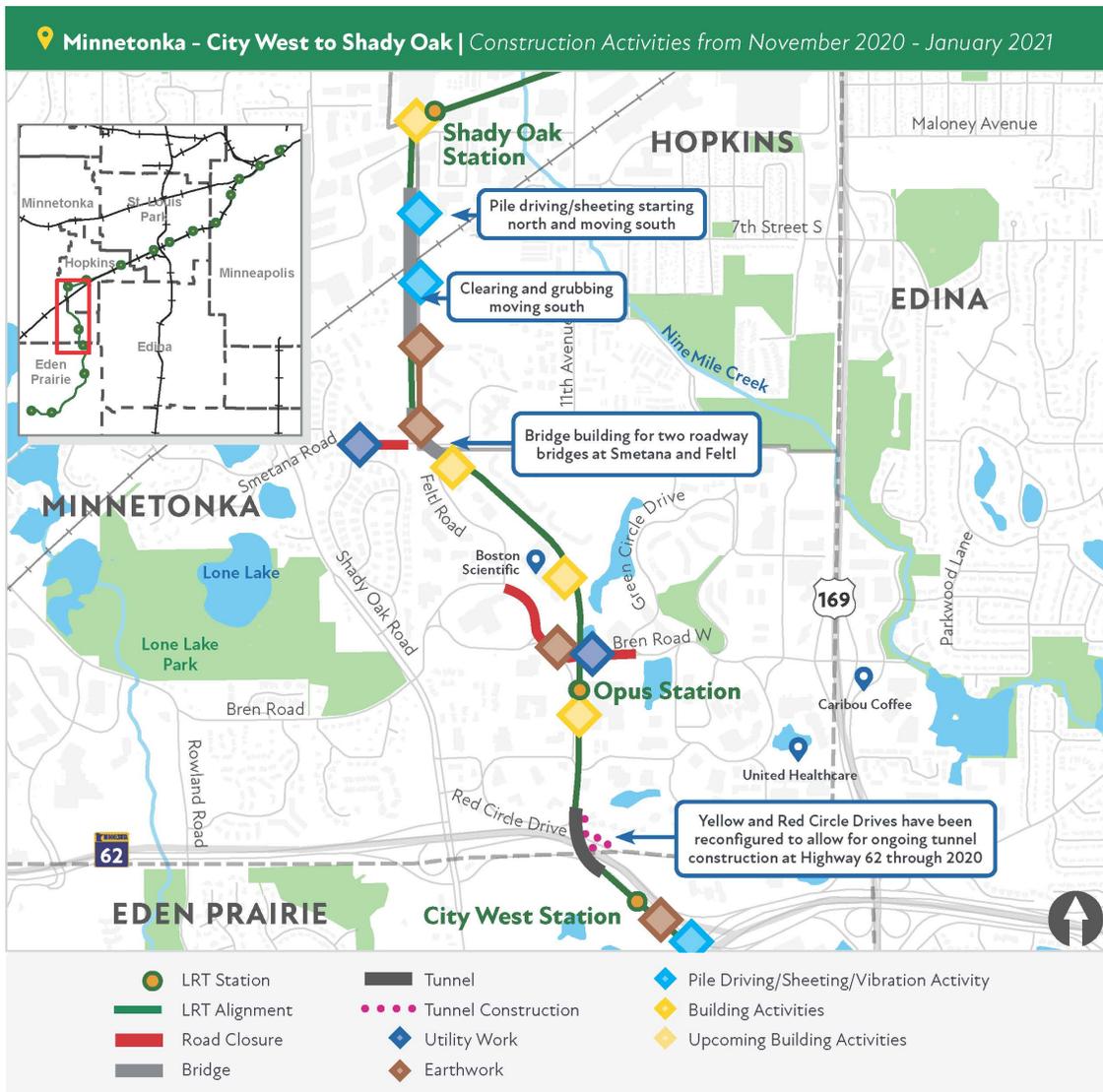
Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect through mid-November. Work continues in the median of Highway 212 to advance the LRT bridge; expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from westbound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed through the fall. Continue to expect construction activities on the west side of Highway 212 as work progresses north.

City West Station Area

Construction is underway at the City West Station area, where crews are beginning earthwork and preparation for the station. The ramp from Shady Oak to eastbound Highway 62 is closed through November. This closure allows construction vehicles to access to the City West Station site.

Minnetonka

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. 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 2020. There has been significant progress on the

tunnel with most of the first half of the structure in place, such as walls and roofing. Crews are finishing walls and roofing and beginning to backfill the tunnel. The first half of the tunnel is expected to be completed later this year.

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. This connection is scheduled to be restored later this year.

Opus Station Area

Station construction will continue to advance with crews working on the station roof. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area and along the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roadways.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians into the fall. [See Minnetonka detour map here](#). The roadway is anticipated to reopen in December 2020.

Smetana Road

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath the Smetana and Feltl roadways. Work on the Smetana Road bridge continues to advance.

Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed until spring 2021. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here](#).

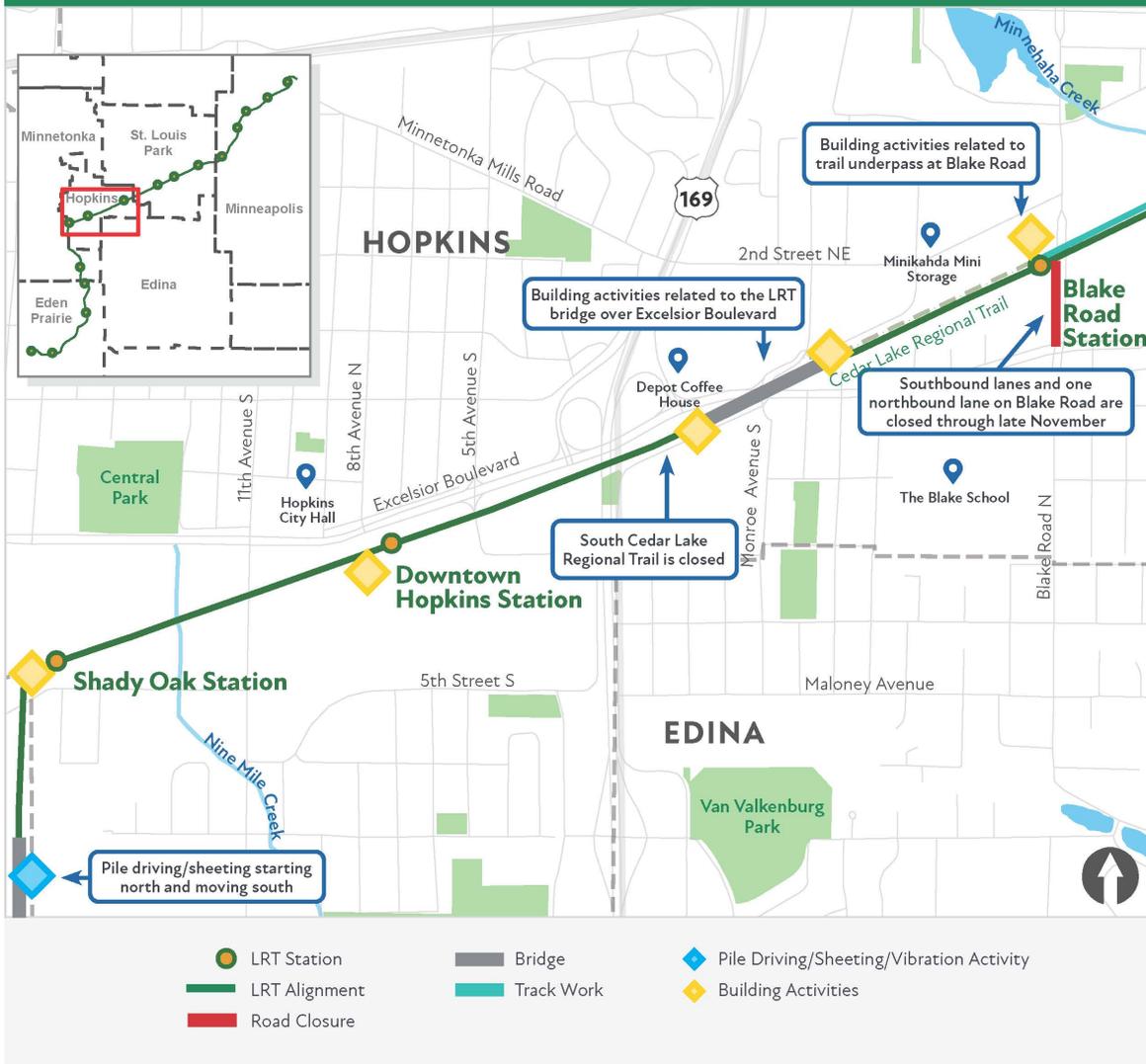
Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge Area

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge is located east of Nolan 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. Excavation and pile driving continue at the north end of the bridge near K-Tel Drive. Piling continues for piers south of the freight rail tracks. Work on the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing until spring 2021, with work continuing through the winter. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1

Hopkins - Shady Oak to Blake Road | Construction Activities from November 2020 - January 2021



Shady Oak Road Station

Shady Oak Station construction continues, and the station structure has emerged. Structural steel is being installed.

11th Avenue South

All lanes of traffic have been restored at the LRT crossing at 11th Avenue South. LRT tracks will be installed across the intersection at a later date.

5th Avenue South

Reconstruction of 5th Avenue South will be completed mid-November. Southbound access on 5th Avenue South from westbound Excelsior Boulevard will continue. Work on 8th Avenue South will occur next spring.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

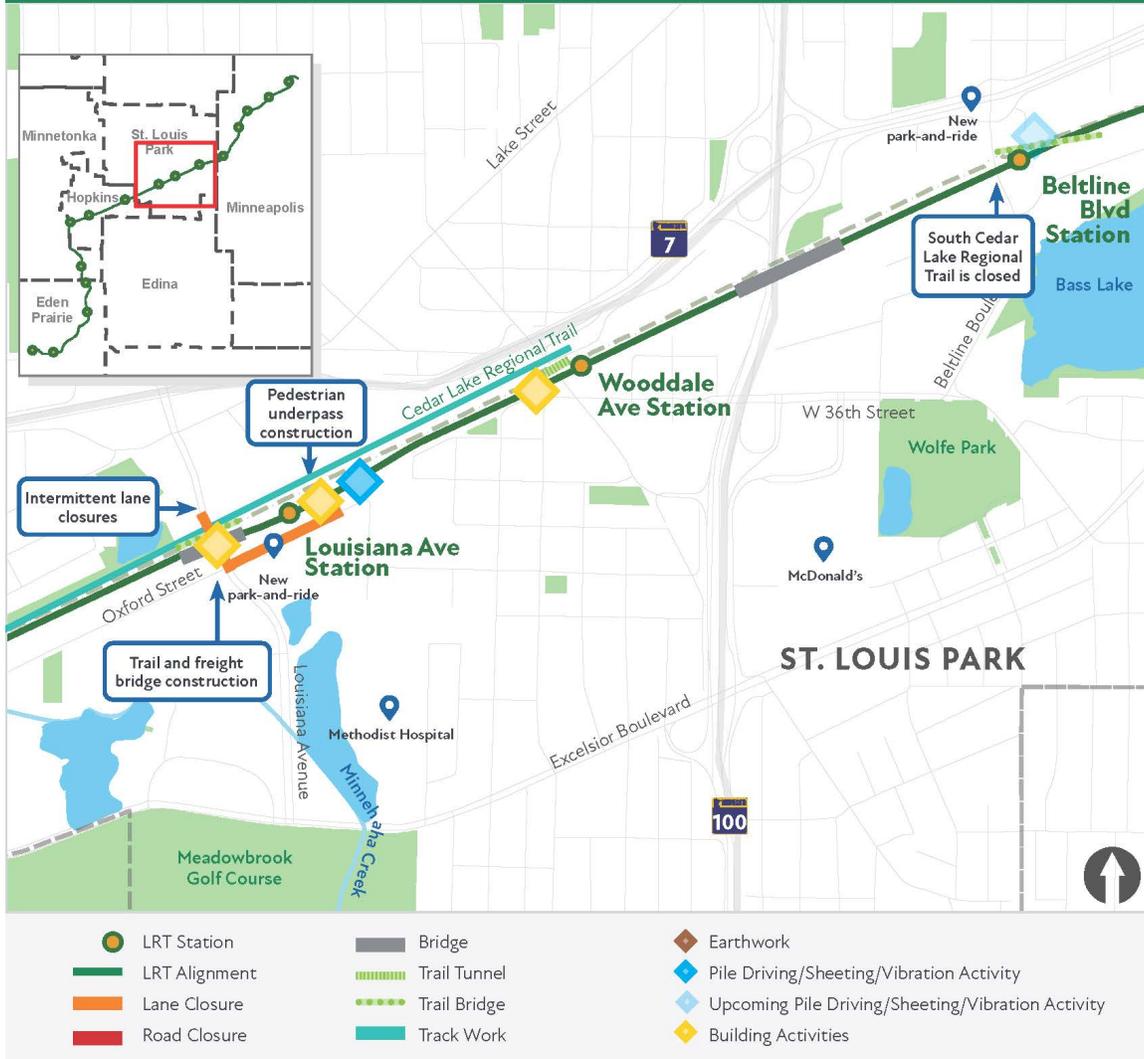
Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Crews have shifted their focus to erecting the bridge spans. Crews have assembled the form-traveler system and the cantilevered structure is starting to take shape. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway. Expect westbound lane impacts and closures on Excelsior Boulevard as construction advances. A full closure of westbound Excelsior Boulevard will be needed and is anticipated in late November.

Blake Road

The project is improving safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are completing the west segment of the underpass under Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road remain closed to vehicle traffic. Vehicle traffic continues to be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. [See Hopkins detour maps here](#). Later this fall vehicle traffic will open to one lane in each direction. Crews will work to complete the regional trail underpass beginning this spring.

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1



Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges is nearing completion, tracks just need to be installed across the freight bridge, anticipated later this fall. Crews are finishing details of the bridges and area retaining walls.

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station and park and ride areas, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicyclist underpass (which connects the regional trail 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.

Crews are working on miscellaneous details for the trail underpass. Work along Oxford Street is well underway including the abutment and retaining walls for the new freight rail connection between the Bass Lake Spur and MN&S tracks.

Wooddale Avenue

Construction of the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure is complete. A closure of the roadway will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection.

Construction continues in the area to advance various project elements.

Highway 100

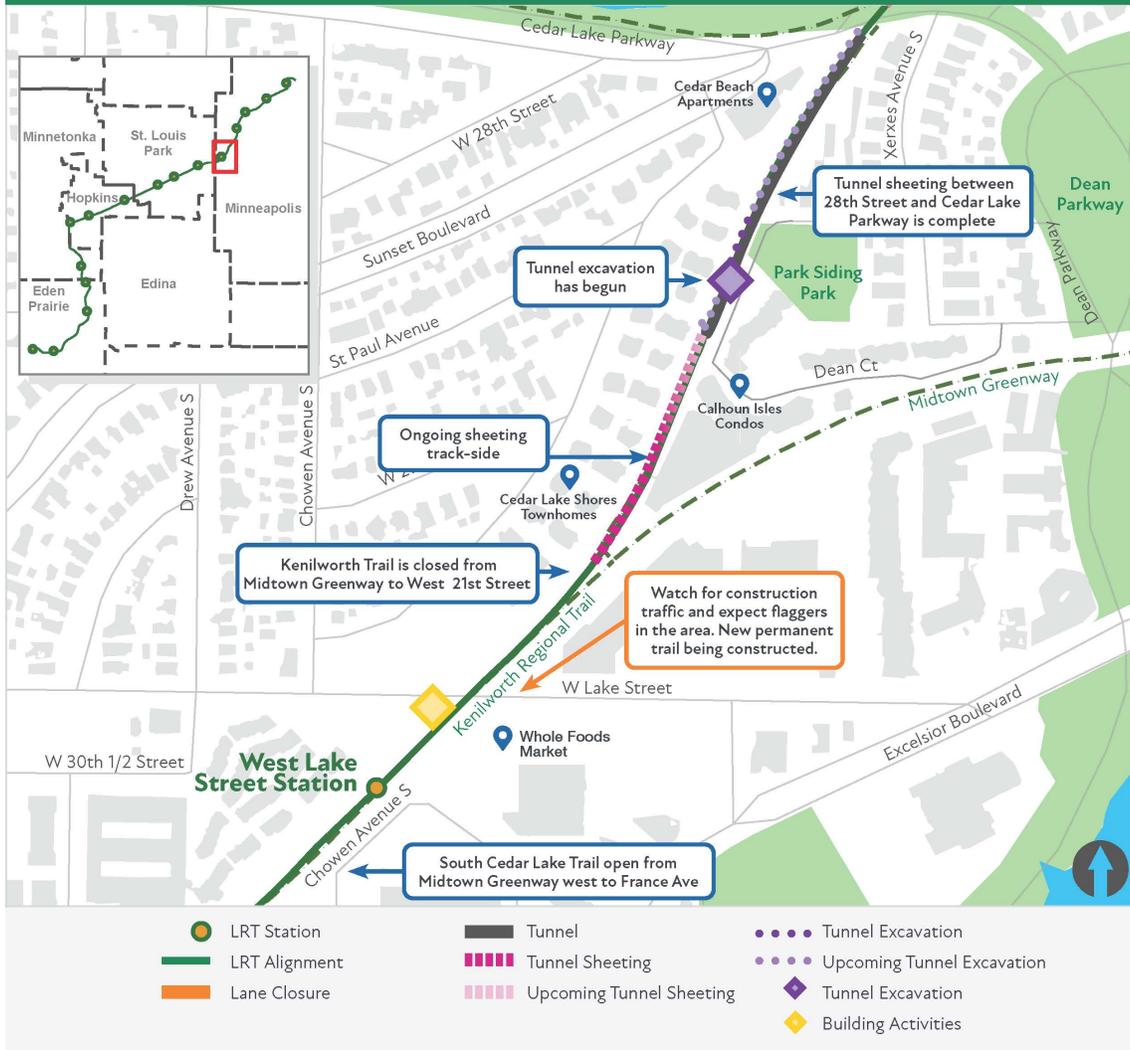
Work will continue in 2021 to complete the deck for the LRT bridge. Closures will be announced in advance of this work.

Beltline Boulevard

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. Piling for the remaining bridge piers will be ongoing intermittently in November and early December. Piling for retaining wall work is also finishing in the area.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5



Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Work to shift the South Cedar Lake Trail to its new permanent location around the Lake Street Bridge is underway and is expected to be completed before winter work conditions fully set-in.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

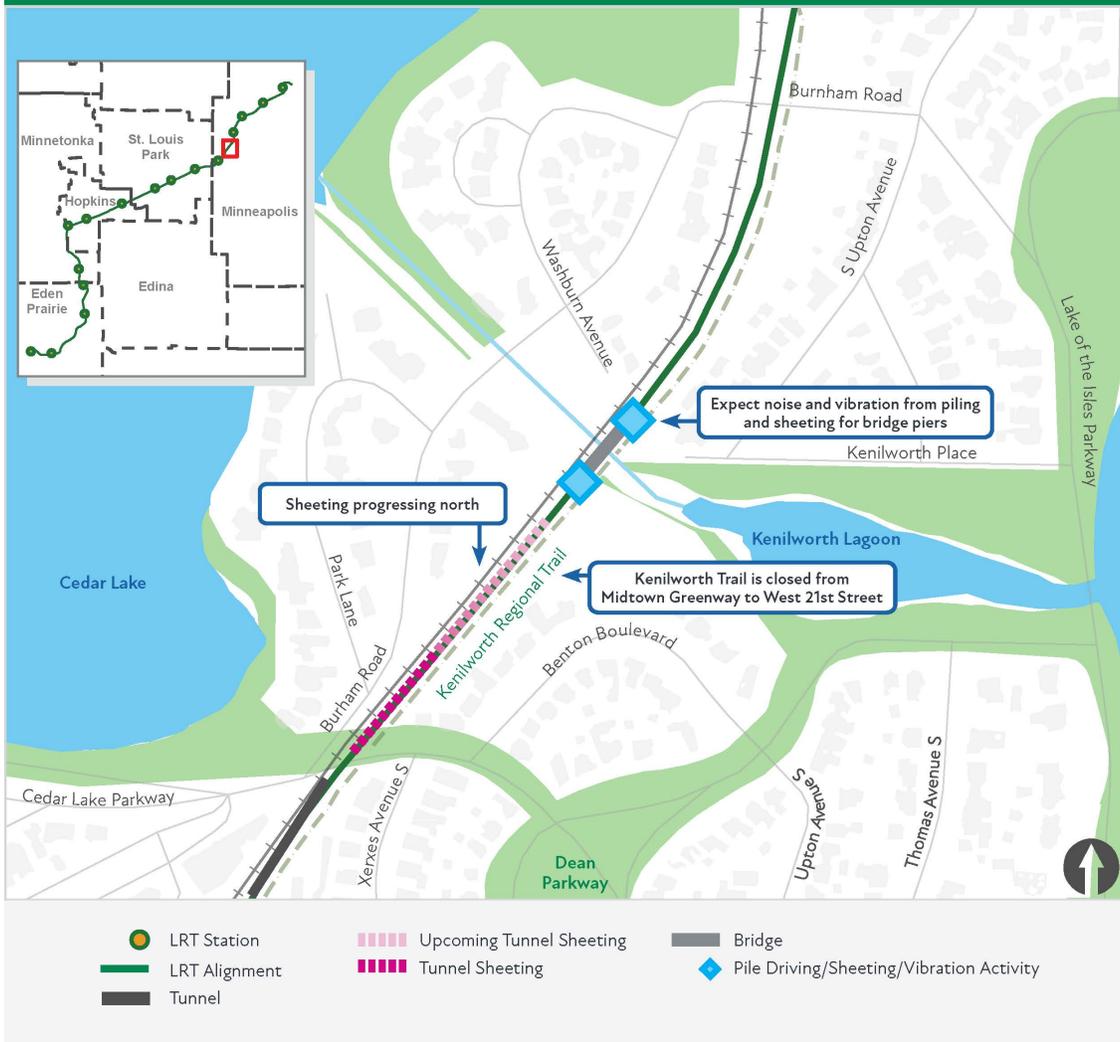
From the West Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022.

One press-in-piler is working north of Cedar Lake Parkway and is progressing towards the channel installing sheets, the other piler will continue to work near West Lake Street, moving east on the freight rail side of the tunnel. Residents should expect ongoing work in the area, including occasional vibration when obstructions are encountered.

The tunnel is being constructed in a series of cells, each approximately 100 feet long. This is done so to avoid impacting the groundwater level in the surrounding area of the tunnel. Tunnel excavation for the initial cell near Dean Court is progressing. Crews continue to excavate material and install cross braces called struts. As crews reach depth, a thick concrete seal will be poured at the bottom of the excavation to prevent water from impacting tunnel construction. Pumps will run continuously until the concrete pour is completed. Concrete work for the initial cell is expected to begin towards the end of November. To pour the concrete seal extended work hours are needed as the work has to be completed in a single workday. Each tunnel cell will require an extended hour workday for the placement of the seal. More details will be forthcoming. Other tunnel construction activities such as sheeting, excavation and concrete work will continue through the winter.

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.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



Cedar Lake Parkway

An approximately six-month closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed at a later date to complete tunnel excavation and construction, currently anticipated in spring 2021.

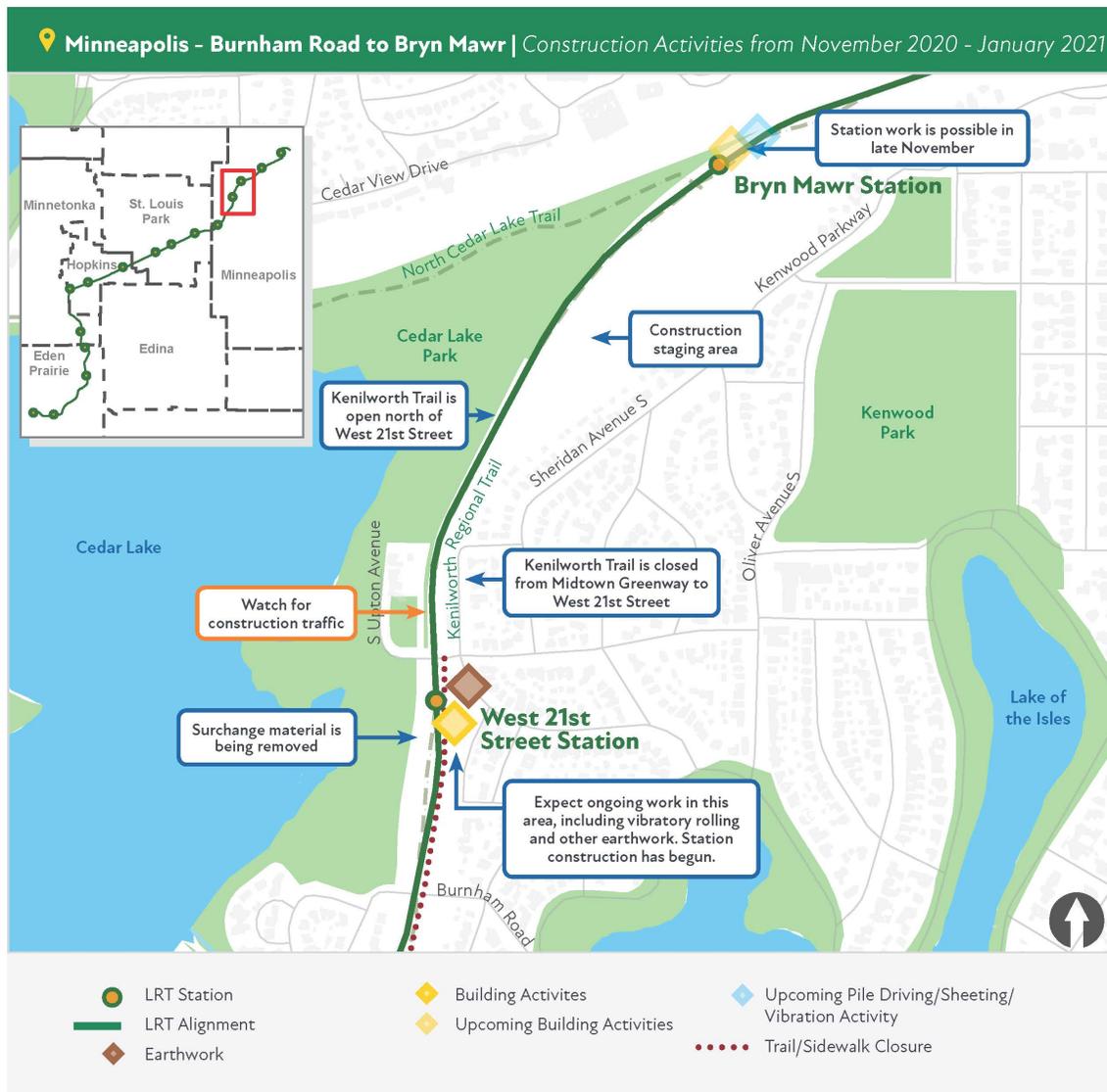
Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel

Three bridges will be constructed over the channel for freight, LRT, and the Kenilworth Trail. Construction for the freight rail bridge is complete and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Freight rail is operating on the new track alignment and bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel. Demolition of the old freight bridge is complete. Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel has begun; expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. Crews are currently installing the support of excavation system (SOE), including tiebacks. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete the next

phase of work. Flaggers will be present as work over the waterway progresses, and water traffic may be required to wait for a short period. If a closure is needed notice will be posted at least 14 days in advance.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



West 21st Street

West 21st Street Station construction continues. Crews have poured concrete for some of the station utilities. Expect ongoing station construction activities including the use of vibratory equipment.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5

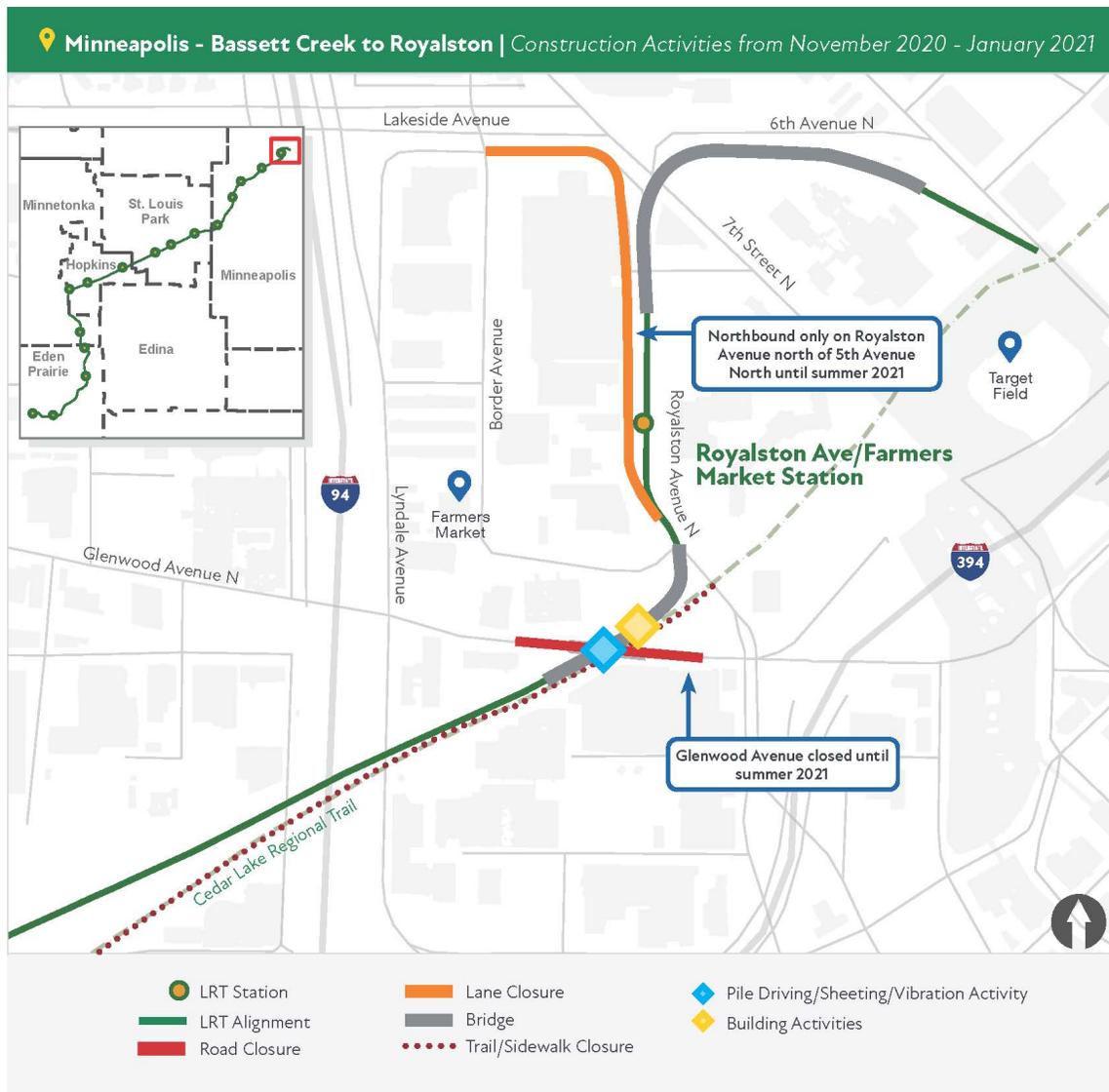


Bryn Mawr Station Area

To provide access to 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 terrain in the area and build a stable foundation for the LRT tracks.

The soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area as excess material is removed. Pile driving for the foundation of Bryn Mawr Station may start this fall, as well as preparation work such as survey and excavation. Work will begin as crews become available; however, a date has not yet been scheduled.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, 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. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12th Street is closed until mid-2021. The roadway is closed to vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. [See detour map here](#). Local access to businesses is maintained. BNSF crews have shifted the track to its new position to the north in this area. The freight rail track shift allows LRT bridge construction to advance. Crews are working on the LRT bridge that will cross the roadway at Glenwood.

Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street and connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed.

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 5th Street to Holden Street is closed; 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 spring 2021.
- 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, bikers and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. [See detour maps here.](#)

Crews have begun grading work to construct the new permanent trail alignment under the West Lake Street bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the new trail once completed. The trail will be fenced off and separated from construction activities. Until that work is complete expect flaggers in the area directing pedestrians and cyclists. Be mindful of construction equipment in the area and the directions given by the flaggers. Flagging activity is allowing the trail in this connecting segment to remain open during this phase of construction.

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, bikers 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.

The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is 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.](#) Utility work is being completed and crews anticipate paving the trail the week of November 9. This work is expected to be complete in mid-to-late November.

SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



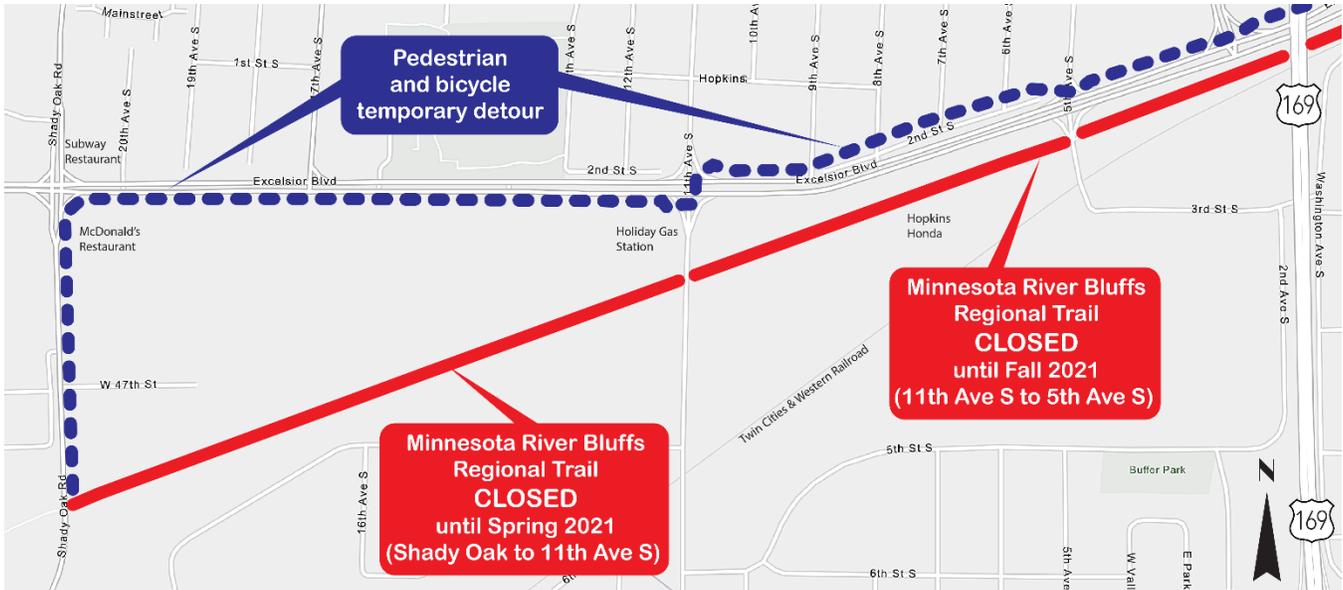
Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



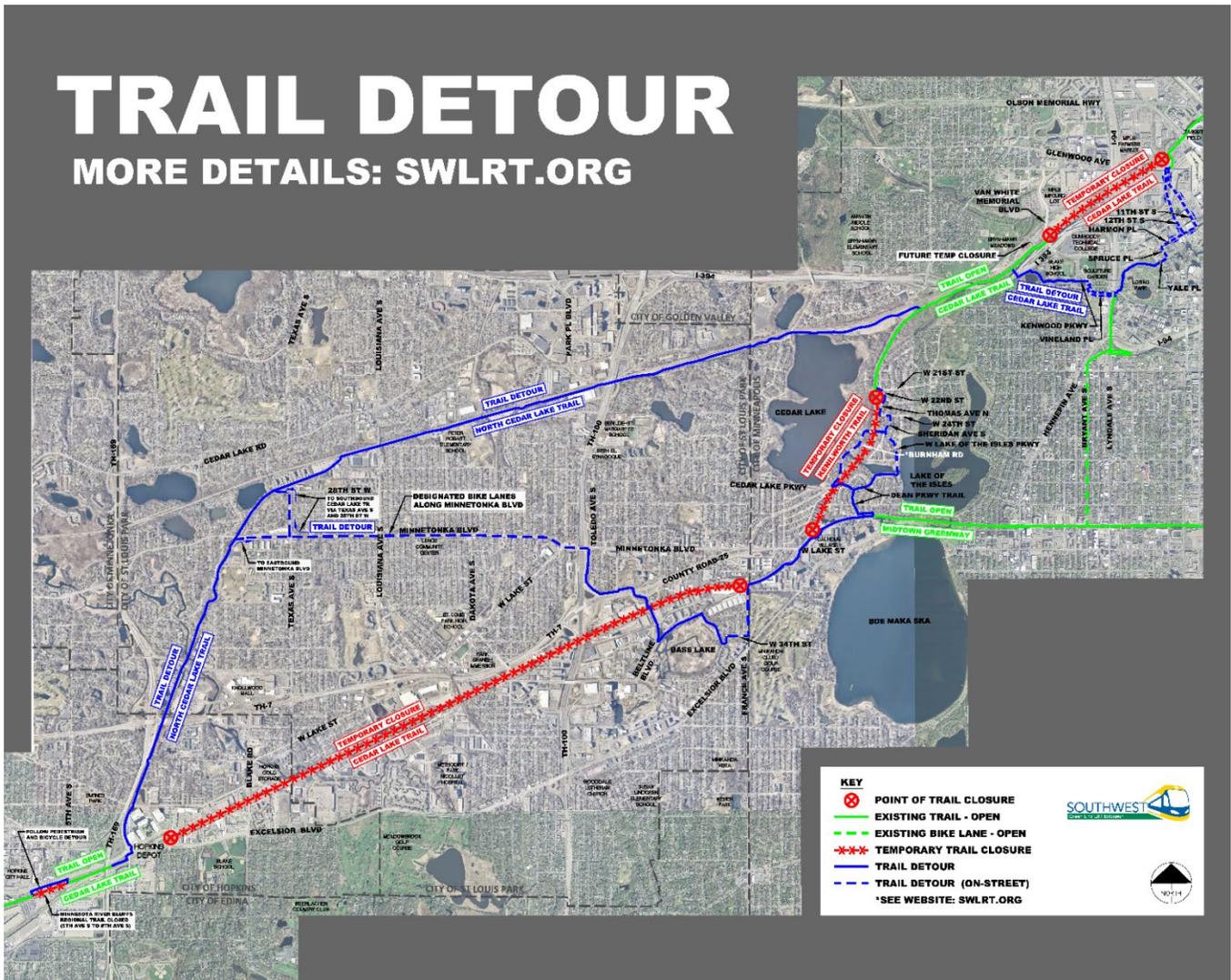
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



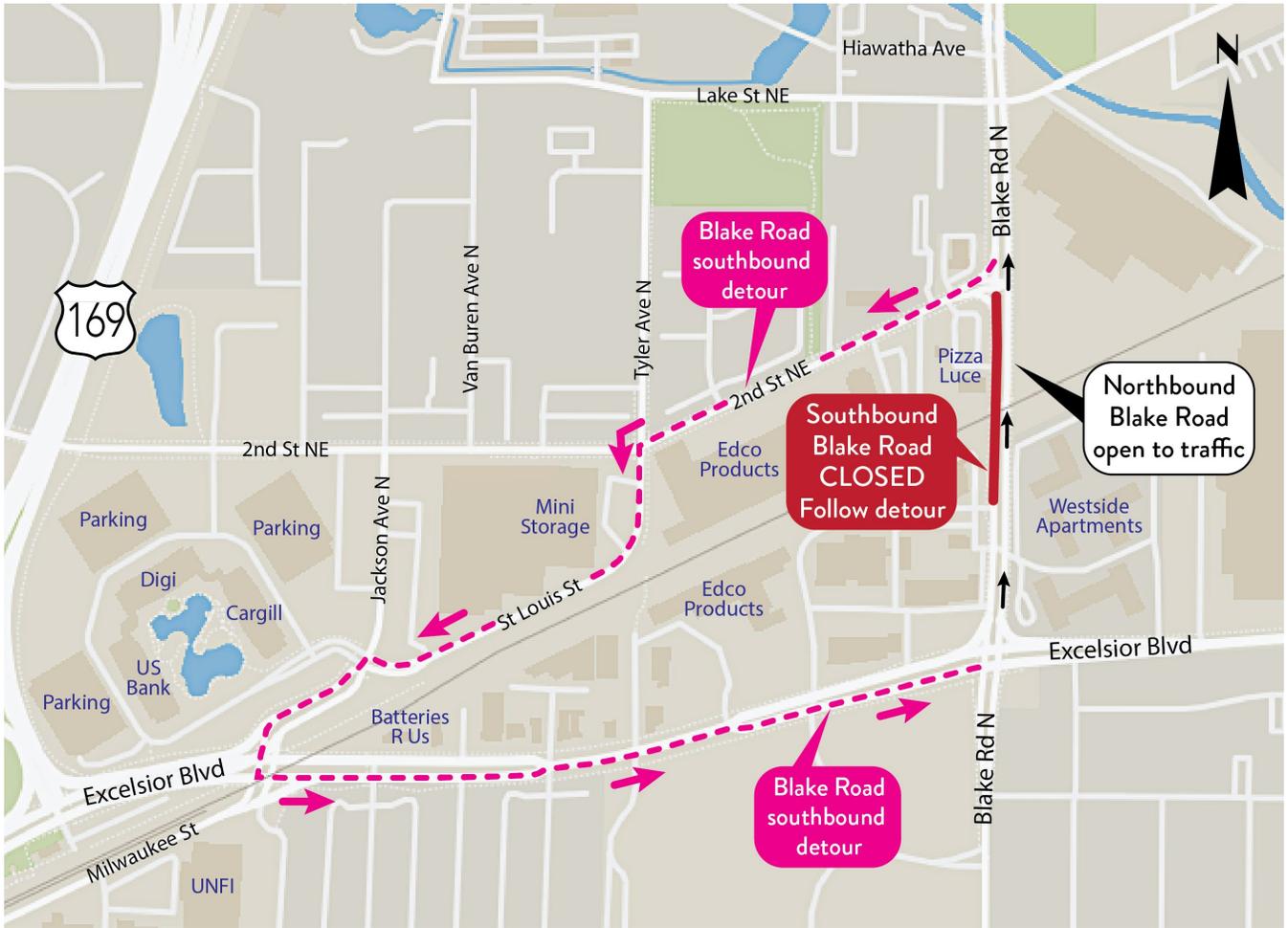
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



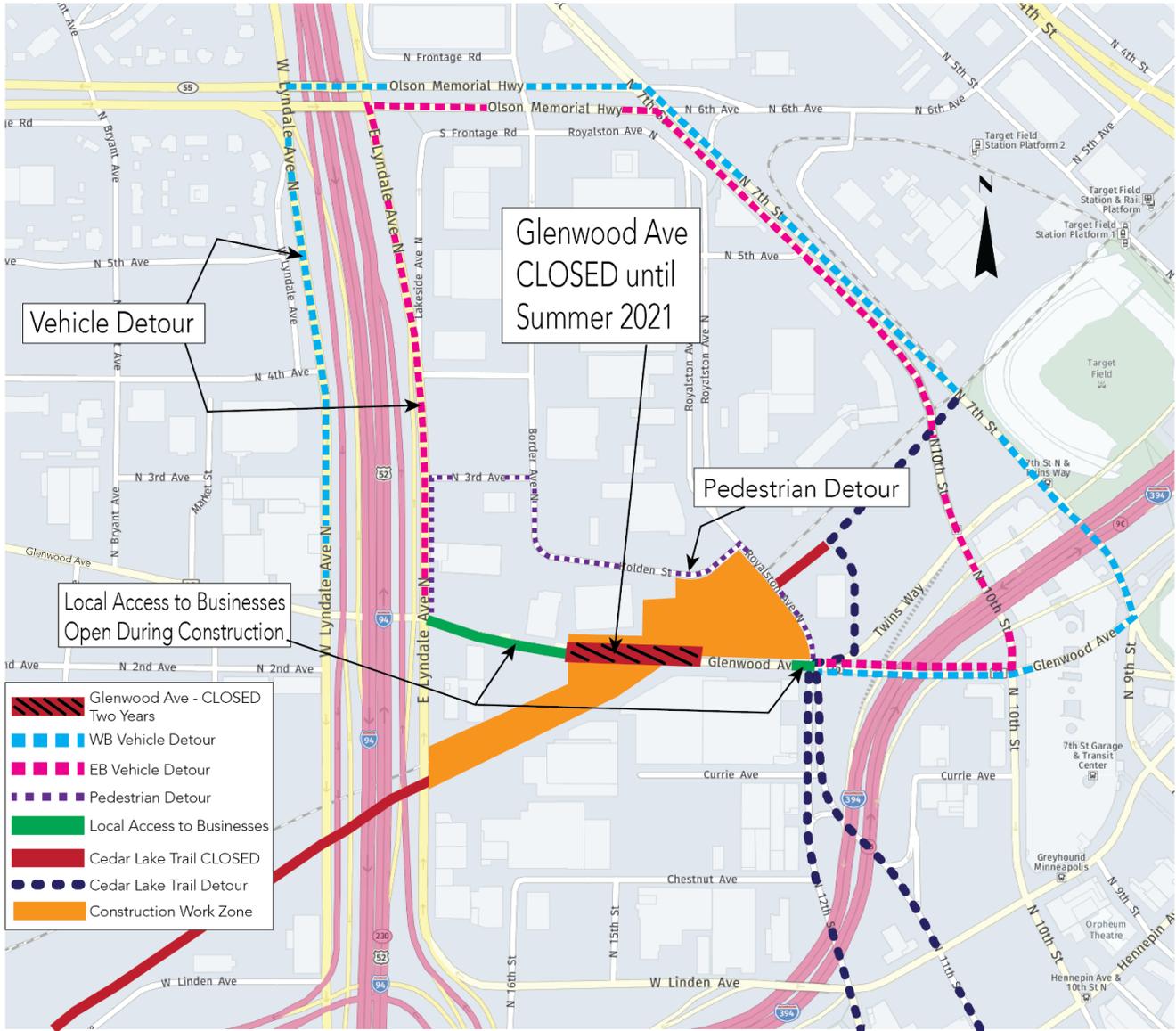
5th Avenue Detour in Hopkins



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

